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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
2010



The Howser Farmstead  
Kings Mountain National Military Park

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## Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

### Inventory Summary

#### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

##### CLI General Information:

###### Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

###### Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

The Howser Farmstead  
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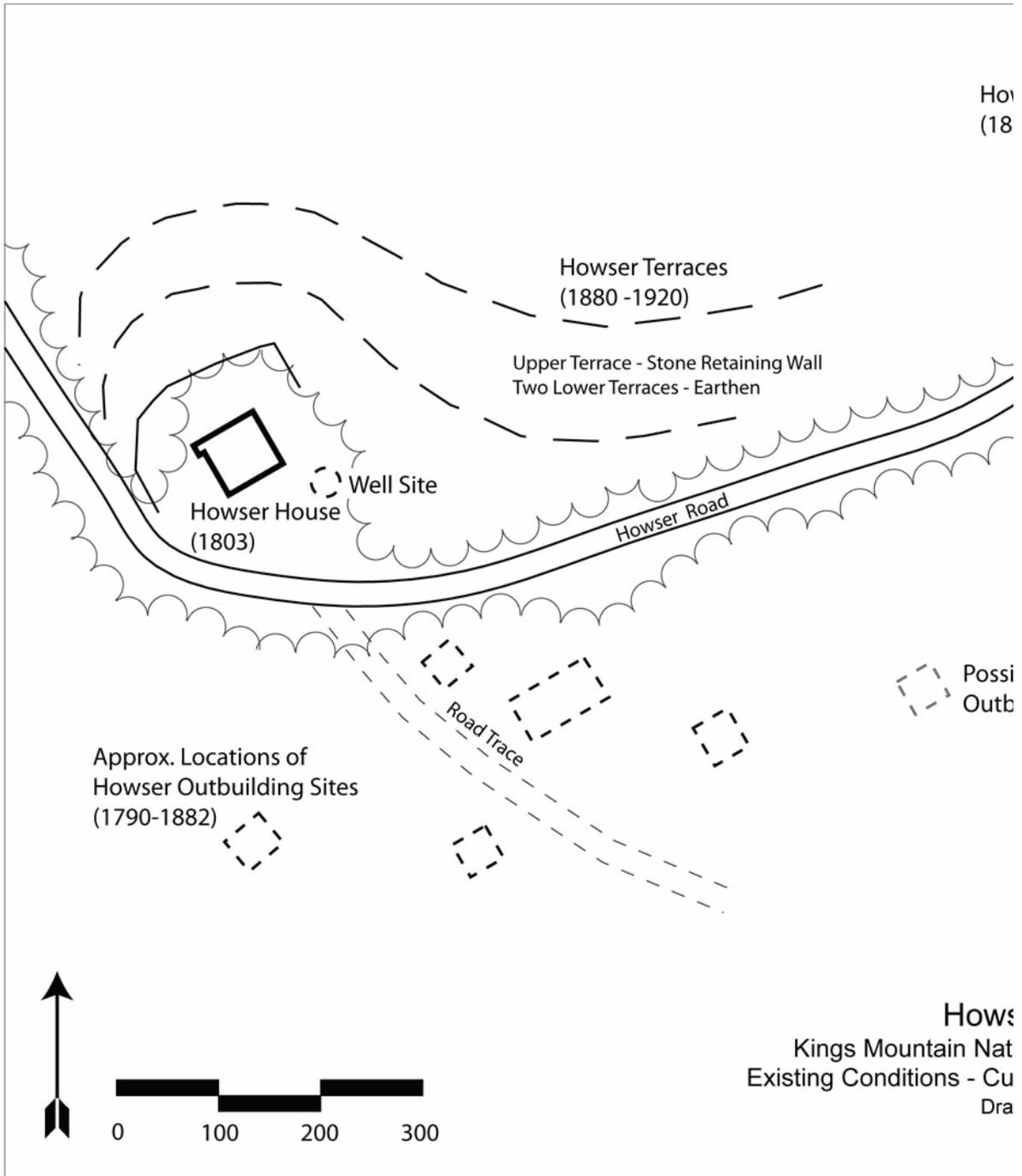
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treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

**Inventory Unit Description:**

The Howser Farmstead is located in Kings Mountain National Military Park (parent landscape) in Cherokee County, South Carolina. This agrarian setting has been preserved as a military park and recreation area (including the adjoining state park). The portion of the property once owned by the Howser family is located in the northwest corner of the park and includes a stone house, outbuilding sites, a family cemetery, terraces, and Howser Road. The landholdings varied during the occupancy of the house from 60 acres to several thousand, though the main house and adjacent land are within park boundaries today. The Howser farmstead is currently wooded with an area cleared around the stone house.

