

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Union	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Battle of Musgrove's Mill Historic Site**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **south from Cross Anchor for approximately 2.5 miles on S. C. Route 56 (until Enoree River Bridge is visible).**

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: **South Carolina**      CODE: **045**      COUNTY: **Union**      CODE: **087**

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

Comments: **NOV 1 1974**

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1205 Pendleton Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbia**      STATE: **South Carolina**      CODE: **045**

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Union County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Union**      STATE: **South Carolina**      CODE: **045**

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1973**       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**South Carolina Department of Archives and History**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1430 Senate Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbia**      STATE: **South Carolina**      CODE: **045**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The battle of Musgrove's Mill occurred on the rising ground north of the Enoree River, at Musgrove's Ford, near the present day Spartanburg County line, and immediately east of Cedar Shoals Creek. Early 19th Century maps indicate that Musgrove's Ford was between the mouth of Cedar Shoals Creek and a large bend in the Enoree River. The old 18th Century road running northwards from the ford is in approximately the same location as present-day Highway 56. The temporary fortifications built by Colonels Shelby and Clarke were about 1/2 mile north of the ford along the highway.

Edward Musgrove's house and mill, where the British garrison was located, was on the south side of the ford, opposite the battlefield. No above-the-surface evidence of this structure remains.

The nominated property includes the land north of the Enoree River ford, from Cedar Shoals Creek and an improved county road (S-10) east across Highway 56 to a small creek running parallel to the highway. Several houses lie along US Route 56 north of the river. Most of this land is heavily wooded with pines and hardwoods, and it slopes steadily down towards the Enoree River. The floodplains that run parallel to the river are sparsely vegetated except for large hardwood trees on the river's edge. There are evidences of an old roadbed, crossing Cedar Shoals Creek about 700 feet from the Enoree River, but this road is not the same road that crossed the river at Musgrove's Ford. The ford was possibly used by American scouts in crossing the creek and river to spy on the British camp.

The nominated property also includes a triangular portion of land south of the Enoree River, opposite the mouth of Cedar Shoals Creek, where Musgrove's Plantation house was standing until it burned in 1971. A dirt road leads from S.C. Route 56 north to the house site, in a cleared area adjacent to a man-made pond. This is the area where the British and Tories were encamped at the time of the battle.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NOV 1 1974  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1780**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The battle of Musgrove's Mill, fought on August 18, 1780, was an early American victory in the South during the Revolution. American troops routed a combined detachment of British and Tories at a ford on the Enoree River but were forced to retreat to the mountains of North Carolina when Loyalist forces converged on the area after the American defeat at Camden. The American militiamen used their superior marksmanship and knowledge of the terrain to surprise the British. This indicated a weakness in the British hold on the back-country.

In 1780 the British established a fortified post at Musgrove's Mill, home of Major Edward Musgrove, on the south side of the Enoree River. A regular garrison of 200 men under a Major Fraser was stationed there. By August 17 the garrison had been reinforced by Abraham de Peyster of the King's American Regiment, David Fanning and his North Carolina Tories, and Colonel Daniel Clary with his Tories from upper South Carolina. A detachment commanded by Lt. Colonel Innes had a company of the New Jersey Volunteers, and a captain's command of De Lancey's New York Royalists. Colonel Patrick Ferguson, leader of the Tories in South Carolina, had sent wounded to the post, bringing the total detachment to about 500 men. In addition some 100 Tories of the South Carolina Regiment were camping nearby.

The American Colonel Charles McDowell of North Carolina, had established a camp at Cherokee Ford, just across the South Carolina line. Believing that the British post at Musgrove's Mill was vulnerable, McDowell decided to attack. His forces included troops led by Colonels Isaac Shelby and Elijah Clarke, from North Carolina and Georgia, and the remnants of the old Ninety-Six Brigade under Colonel James Williams of South Carolina.

The American officers formed a joint command and set out just before sundown on August 17 with about 200 men. They rode cross-country for 26 miles from Smith's Ford to Brandon's settlement in Fairforest and then 12 to 14 miles to within a mile of the British camp across the Enoree River. Knowing the countryside through which they passed, the Americans managed to avoid the Tory posts.

(see continuation sheet)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bolick, Julian Stevenson. A Laurens County Sketchbook. Mrs. Julian S. Bolick, 1973.  
 Draper, Lyman C. King's Mountain and Its Heroes. Baltimore: Geneological Publishing Company, 1967.  
 Salley, A. S., Jr, ed. Col. William Hill's Memoirs of the Revolution. Columbia, S. C.: The State Printing Company, 1921.  
 McCrady, Edward. The History of South Carolina in the Revolution 1775-1780. New York: Russell & Russell, 1969.  
 See continuation sheet.

