

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. The Original Inhabitants
3. Development of the English Colonies, 1700 - 1775

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 15 1976

DATE ENTERED

MAY 13 1976

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 Sterling Land Grant/Cherokee Path
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Highway No. 6
0.4 miles NW Old Belleville Road (Road S-9-45)
5 miles south of St. Matthews

CITY, TOWN St. Matthews VICINITY OF District #2

STATE South Carolina CODE 045 COUNTY Calhoun CODE 017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input 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 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Delta Equipment Company

STREET & NUMBER Box 90

CITY, TOWN Kingstree VICINITY OF South Carolina STATE South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Calhoun County Museum/Archives

STREET & NUMBER 303 Butler Street

CITY, TOWN St. Matthews STATE South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE 1973 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN Columbia STATE South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1704 George Sterling received a grant for 570 acres of land on Ox Creek. It was in an unpopulated section of South Carolina, and Sterling became one of the area's first white settlers. Although Sterling's land was isolated, it was traversed by the Cherokee Path, an early Indian trading path which in South Carolina led from Charles Towne to Keowee, the principal Lower Town of the Cherokees. From Keowee the Path led over the Appalachian Mountains to the valley of the Little Tennessee River.

A house, the home of Sterling's daughter Mary Russell and her husband Charles Russell, once stood on the Sterling land; however, no records indicate the exact location of the house or the date of its destruction.

^{Two}
~~Five~~ acres, crossed by the Cherokee Path, is the portion of the Sterling land being nominated to the National Register. Today, this land is located just off of a rural highway and remains somewhat isolated. The site of the grant itself is a deserted, overgrown field which is dotted with scattered trees. The Cherokee Path crosses the land near the present highway. Although still visible, the Indian Path is overgrown by trees, shrubs, and vines. The Cherokee Path crosses the state of South Carolina, and many modern highways follow the route of the Path, but Calhoun is one of the few counties in South Carolina where portions of the original path remain visible.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" 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 1704

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1704, George Sterling received a proprietary land grant for 570 acres of land along Ox Creek (today called Lyon's Creek). This grant marks the first settlement of the area that was to become the Orangeburg District and later Calhoun County. Sterling died in 1706, but his family established a home along Ox Creek. The Cherokee Path, an important Indian path, crossed Sterling's land.

Originally, the Cherokee Path was an Indian footpath leading from Charles Towne to the Cherokee territory in South Carolina, across the Appalachian Mountains, and into the valley of the Little Tennessee River. As white settlers began to develop a more extensive trade with the Indians, the Path developed into a larger trading path. Later, wagon roads and even modern highways followed the route of the Cherokee Path.

During the lifetime of Sterling's daughter, Mary Sterling Heatly Russell, the Sterling plantation was a stopping place for Indians and other travelers along the Path. By 1725, Mary and her husband, Charles Russell, had established themselves at the Ox Creek Plantation; however, they did not officially purchase the Sterling home from Mary's brother William until 1731. From the time of their marriage until Mary's death, the Russells were involved in Indian affairs and entertained Indians and other travelers in their home. On an expedition to Cherokee Country in 1725, Captain George Chicken, Commissioner of Indian Trade, recorded in his journal an overnight stop at Captain Russell's. In 1731, Sir Alexander Cuming, Ambassador to the Cherokees, also recorded stopping overnight at the Russells.

In 1734, the Assembly appointed Captain Charles Russell, "at his plantation, on the South side of Santee river," as one of the several officers with whom Indian traders were required to enter the number of skins and furs for which they had traded.¹ Also in 1734, Russell was appointed as an agent to the Cherokees. He died in January 1737 while on a special mission to the tribe. (See continuation sheet)

¹Thomas Cooper, ed., The Statutes at Large of South Carolina (Columbia: A. S. Johnston, 1838), p. 400.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bennet, Susan S. "Some Early Settlers of Calhoun County." Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association, 1938.

Cooper, Thomas, ed. The Statutes at Large of South Carolina. Columbia: A. S. Johnston, 1838.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY two
 UTM REFERENCES

Latitude N 330-38'-09"
 Longitude W 800-42'-27"

A

ZONE	EASTING								
C									

B

ZONE	EASTING								
D									

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	(Jeanne W. Ulmer, Director Calhoun Museum/Archives)
Katherine G. Hendrix, Historic Preservation Division	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
South Carolina Department of Archives and History	July 3, 1975
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
1430 Senate Street	(803) 758-5816
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Columbia	South Carolina

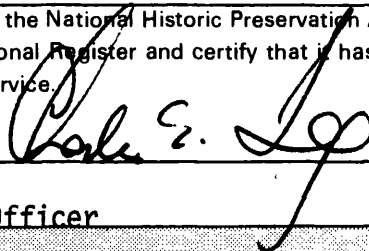
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

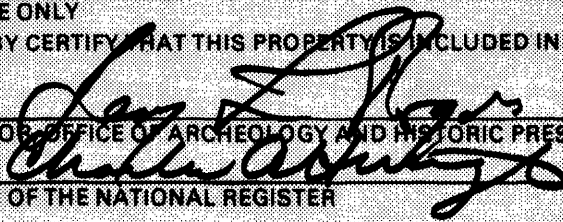


TITLE Charles E. Lee
 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 12-29-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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



DATE 01/31/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE 5-12-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 15 1976

DATE ENTERED

MAY 13 1976

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE One

Mrs. Russell's home continued to be a stopping point for travelers along the Cherokee Path. Until her death in 1754, Mrs. Russell periodically petitioned the Commons House of Assembly for repayment of expenses incurred by supplying Indians and other passers-by with food and drink. Her home was also used by the community for religious services. From 1749 until 1754, the Reverend John Gissendanner recorded that services in the Amelia Township were held in various homes including that of Mrs. Russell.

No archeological work has been planned for the Sterling land; however, the site could have potential for archeological excavation.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 15 1976
DATE ENTERED MAY 13 1976

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE two

Howe, George. History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina, vol. I. Columbia: A. S. Johnston, 1838.

Mereness, Newton D. Travels in the American Colonies. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1916.

Meriwether, Robert L. The Expansion of South Carolina 1729-1765. Kingsport: Southern Publishers, Inc., 1940.

Salley, A. S., Jr. The History of Orangeburg County. Orangeburg: R. Lewis Berry, 1898.

Williams, Samuel Cole. Early Travels in the Tennessee County 1540-1800. Johnson City: The Watauga Press, 1928.

Cherokee Path Trail: A South Carolina Historic Trail (Pamphlet). South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Highway Department, Department of Archives and History, 1974.

Charleston County Deeds, Book L.

Commons House Journal. No. 9, 10, 17, 21, 25.

George Hunter's Map, 1730.

Proprietary Grants, vol. 38.