Site Plan



Howser Farmstead Site Map

### Property Level and CLI Numbers

<b>Inventory Unit Name:</b>	The Howser Farmstead
<b>Property Level:</b>	Component Landscape
<b>CLI Identification Number:</b>	550048
<b>Parent Landscape:</b>	550047

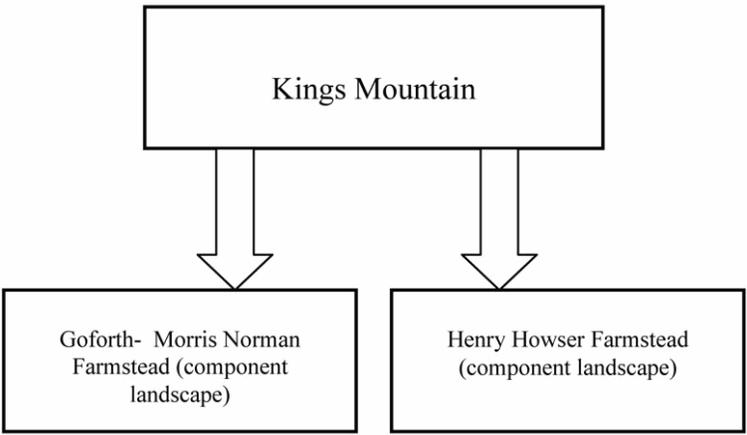
### Park Information

<b>Park Name and Alpha Code:</b>	Kings Mountain National Military Park -KIMO
<b>Park Organization Code:</b>	5500
<b>Park Administrative Unit:</b>	Kings Mountain National Military Park

### CLI Hierarchy Description

The parent cultural landscape is Kings Mountain National Military Park, a Revolutionary War battlefield with significant periods of commemoration and national park development. The Battle of Kings Mountain took place October 7, 1780 on Battlefield Ridge, a cleared area with wooded slopes, between American militia and Loyalist supporters. The battlefield commemoration (1815-1931) occurred on a central forty acres of the ridge with monuments and markers locating key sites from the battle. The Park Development era (1933-1942) includes the National Park Service design of the nearby museum area.

Two component landscapes are identified: The Goforth-Morris Norman and Howser farmsteads. Within the park boundaries of Kings Mountain, these two component landscapes post-date the battle but signify the historic agricultural land use and architecture of the region. The smaller component landscape, the Goforth-Morris Norman Farmstead, is within the Howser farm boundaries and includes features clustered around a one-story farmhouse. The Howser farmstead is located on Howser Road in the northwest section of the park. A German-influence stone house once occupied by the Howser family survives with additional landscape features.



*KIMO CLI Hierarchy*

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

A draft Cultural Landscape Inventory was completed by Brian Morris in 1993, and a site visit was conducted with a review of existing park information.

The CLI was updated by Beth Wheeler Byrd in 2003 with information from the Historic Resource Study (1995) and Cultural Landscape Report (2003).

A site visit was conducted and additional work was completed in 2009 by David Hasty, regional CLI coordinator, and intern, Michelle Rapp.

### Concurrence Status:

**Park Superintendent Concurrence:** Yes

**Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:** 08/25/2010

**National Register Concurrence:** Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

**Date of Concurrence Determination:** 09/07/2010

### National Register Concurrence Narrative:

Reviewed by Elizabeth Johnson, SC Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

### Concurrence Graphic Information:

The Howser Farmstead  
Kings Mountain National Military Park

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Southeast Regional Office  
Atlanta Federal Center  
1924 Building  
100 Alabama St., S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



H22(SERO-CRD)

8 July 2010

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Kings Mountain National Military Park

From:  Chief, Cultural Resources Division, Southeast Region 

Subject: Cultural Landscape Inventory

We are pleased to transmit to you the Kings Mountain, Howser Farmstead and Goforth-Morris Norman Cultural Landscape Inventories (CLIs). The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NR) or that contribute to an existing historic property. These CLIs were produced at the Southeast Regional Office, based primarily on the existing Historic Resources Study and Cultural Landscapes Report, along with a site visit in the summer of 2009.

