

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

New Submission       Amended Submission

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**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

Historic Resources of Congaree Swamp National Monument

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**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Agricultural Settlement in the Congaree Swamp: 1740-1900

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**C. Form Prepared By**

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**D. Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard Bowen 10/11/96  
Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO 10/2/96  
Signature and title of certifying official Date

S.C. Department of Archives and History  
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Barbara Little 11/5/96  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**E. Statement of Historic Contexts**

(Discuss each historic context listed in Section B. If more than one historic context is documented, present them in sequential order.)

See continuation sheet

**F. Associated Property Types**

(Provide description, significance, and registration requirements.)

See continuation sheet

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## G. Geographical Data

The geographical area includes the floodplain of the Congaree River, a river formed by the confluence of the Broad and Saluda Rivers in central South Carolina. The floodplain environment is swampy with mixed hardwood trees and seasonal flooding. The 22,200-acre Congaree Swamp National Monument, boundary established by Public Law 94-545 in 1976 and expanded by Public Law 100-524 in 1988, lies within the floodplain.

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## H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

(Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.)

See continuation sheet

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## I. Major Bibliographical References

(List major written works and primary location of additional documentation: State Historic Preservation Office, other State agency, Federal agency, local government, university, or other, specifying repository.)

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cely, John. "Is the Beidler Tract in Congaree Swamp Virgin?" in *Congaree Swamp: Greatest Unprotected Forest on the Continent*. Columbia, SC: n.p., 1975.

The Jaeger Company. "Lower Richland County Historical and Architectural Inventory, Survey Report." Columbia, SC: Historic Columbia Foundation and Sunrise Foundation, September 1993.

Michie, James L. *An Archeological Survey of Congaree Swamp: Cultural Resources Inventory and Assessment of a Bottomland Environment in Central South Carolina*. Research Manuscript Series 163. Columbia, SC: Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, July 1980.

South Carolina. *The Statutes at Large of South Carolina*. Vol. 9, Act No. 1324, March 22, 1786, and Act No. 1406, February 27, 1788.

Will of James Adams. February 10, 1841.

Work Projects Administration. *South Carolina: The WPA Guide to the Palmetto State*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941. Reprint, with introduction and appendices by Walter B. Edgar, Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1988.

Additional documentation located at Congaree Swamp National Monument, Richland County, South Carolina.

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#### STATEMENT OF HISTORIC CONTEXT

This Multiple Property Documentation Form with attached individual Registration Forms nominates nine structures within the boundary of the Congaree Swamp National Monument and one privately owned structure within the authorized boundary to the National Register of Historic Places. Legislation passed in 1976 created Congaree Swamp National Monument as a natural park managed by the National Park Service. Located north of the Congaree River in east-central South Carolina, the 22,200-acre monument is one of the last significant stands of old-growth riverbottom hardwood forest in the country. Recent research further suggests that the Congaree forest is probably the tallest in eastern North America, and perhaps the tallest of any temperate deciduous forest in the world. The forest contains approximately ninety tree species, eight woodpecker species, and other wildlife representative of the southeastern United States including deer, bobcats, owls, and snakes. The swamp floods an average of ten times each year. Historically, settlers utilized the fertile soil of the floodplain for planting crops such as corn and for grazing cattle and other animals. By building dikes, cattle mounds, and bridges the farmers sought to control the periodic flood waters, provide a place of refuge for grazing animals, and create a transportation system to carry their crops and livestock to markets. This nomination documents ten extant resources associated with agricultural settlement in the swamp from 1740 to 1900.

#### AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENT IN THE CONGAREE SWAMP: 1740-1900

Colonial settlement in South Carolina originated in the low country region of the state with the majority of growth centering around the 1670 establishment of the port city of Charles Town. The colonial back country, which included all land north and west of the roughly sixty-mile-wide coastal strip encompassing Charles Town and the colony's thriving plantation area, remained largely unsettled for over fifty years. A variety of factors influenced the growth of agricultural settlement in the area. On the coast, large plantations utilizing slave labor dominated the economy with landowners often obtaining thousands of acres of land through royal grants. Coastal planters, fearing Native American attacks and slave rebellions, encouraged inland settlement as a means of protection for their families and property. In 1730, Robert Johnson, the first Royal Governor of the colony, developed a plan to establish townships along interior rivers to encourage the settlement of protective buffer zones at the edge of the settled coastal region. Taxes on imported slave purchases financed the development of these inland townships for European immigrants. These small farmers, unable to compete with the wealth and political influence of coastal planters, moved inland to find farm land. Immigrants settled on land divided into fifty-acre lots and granted in proportion to the number of family members and slaves. A parish was created when a township included at least 100 families. Each parish held two seats in the state assembly.

