

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: Bamberg	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER FEB 23 1979	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
 Rivers Bridge State Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 4.2 miles west of Ehrhardt on S. C. 64, 3 miles south on county road 19, and 0.6 mile southeast on county road 31

CITY OR TOWN:
 Ehrhardt

STATE South Carolina	CODE 29081	COUNTY: Bamberg	CODE 009
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
 State of South Carolina

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 29200	CODE 45
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
 Bamberg County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Bamberg	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 29003	CODE 45
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
 South Carolina Survey of Historic Places (Preliminary)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
 1430 Senate Street, Box 11, 188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 29211	CODE 45
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STATE:
COUNTY:
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7. DESCRIPTION

15

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Meandering Salkehatchie River offers a pleasant setting for these extensive, large Confederate earthen breastworks which are in an excellent state of preservation.

Before becoming a state park, the area was maintained by Rivers Bridge Confederate Memorial Association as a historical site.

The state added recreational facilities for picnicking, swimming, fishing, family camping, and now the park offers outdoor recreational as well as historical interests. The park also has a recreational building and a museum.

Artifacts include battle cannons and the Confederate battle flag. Annual memorial services are held here in late spring.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) February 1865

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" 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

Having completed his march through Georgia, General William T. Sherman's Union army was ready to cross into South Carolina by early February, 1865.

Realizing the crucial situation, Confederate Generals Beauregard, Hill, and Smith gathered to discuss plans for the defense of South Carolina against Sherman's onrushing troops. They asked President Davis for additional troops, but these efforts were almost futile as time was running out for the South; Most of the Confederate army had been demolished, weakened by desertions, or was engaged in activity elsewhere.

Thus, while southern defensive plans were still being mapped, Sherman pushed deeper and deeper into South Carolina, and forestalled the opportunity for any effective concentration against the Union troops. So swift and deceptive were Sherman's movements that Beauregard and his lieutenants did not even have time to utilize the few troops at their disposal.

As a result, federal forces met little Confederate resistance until they reached the flooded Coosawhatchie Swamp and Pocatigo (in South Carolina's Low Country), where Confederates had felled trees, burned bridges, and erected obstructions to impede Sherman's march.

In spite of these delaying tactics, the Confederates had fallen back to Rivers Bridge by February 2, 1865. Although they crossed the Salkehatchie, they were unable to burn the approaches or the main bridge.

At this point the Salkehatchie was a dense swamp about a mile and one-half wide. The approach to the main bridge was over a narrow causeway commanded by General Lafayette McLaw's artillery, numbering about 1200 men.

The strength of the Confederate position was disregarded and Sherman's men were ordered to advance across the causeway without stopping.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anonymous, South Carolina State Parks & Campgrounds. Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

Barrett, John C. Sherman's March through the Carolinas. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1956.

Benton, Elizabeth G. "River's Bridge: A Page of Carolina History," South Carolina Magazine, August, 1968.

Julien, Carl. Sea Islands to Sand Hills. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1954.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	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
NW	30	03	55.5	81	01	15.5	0		
NE	30	03	55.5	81	00	15.4	0		
SE	30	02	25.2	81	00	15.4	0		
SW	30	02	25.2	81	01	15.5	0		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **390 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Norman McCorkle, Historic Resources Assistant (Linda Lake, Archives & History)

ORGANIZATION: **South Carolina Department of Archives and History** DATE: **August 21, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street, Box 11,188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbia 29211** STATE: **South Carolina** CODE: **45**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 S. Lep

Title: Director, South Carolina Department Archives & History

Date: September 2, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connolly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

FEB 23 1972

Date: _____

ATTEST:

W. Bradford
Keeper of The National Register

Date: February 17, 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

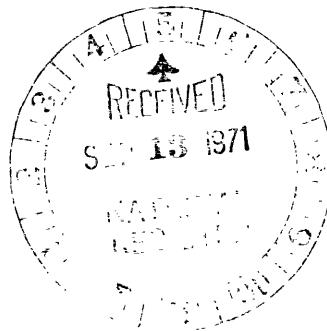
STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Bamberg	
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(Number all entries)

(8) Significance

Behind breastworks, Confederate artillery, though much smaller in number than the Union forces, repulsed the advance. Many of the wounded had to remain in the swamp all night. Only by propping themselves against the trees did they avoid drowning.

For two days, in spite of the overwhelming odds, the Confederates were able to delay the Union troops, which numbered about 22,000. Finally, by cutting two roads through the swamps, and at the same time continuing a frontal attack, the Unionists outflanked the Confederates and forced them to withdraw. Sherman then continued his march towards Columbia.



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries) (9) Bibliography

Lamont, Daniel S. The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I -- Volume XLVII -- Part I, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1895.

Wallace, David Duncan. The History of South Carolina. New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1934.