In order for the CLIs to be certified and counted in PMDS under KIMO's goal Ia7 and the systemwide goal IB2B, the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office needs to concur on the eligibility of the identified contributing cultural landscape features to the existing nomination. KIMO was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966, and additional information was accepted in 1976 and again in 1995. The period of significance for the park now includes National Park Service development under the New Deal in 1933-1942, and additional information exists for local rural settlement, and more recent commemorative development. Even though the HRS states that it does not address cultural landscapes, it does, in fact, do just that: topography, landform, vegetation, and circulation patterns are discussed; however, the Hawthorn marker, flagstone walkways surrounding the Administration Building, rubble gutters, and stone headwalls should all still be listed as contributing features. The contribution of vegetation patterns to the overall historic setting should also be more thoroughly addressed. Future primary research – beyond park archives and beyond the scope of the CLI – may enhance the rural settlement context and provide more information on the Henry Howser and Goforth-Morris Norman properties, as well as Howser's Quarry and historic circulation patterns. David Hasty, CLI Coordinator for the Southeast Region, will send a request to the South Carolina Historic Preservation Division for concurrence on the CLI findings.

Approval by the park superintendent is also needed for certification. If the findings of the CLIs are agreed upon – especially regarding condition assessment and management category – please sign the attached approval form and return it to our office to the attention of David Hasty, via mail, e-mail ([david\\_hasty@nps.gov](mailto:david_hasty@nps.gov)), or fax (404.562.3202). However, if you have comments or changes to any part of the CLI, please send those to David Hasty instead. We will incorporate them into the inventory, and send the updated version back to you for further review and signature.

Enclosures



*Memo to park.*

The Howser Farmstead  
 Kings Mountain National Military Park

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**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY  
 CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET – 8 July 2010**

Park Information

**Park:** Kings Mountain National Military Park  
**State:** South Carolina  
**Counties:** Cherokee, York

Cultural Landscape Condition

Inventory Name	CLI ID #	Condition
Kings Mountain National Military Park	550047	Fair
Howser Farmstead	550048	Fair
Osford-Morris Norman Farmstead	550049	Fair

Cultural Landscape Management Category

Should Be Preserved and Maintained 8 July 2010

Park Superintendant Concurrence

Concur  Do Not Concur

[Signature]                      8 July 2010  
 Superintendent                      Date

*Signature from park.*

The Howser Farmstead  
Kings Mountain National Military Park

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United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Southeast Regional Office  
Atlanta Federal Center  
1924 Building  
100 Alabama St., SW.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
H22 (SERO-CRD)

8 July 2010

Elizabeth Johnson  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
State Historic Preservation Office  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History  
8301 Parklane Road  
Columbia, SC 29223

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Enclosed please find a copy of two Cultural Landscape Inventories (CLIs) for Kings Mountain National Military Park, located in Blacksburg, South Carolina.

The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or that contribute to an existing historic property. In order for CLI data to become certified, National Park Service regulations require concurrence from the SHPO on the eligibility of these properties. We are requesting your review of the Kings Mountain Landscape, the Howser Farmstead, and the Goforth-Morris Norman Homestead CLIs and ask that you sign and return the enclosed concurrence form.

Kings Mountain NMP was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966, with additional information accepted in 1976. The nomination did not fully address cultural landscape features at this time. NPS completed a Historic Resource Study in 1995 and their findings were accepted by the Keeper of the National Register as additional documentation on 10 January 1995. The period of significance for the park now includes National Park Service development under the New Deal in 1933-1942, and additional information exists for local rural settlement, and more recent commemorative development. The lists of contributing – and non-contributing – resources at the park are also updated. Topography, landform, vegetation, and circulation patterns are discussed. With a few exceptions, their effort adequately addresses the park's cultural landscape. The Hawthorn marker, flagstone walkways surrounding the Administration Building, rubble gutters, and stone headwalls should all be listed as contributing features. And the contribution of vegetation patterns to the overall historic setting should also be more thoroughly addressed. At a future date, additional primary research – beyond park archives and beyond the scope of the CLI – may enhance the rural settlement context and provide more



information on the Henry Howser and Goforth-Morris Norman properties, as well as Howser's Quarry and historic circulation patterns.

With concurrence from your office, the findings become certified in the CLI database. Your concurrence also gives us justification to submit proper additional documentation to you at a future date. If you have any questions about these documents, please contact David Hasty, CLI Coordinator, Southeast Region (SER), at (404) 507-5780 or by e-mail at [david\\_hasty@nps.gov](mailto:david_hasty@nps.gov). The concurrence form can be returned by fax at (404) 562-3202, or mailed to the address above.