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Initially, this plan created eight townships.<sup>1</sup>

By 1740, more immigrants had moved even farther inland to the midlands section of the back country, a region of fertile land bordering the fall line and the Broad, Saluda, and Congaree Rivers. Almost half of the colony's white residents lived in the inland back country at the start of the Revolutionary War. The settlers in these buffer zones raised cattle, hogs, corn, and indigo for sale in the coastal city of Charles Town. The interior settlements remained independent of the coast in many ways, however, developing their own system of roads and ferries, clearing forests, and generally raising subsistence crops and livestock.<sup>2</sup>

Richland County is at the heart of the midlands, near the center of the state, on the north side of the Congaree River, straddling the fall line. Settlement in Richland County, founded in 1785, followed the pattern of small farm development and was encouraged by the end of the Cherokee War in 1761 and by the 1786 establishment of the state capital at the city of Columbia. During the first half of the nineteenth century, the fertile farm land of lower Richland County began to attract wealthy planters who purchased large tracts of land and introduced the plantation system to the region. Although much of the land adjacent to the river was sold, a limited number of land owners actually used the swampland bordering the Congaree River for their farms. Planters attempted to grow cash crops such as tobacco and cotton using large numbers of slaves to clear land and build dikes and dams to control the periodic flooding in the swamp environment. However, the expense of obtaining large numbers of slaves to control flooding in the disease-ridden swampland deterred many planters from pursuing extensive agricultural activities in the Congaree valley.<sup>3</sup>

In 1839, James Adams received a grant of more than 4,000 acres of land in the

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<sup>1</sup>The Jaeger Company, "Lower Richland County Historical and Architectural Inventory, Survey Report" (Columbia, SC: Historic Columbia Foundation and Sunrise Foundation, September 1993), 8-11; James L. Michie, *An Archeological Survey of Congaree Swamp: Cultural Resources Inventory and Assessment of a Bottomland Environment in Central South Carolina*, Research Manuscript Series 163 (Columbia, SC: Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, July 1980), 62-67; Work Projects Administration, *South Carolina: The WPA Guide to the Palmetto State* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1941; reprint, with introduction and appendices by Walter B. Edgar, Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1988), 29-30.

<sup>2</sup>The Jaeger Company, "Lower Richland County Historical and Architectural Inventory, Survey Report," 13-15.

<sup>3</sup>The Jaeger Company, "Lower Richland County Historical and Architectural Inventory," 13-15; Work Projects Administration, *South Carolina: The WPA Guide to the Palmetto State*, 30.

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Congaree Swamp. Before his death in 1841 he began construction of an earthen dike system in an effort to control the flood waters of the Congaree so the land could be cultivated. In his will, he divided the swamp land equally among his four children and instructed them to sell it to his brothers Joel and Robert Adams "if they become unwilling to continue embanking the swamp lands as I have commenced." His family never resumed construction, and the Northwest Boundary Dike remains unfinished. Other dike systems in the swamp include the Dead River Dike constructed around 1840 by Paul Spigner. Spigner received a grant to 370 acres of land on the river bank in 1839. The Southwest Boundary Dike remains on the southwest side of the swamp and was probably constructed during the same time period.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to dike systems to prevent the flooding of crops, planters constructed cattle mounds to protect grazing animals. The raising of livestock, especially hogs, was extremely important in the back country prior to the Civil War. Meat provided a large proportion of the average diet, and a substantial portion of cash income came from selling stock each fall. From April to October, hogs, cattle, and sheep were allowed to roam free in the woods and clearings. The vast oak-hickory-chestnut forests provided abundant amounts of mast (windfall acorns and other nuts) to feed the livestock. Owners marked the ears of their stock for identification and visited them once a week to salt them and keep them gentle. In the fall, farmers rounded up the stock and drove them in large herds to markets in Charleston and other cities. Farmers built large earthen mounds adjacent to the dikes and in isolated locations of the swamp where free-ranging cattle and hogs might graze. The mounds provided refuge and a source of vegetation for the animals during periodic flooding. Planters constructed all of the cattle mounds in the Congaree Swamp between 1800 and 1900, often using slave labor. Brady's Cattle Mound was constructed most recently (c. 1900) and is still used for its original purpose.<sup>5</sup>