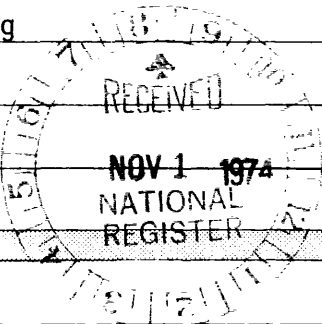
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	34 ° 36 ' 59 "	81 ° 51 ' 27 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	34 ° 36 ' 59 "	81 ° 50 ' 36 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	34 ° 35 ' 14 "	81 ° 50 ' 36 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	34 ° 35 ' 14 "	81 ° 51 ' 27 "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approximately 380 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
		Spartanburg	083
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: John W. Califf, III

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History DATE: 10-28-74

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

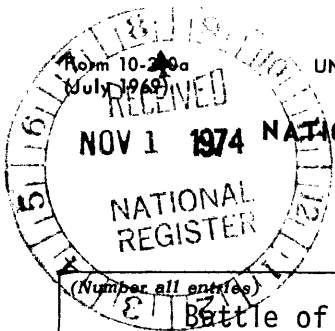
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.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

Name: Charles E. Lee (Signature: *Charles E. Lee*)  
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer  
 Date: Oct 30, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.  
 (Signature: *A. B. Worland*)  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Date: 5/4/75  
 ATTEST:  
 (Signature: *Charles E. Lee*)  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: 2-25-75

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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STATE	South Carolina	
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		MAR 4 1975

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(Continuation Sheet)

**Battle of Musgrove's Mill Historic Site**  
8. Significance (continued) a

After establishing camp the Americans sent out scouts to spy upon the British. They came upon a Tory patrol, and a skirmish occurred. As a result the Americans moved their camp onto a timbered ridge above the ford about 1/2 mile from the river.

Because of information from local sympathizers concerning the strength of the British post, the Americans decided not to attack, but instead to set a trap for the British that would draw them across the river and into a fortified line of fire.

The fortifications consisted of a breastwork of logs and brushwood, in a semi-circle along a wooded ridge. Shelby's troops occupied the right portion of the breastworks, Williams' the center, and Clarke's the left. Twenty horsemen were concealed behind each flank of the breastworks, and 40 men were held in the rear as a reserve.

At the Loyalist camp across the river, Major Innes's arguments for attack prevailed, even though a 100-man patrol had not returned. Leaving 100 men in camp as a reserve, 300 British troops and Tory militia prepared to cross the river.

Meanwhile, on the American side, Captain Shadrack Inman was sent forward with about 25 mounted men to provoke the Tories and draw them across the river into the line of fire from the American breastworks. The plan worked; the British, believing they were driving Inman's men back, saw the American fortifications, formed into a battle line, and advanced. The Americans waited to fire until the British were within 70 yards; as a result, they inflicted many casualties. The British and Tories charged again, driving some of the Americans from the left wing of the breastworks, but the American reserve force stopped their advance. Innes, the British commander, was badly wounded. Shelby's Americans drove the British and Tories back from their defenses, and the British retreat became a rout. When the Tory patrol finally returned to the post, the Americans had already left with their prisoners.

The British and Tories remaining at the post decided to retreat to the fort at Ninety-Six, 30 miles to the southwest. They received word, however, that the main American force at Camden had been badly defeated and that British reinforcements would be arriving shortly. The Americans received the same news, and hastily set out through the woods with their prisoners, moving in a northwesterly direction. The Americans continued their retreat through the night and into the next morning, traveling sixty miles from Musgrove's Mill and into the mountains of North Carolina.

(see continuation sheet)

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*(Continuation Sheet)*

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*(Number all entries)*

Battle of Musgrove's Mill Historic Site  
8. Significance (continued) b

In this battle, British losses included 60 killed, 90 wounded, and 70 taken prisoner. Four Americans were killed and nine wounded. This American victory has been attributed to American fortifications and knowledge of the terrain, the underestimation of American strength by the British, and the superior marksmanship of the American frontiersmen. Occurring at the same time as the American defeat at Camden, this victory gave the American cause a badly needed boost in morale.



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Union	
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	MAR 4 1975

(Number all entries)

Battle of Musgrove's Mill Historic Site

9. Major Bibliographical References

Landrum, Dr. J. B. O. Colonial and Revolutionary History of Upper South Carolina. Greenville, S. C.: Shannon & Co., 1897.