We greatly appreciate your office's assistance with the project.

Sincerely,

  
Dan Scheidt  
Chief, Cultural Resource Division  
Southeast Region

Enclosures

*Memo to SHPO.*

The Howser Farmstead  
Kings Mountain National Military Park

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September 7, 2010

David Hasty  
National Park Service  
Southeast Regional Office  
Atlanta Federal Center  
1924 Building  
100 Alabama Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303



Subject: Cultural Landscape Inventories for Kings Mountain National Military Park,  
Blacksburg, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Hasty:

Thank you for sending the three Cultural Landscape Inventories (CLIs) for Kings Mountain National Military Park in Blacksburg, South Carolina for our review. They demonstrate an impressive level of effort to document the various cultural layers evident in the landscape today.

Enclosed is the signed concurrence with the findings of the CLIs about the features that have the potential to contribute to the existing National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Park. If we can be of further assistance to you, please call me at 803-896-6168, or Andy Chandler at 803-896-6179.

Cordially,

Elizabeth M. Johnson  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

S. C. Department of Archives & History • 8301 Parklane Road • Columbia • South Carolina • 29223-4905 • (803) 896-6100 • <http://scdah.sc.gov>

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We have reviewed the submitted documentation that identifies cultural landscape features at Kings Mountain National Military Park in Blacksburg, South Carolina. We concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory, and understand that these features have the potential to contribute to the existing National Register of Historic Places nomination for Kings Mountain National Military Park.

  
Elizabeth M. Johnson, Deputy  
South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer

9/7/2010  
Date

*Signature from SHPO.*

## Geographic Information & Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Howser Farmstead is in Kings Mountain National Military Park. The park is bounded by Kings Mountain State Park and private land.

The Howser Farmstead  
Kings Mountain National Military Park

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**State and County:**

**State:** GA

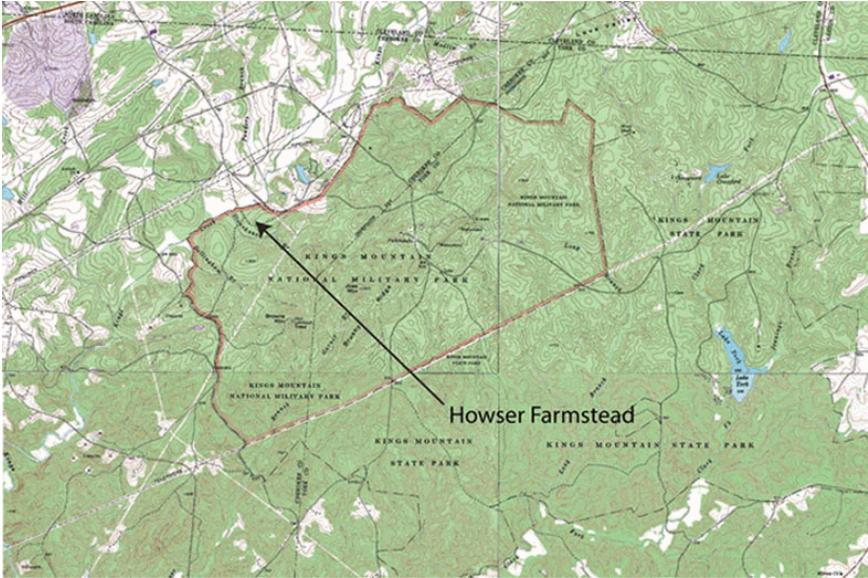
**County:** Cherokee County

**Size (Acres):** 402.00

**Boundary UTMS:**

<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Area
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 27
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	17
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	464,177
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,890,560
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Area
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 27
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	17
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	465,362
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,890,680
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Area
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 27
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	17
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	464,652
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,889,501
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 27
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	17
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	463,980
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	3,889,072

**Location Map:**



*Howser Farmstead Location Map*

**Regional Context:**

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**

The Kings Mountain Range was inhabited by Native Americans before 1700 but Scots-Irish as well as German, British and Swiss settled and farmed the area over the next century. The Indians, and later colonists, used fire as a land management tool to clear pasture and farm land. On October 7, 1780 the Battle of Kings Mountain was fought between local patriot militia and loyalist supporters. After the battle the land was used agriculturally and later commemorated for the battle. Since 1880, the battlefield has been preserved and is now a military park.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

The Battle of Kings Mountain took place on Battlefield Ridge, a spur of the Kings Mountain Range, the southern-most hill of the range. The mountain lies between the Blue Ridge Mountains and Carolina sandhills and has small rural farms and woodlands. The Howser Farmstead in in the surrounding area that has a rolling piedmont topography and is in the Uplands Section of the Piedmont province.