As early as the 1740s, settlers in the back country constructed roads and ferries to transport their crops and livestock to the port city of Charles Town, utilizing Native American trading paths as the basis for this transportation network. As settlers moved into the back country, they enlarged the footpaths into wagon roads with branches leading to individual farms. In the Congaree River valley, settlers enlarged a Cherokee trading path to Charles Town. Private landowners expanded the transportation network by building

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<sup>4</sup>Will of James Adams, February 10, 1841; John Cely, "Is the Beidler Tract in Congaree Swamp Virgin?" in *Congaree Swamp: Greatest Unprotected Forest on the Continent* (Columbia, SC: n.p., 1975), 92.

<sup>5</sup>Michie, *An Archeological Survey of Congaree Swamp: Cultural Resources Inventory and Assessment of a Bottomland Environment in Central South Carolina*, 102-112; John Cely, "Is the Beidler Tract in Congaree Swamp Virgin?" 92; Forrest McDonald and Grady McWhiney, "The South from Self-Sufficiency to Peonage: An Interpretation," *The American Historical Review* 85 (December 1980): 1105-1106.

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ferries to cross the river at various points with roads leading from the ferries to the trading path. In 1786, Isaac Huger received a fourteen-year state charter to continue the operation of the ferry he constructed to cross the Congaree River at his plantation. The charter allowed Huger to collect a toll for use of the ferry and called for public funding of roads and bridges to reach the ferry. In 1788, Huger returned to the legislature to halt competition from private ferry owners within seven miles of his ferry. The law calling for this action noted that he "hath with great labour and expence erected a causeway and sundry bridges over the swamp, and opened all roads leading to said ferry, without any assistance from the inhabitants or other person"<sup>6</sup> and therefore deserved all toll privileges resulting from the public ferry. The bridges and roads crossed portions of Congaree Swamp, and four sets of severely eroded bridge abutments remain in the park that may be related to Huger's ferry.

Attempts at large-scale farming and settlement in the Congaree Swamp generally failed. A limited amount of subsistence farming continues today on private land adjacent to the swamp with some farmers utilizing cattle mound structures, such as Brady's Cattle Mound. The remaining bridge abutments, dikes, and cattle mounds represent the historic agricultural settlement of the Congaree Swamp and an attempt by settlers to control the swamp environment and utilize its rich natural resources. They are the only known resources of this type in the state of South Carolina.

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<sup>6</sup>Michie, *An Archeological Survey of Congaree Swamp: Cultural Resources Inventory and Assessment of a Bottomland Environment in Central South Carolina*, 69; *The Statutes at Large of South Carolina*, Vol. 9 Act No. 1324, March 22, 1786 and Act No. 1406, February 27, 1788.

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## ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

### *Description*

Three basic property types identified in the Congaree Swamp are grouped according to common physical attributes. All of the structures possess similar associative attributes representing the agricultural settlement of the Congaree Swamp as discussed in the historic context in Section E. The three property types are dikes, cattle mounds, and bridges.

### *Dikes*

Dikes associated with the agricultural settlement of the Congaree Swamp share physical qualities such as topographical location, method of construction, period of construction, materials, and condition. The dikes formed boundaries for farm land adjacent to natural guts of the Congaree River where periodic flooding occurred. Farmers using manual labor, probably in the form of slaves, constructed the earthen structures during the early nineteenth century. In their present condition, the four-to-five-foot-high dikes are an eroded version of their original form with intruding vegetation, such as mature, old-growth bottomland hardwood trees that range widely in species and age, and bisecting bodies of water.

### *Cattle Mounds*

Cattle mounds associated with the agricultural settlement of the Congaree Swamp share physical qualities such as topographical location, method of construction, period of construction, materials, condition, design, and size. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, farmers in the swamp constructed the earthen mounds using manual labor as a place of refuge for grazing animals during floods. The four-to-ten-foot-high, oval-shaped mounds retain their functional design. Current impacts on the condition of the mounds include vegetation, erosion, and rooting animals.

### *Bridges*

The remains of bridges in the Congaree Swamp share physical qualities including topographical location, materials, orientation, method of construction, and period of construction. The earthen bridge abutments occur in pairs along a north to south alignment near Cedar and Tom's Creeks, north of the Congaree River. They may represent the remains of a bridge/ferry system constructed by Isaac Huger in the late eighteenth century. The structures are severely eroded, but the site has the potential to yield information about agricultural settlement patterns in the swamp.