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**

Kings Mountain National Military Park is located in Cherokee and York Counties, South Carolina. The Park is located in the Fifth Congressional District.

**Tract Numbers:** 01-101 and 01-103

## Management Information

### General Management Information

**Management Category:** Should be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 05/27/2009

**Management Category Explanatory Narrative:**

Further research of the Howser Farmstead should be conducted.

**NPS Legal Interest:**

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

**Public Access:**

**Type of Access:** With Permission

**Adjacent Lands Information**

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

**Adjacent Lands Description:**

Adjacent lands contribute to the rural, undeveloped park land and battlefield. The Kings Mountain NMP has a buffer zone and is bordered by a state park with recreational facilities and connecting trails. Some development has occurred near the park entrance road and Interstate 85, but vegetation combined with topography obstruct the viewshed of this development from Kings Mountain.

## National Register Information

### Existing National Register Status

#### National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

#### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

KIMO was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966, and additional information - written by James Anderson - was accepted in 1976. The nomination did not fully address cultural landscape features at this time. Robert Blythe, Maureen Carroll and Steven Moffson completed a Historic Resource Study for KIMO, and their findings were accepted by the Keeper of the National Register as additional documentation on 10 January 1995. The period of significance for the park now includes National Park Service development under the New Deal in 1933-1942, and additional information exists for local rural settlement, and more recent commemorative development. The lists of contributing – and non-contributing – resources at the park are also updated. Even though the HRS states that it does not address cultural landscapes, it does, in fact, do just that: topography, landform, vegetation, and circulation patterns are discussed. With a few exceptions, their effort adequately addresses the park’s cultural landscape. The Hawthorn marker, flagstone walkways surrounding the Administration Building, rubble gutters, and stone headwalls should all be listed as contributing features. And the contribution of vegetation patterns to the overall historic setting should also be more thoroughly addressed. At a future date, additional primary research - beyond park archives and beyond the scope of the CLI - may enhance the rural settlement context and provide more information on the Henry Howser and Goforth-Morris Norman properties, as well as Howser’s Quarry and historic circulation patterns.

#### Existing NRIS Information:

<b>Name in National Register:</b>	Kings Mountain National Military Park
<b>NRIS Number:</b>	66000079
<b>Primary Certification Date:</b>	10/15/1966
<b>Name in National Register:</b>	Kings Mountain National Military Park
<b>NRIS Number:</b>	66000079
<b>Primary Certification Date:</b>	10/15/1966
<b>Name in National Register:</b>	Kings Mountain National Military Park
<b>NRIS Number:</b>	66000079
<b>Primary Certification Date:</b>	10/15/1966
<b>Name in National Register:</b>	Kings Mountain National Military Park
<b>NRIS Number:</b>	66000079
<b>Primary Certification Date:</b>	10/15/1966

### National Register Eligibility

<b>National Register Concurrence:</b>	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
<b>Contributing/Individual:</b>	Individual
<b>National Register Classification:</b>	District
<b>Significance Level:</b>	State
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
<b>Period of Significance:</b>	
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1803 - 1945
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Expressing Cultural Values
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Other Expressing Cultural Values
<b>Facet:</b>	Other Expressing Cultural Values
<b>Other Facet:</b>	Rural Settlers and Their Houses: Expressions of Vernacular Architecture and Settlement Patterns in the South Carolina Piedmont.

### Area of Significance:

<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Landscape Architecture

### Statement of Significance:

The Kings Mountain National Military Park includes a significant Revolutionary War battlefield (1780), commemorative designed landscape (1815-1931) and features representing the Park Development era of the National Park Service (1933-1942). The National Register nomination was amended in 1994 to expand the historical contexts and include the Howser House (as well as the Goforth-Morris Norman farmstead). The Henry Howser House is significant at the state level (Criterion C) as a rare example, particularly as far south as South Carolina, of the process of acculturation manifested in Germanic architectural forms. The Howser property, which includes the house, family cemetery, earthen terraces, outbuilding sites, and the Howser Road, is also significant on a local level (Criterion A) for its association with local land use and settlement patterns. Though amendments to the National Register have expanded the contexts and resources deemed significant in Kings Mountain NMP, more

documentation of landscape features is necessary; particularly of the Howser farmstead.