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### *Significance*

In an effort to control flooding, utilize fertile land for farming, and move farm produce to market, settlers built dikes, cattle mounds, and bridges in the Congaree Swamp as early as 1740. The dikes and cattle mounds are significant at the state level under National Register criteria A and D for their association with the agricultural settlement of South Carolina. Because of a significant loss of structural integrity, the bridge abutments are significant at the state level under National Register criterion D only.

The three property types provide evidence of the agricultural settlement of the South Carolina back country beginning in the colonial era and continuing through the nineteenth century. The cattle mounds and dikes are significant under National Register criterion A for their association with the settlement period. The mounds represent the importance of free-range grazing to settlers during the period of significance; the dikes represent failed attempts at controlling flood waters in order to conduct large-scale, single-crop agriculture in the swamp.

The mounds and dikes are also significant under National Register criterion D for their potential to yield archeological data about the agricultural and settlement patterns of early land owners. The bridge abutments, significant under National Register criterion D, have the potential to yield information about agricultural settlement patterns and the transportation of crops and livestock through the swamp. The bridges' substantial loss of integrity (the abutments are the only remaining features of the bridges) makes them ineligible for listing under National Register criterion A. All three property types are the only surviving examples of agricultural adaptation to a swamp environment in the state of South Carolina.

### *Registration Requirements*

Farmers constructed the cattle mounds and dikes with little or no formal design or workmanship and they therefore exist in nearly their original form. As structures, the dikes retain integrity of location, setting, materials, design, and workmanship, but they retain little integrity of feeling or association. They are eroded, in many places bisected by standing water, and lack physical features that convey historic use or character. The basic structural features of the dikes, however, remain intact and provide substantial evidence of the resources' function. The mounds retain the highest degree of historic and structural integrity with location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association elements basically unchanged. The simple design and workmanship characteristics of all the cattle mound structures exist as originally completed. They continue to be used for their intended purpose in their original, isolated location by deer, hogs, and other wild animals. The structures are not, however, protected from the elements and as a result have deteriorated from erosion, inundation, vegetation, animal rooting, and neglect. As archeological sites the mounds and dikes maintain a high level of integrity because of their isolated, relatively undisturbed locations.

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Except for the wood stringers remaining on one set of bridge abutments, the earthen abutments are the only structural remains of the bridges and roads that crossed the swamp . As structures, the bridge remains have severely compromised design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association integrity. The highest degree of integrity remains for the resources as an archeological site with the potential to yield information about the settlement history of the Congaree Swamp. The site's isolated location protects the abutments from disturbance.

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#### SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

When the National Park Service (NPS) initiated the development of Congaree Swamp National Monument an archeological report, entitled "An Archeological Survey of Congaree Swamp: Cultural Resources Inventory and Assessment of a Bottomland Environment in Central South Carolina," identified the physical evidence of agricultural settlement in the Congaree River floodplain. The survey, conducted in 1978 by James L. Michie through the South Carolina Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, recorded the location of Cooner's Cattle Mound, Dead River Cattle Mound, Dead River Dike, Big Lake Cattle Mound, Brady's Cattle Mound, Northwest Boundary Dike, and the Bridge Abutments. Park personnel later identified Cook's Lake Cattle Mound, Southwest Boundary Dike, and Cattle Mound #6 (Georgia Pacific Cattle Mound).

In June 1995, NPS surveyed the structures for inclusion in the List of Classified Structures (LCS) inventory of NPS-owned historic resources. NPS photographed, measured, and described each of the structures included in this documentation. Condition assessments in this National Register documentation are based on the data gathered during the LCS survey. Brady's Cattle Mound, the only resource maintained in its original form for continuing use, provided the basis for integrity requirements of the other cattle mounds. The integrity requirements for the dikes and bridge abutments were based on a knowledge of the condition of similar resources in other locations.

The resources represent the only known examples of agricultural adaptation to a swamp environment in the state of South Carolina. Michie's archeological excavations at the site confirmed the construction techniques for the structures and eliminated the possibility of Native American origins. Archival research conducted by park personnel identified primary resources providing further support for the historic function of the structures. Other significant resources include the historic context written for the "Lower Richland County Historical and Architectural Inventory" by The Jaeger Company for the Historic Columbia Foundation. The "Lower Richland County" survey excluded lands within the boundary of the Congaree Swamp National Monument, but the context is relevant to resources on monument property.