The settlement patterns important to the local history in South Carolina include the Howser Farmstead and later tenant farms such as Goforth-Morris Norman. These two component landscapes are related geographically, historically, and by kinship and illustrate the patterns of circulation and agriculture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The landscape features at the Howser farmstead contribute to the history of land use but should be examined individually to determine significance.

The Howser House is also significant for the stone architecture and Germanic influences (Criteria C) unique to the area. The Howser House is a two-story, double-pile house set on a raised basement with a gable roof and two interior gable-end chimneys. The house is constructed of stone blocks with clay mortar and has a watertable and quoins. A brown and beige uncoursed rubble was used with a coursed ashlar on the east, or main façade. The use of stone for a residence in South Carolina in the nineteenth century is extremely rare. The interior plan has the Kuche and Stube, traditional German rooms, oriented to chimneys along the width of the house. The Howser house was also constructed into the hillside with a down slope entrance in the rear. This is similar to many German and Pennsylvania-German house types. The acculturation of vernacular and distinctly German house construction makes the Howser House a unique architectural example in the Kings Mountain NMP. See HRS and the National register nomination update for a more thorough state of architectural significance.

The remains of vernacular outbuildings associated with the Howser farmstead contributes to the architectural significance of the Howser house as part of South Carolina settlement. Further research should be done to identify and evaluate the existing conditions and integrity of these elements.

## Chronology & Physical History

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Historic Site

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Farm (Plantation)

**Primary Current Use:** Recreation/Culture-Other

**Other Use/Function**

**Other Type of Use or Function**

Small Residential Landscape

Historic

Vacant (Not In Use)-Other

Current

**Current and Historic Names:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of Name</b>
Henry Howser Farmstead	Both Current And Historic

**Ethnographic Study Conducted:** No Survey Conducted

**Associated Group:**

<b>Name of Group:</b>	Catawba Indians
<b>Type of Association:</b>	Historic

**Chronology:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Annotation</b>
AD 1700 - 1800	Settled	Early Settlement by Europeans
AD 1780	Military Operation	Battle of Kings Mountain
AD 1797	Land Transfer	Governor Charles Pinckney granted land including battlefield to John Alexander
	Land Transfer	Land sold to Colonel Frederick Hambright (inherited by son, then wife)
AD 1803	Built	Henry Howser House
AD 1815	Memorialized	Chronicle Marker placed at gravesite Celebration led by Dr. William McLean
AD 1827	Land Transfer	Land bought by Robert Clendinen
AD 1853	Land Transfer	Clendinen's widow, Mary and new husband Dr. William Hemmingway purchase additional tract. Total land 2,300 acres.
AD 1875	Land Transfer	Land sold to John O. Darby for \$2200
AD 1879	Land Transfer	Land sold to W.L. Goforth, Preston Goforth, F. S. Goforth and J.W. Wren

The Howser Farmstead  
 Kings Mountain National Military Park

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AD 1880	Land Transfer	Forty acres including Battleground Ridge sold to Kings Mountain Centennial Association
	Memorialized	Centennial Monument placed
AD 1906	Memorialized	U.S. Monument erected
		McKim, Mead, and White
AD 1914	Built	A marker replacing the deteriorated Chronicle Marker was added next to the original and surrounded by an iron fence.
AD 1930	Memorialized	Sesquicentennial Celebration Maj. Ferguson's grave marked, Hoover speech site marked, Kings Mtn. Battleground marker and Col. Asbury Coward marker erected Speaker: President Herbert Hoover New roads and trails laid out
AD 1931	Altered	Kings Mountain NMP established
AD 1933	Land Transfer	War Department transfers all national military parks and historic sites to National Park Service
AD 1933 - 1942	Preserved	Parks Development Era New Deal policy to develop national parks WPA and CCC work at Kings Mountain
AD 1933 - 1937	Built	Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp (after 1937, CCC used WPA camp until 1942)
AD 1938	Planted	Revegetation of old fields and pastures
	Built	Main Park Road
AD 1939	Memorialized	Col. Frederick Hambright marker placed

The Howser Farmstead  
Kings Mountain National Military Park

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	Built	Amphitheater
AD 1941	Moved	Kings Mountain Battleground marker moved from battlefield to Main Park Road
	Moved	Main Park Road realigned to south (once followed One Day Road)
	Built	Museum/Administration Building Superintendent's Residence
AD 1949	Demolished	Howser Log Barn and Corn Crib National Park Service
AD 1952	Built	Maintenance and Utility Area
AD 1974	Demolished	Upper parking area and approach road
AD 1975	Built	Visitor Center and 100 car parking area
AD 1980	Restored	Kings Mountain added to national trail system Overmountain Victory Trail from VA to SC
AD 1999	Excavated	Archaeology investigation

**Physical History:**

The Howser Farmstead

There are two extant house sites, two cemeteries, and several historic roads located within the Kings Mountain National Military Park that represent remnants of the farming communities they once composed and convey land use and settlement patterns important to the local patterns of history in the Carolina piedmont. Built nearly a century apart, the Henry Howser house and the Goforth-Morris Norman house are linked geographically, historically, and by kinship to each other and several other sites within the park's boundaries. Both houses were built by independent landowners and had associated farm acreage, outbuildings, and circulation routes that place them within an important context for nineteenth- and twentieth-century South Carolina agricultural and settlement history.

Henry Howser built the large, two-story stone house located on Kings Creek in 1803. Original researchers thought Howser had been born Germany in 1756, but later investigation indicates that Howser's nativity may have been in one of the large German population centers in Pennsylvania. Trained as a stone mason, Howser built several iron furnaces in western Pennsylvania before migrating south along the Valley of Virginia to North Carolina. By 1789, he had acquired 245 acres on Kings Creek in York County (now Cherokee), South Carolina. The residence Henry Howser constructed on this tract features a traditional German floor plan concealed behind a symmetrical Georgian facade and illustrates through this dichotomy the rapid acculturation most German Americans experienced at the end of the eighteenth century. The size, materials, and degree of finish reflect both Howser's social status and the wealth he accumulated.

When Henry Howser arrived at Kings Creek in 1789, the South Carolina backcountry was settled with small farms and villages located on inland waterways. By the mid 1770s, the large population centers located on the coast were eclipsed by the flourishing backcountry, which contained three-quarters of the colony's white population. Religious freedom and the unlimited resources of the Piedmont forests attracted Scots Irish, Huguenot, and German settlers from Pennsylvania who constructed one- and two- room log cabins. Easy to assemble, these houses provided settlers with immediate shelter and later could be enlarged to form saddlebag and dogtrot dwellings. Through the mid-nineteenth century, log remained the predominant building material for domestic architecture in the Carolina backcountry.

The stone house that Henry Howser built at Kings Creek is a clear departure from local building traditions and reflects Howser's wealth and status in the community. Before arriving in South Carolina, Howser amassed enough capital to buy and sell land freely. In 1788, Howser acquired a 125-acre tract on Kings Creek, which he enlarged the following year with the purchase of 120 acres. Howser continued to increase his land holdings in Lincoln County, North Carolina, purchasing 250 acres in 1790. Howser sold the remainder of this property after 1793, as he turned his attention to Kings Creek.

In 1790, Howser was living at Kings Creek with his wife Jane, two sons, Jacob and John, an unidentified male, and two unidentified females. By 1810, census records indicate that Henry

## The Howser Farmstead

### Kings Mountain National Military Park

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and Jane, four males, and three females resided in the newly built stone house. Howser owned three slaves and was one of six slaveholders in the area. In 1820, only Howser and his wife are listed as the residents of the stone house, but Howser increased his slave population to four. Howser identified himself as a farmer, stonemason, and distiller.

Howser's fortune and status in the community increased dramatically in the early nineteenth century because he actively engaged in land acquisition and speculation. In September 1800, for example, Howser purchased a 53-acre tract on Kings Creek for \$132.50, selling the property five months later for \$160. At the time of Howser's death in 1822, he had acquired several thousand acres in the York County area and owned property in Rutherford County, North Carolina. Howser's estate, less real property, was appraised at \$5,353 and included \$731 in notes and judgments against fifty-five persons.

Little is known of the complex of outbuildings and support structures that surrounded the house during the nineteenth century. Howser likely constructed one or more dwellings for his slaves, one or more barns, a corn crib, a privy, and a shed to house his distilling activity. Following Howser's death in 1822, his son, Henry Howser II, purchased the house and 700 acres at auction. Henry's wife, Faithy Howser, acquired the house and 875 acres following his death in 1842. A plat of 1843 indicates that nearly 150 acres, bisected by Kings Creek, were fenced. The house was surrounded by four unidentified outbuildings with a "still house" located on Mill Branch. The still house was probably built by Henry Howser and later operated by his son, whose estate included "1 Still and Vesals" [sic] among his most valuable possessions.

The widow Faithy Howser remained in the stone house until her death in 1882. During the forty years that she operated the farm, Faithy concentrated on agricultural production, selling two mills to her eldest son. In 1850, she managed an apple and peach orchard and cultivated wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, and hay on one hundred acres. Her livestock included horses, dairy cows, cattle, sheep, and hogs. Faithy owned three slaves that were quartered in two houses in 1860. At the time of her death, she was also growing cotton on four acres.

Lawson Howell, a grandson of Faithy, purchased the house and sixty acres at auction in 1884. Howell was a merchant and let the house to a series of tenants from 1887 to the time of his death in 1911. The property then passed to his sons Aaron and J Grigg, who continued to let the property. Aaron's son William W Howell recalled a detached summer kitchen on the west side of the house. A wood walkway linked the frame kitchen with the rear entrance of the house. A stone-lined well was constructed northeast of the house circa 1900. It had a square, wood well head and was filled circa 1930. Mrs. James P. Jackson, Grigg's daughter, recalled a large log barn and a frame corn crib east of the house, across the road. J. Grigg Howell resided in the stone house from 1915 to 1918, when the brothers sold the property to J. F. Jenkins.

Tom Morris leased the property from Jenkins and resided in the stone house from 1919 through much of the 1920s. Mrs. Julia Norman and Mrs. Hood Watterson, Morris's daughter and granddaughter, noted the existence of a log barn, corn crib, cow barn, cotton house, and well east of the house and a privy to the west. The two-story, double-pen log barn was constructed of V-notched logs while the cow barn, double-pen corn crib, and one-and-one-half-story cotton

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house featured frame construction.

Mrs. Norman and Mrs. Watterson described the one-story, frame kitchen joined to the west side of the house. Added circa 1900, it had a porch along the south side and was entered from the large north room and by exterior stairs. Morris, among the dwelling's last residents, continued to live in the stone house after the Merchant and Planters Bank of Gafney, South Carolina, foreclosed on the property in the mid-1920s. The National Park Service held a purchase option on the house in 1934 and bought it four years later as part of the land acquisition associated with the development of Kings Mountain National Military Park.

Years of tenant occupancy and deferred maintenance by the National Park Service contributed to the deterioration of the Howser House. As early as 1937, Oswald E. Camp, the first superintendent of Kings Mountain, observed that the house was in "bad condition, nearly ready to collapse." The NPS finally secured the doors and windows in 1941, preventing vandals from entering the house. No efforts were made, however, to further stabilize the structure, and it continued to deteriorate over the next thirty years. As the original mortar eroded, the stone walls bowed and cracked. The window sashes were broken and rotted, and much of the interior woodwork, such as the lower stair and fireplace surround, was destroyed or removed. In 1949, the NPS razed the last remaining outbuildings, the log barn and corn crib.

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The stone "mansion house" that Henry Howser built is more characteristic of Pennsylvania German architecture than the modest log dwellings that dotted the Carolina backcountry. It is a two-story, double-pile house set on a raised basement. The basement is accented with a water table and entered from the south gable end, which is oriented to the downward slope of the land. The massive stone block features a side-gabled, common rafter roof with a box cornice and wood shingles. Two interior chimneys are centered on the gable ends. The walls are quoined and constructed of brown and beige uncoursed rubble. The east, or main facade, is laid up with coursed ashlar above the water table. The stone blocks are set in clay with mortar used only as an exterior pointing material to seal and waterproof the walls.

The three-bay front and rear elevations are symmetrical with two first-floor windows and a center door. The main entrance features a six-panel wood door and a four-light transom. A stone lintel above the transom reads: "HENRY HOWSER-Stone Mason/\*JANE HOWSER 1803. First-floor windows are nine-over-six sash with (replacement) wood-panel shutters and stone lintels. Smaller, four-over-four sash windows exist at the second-floor level. This same arrangement is repeated on the rear facade, although there is no window above the door.

The symmetrical, Georgian exterior belies a traditional three-room Continental house with the Kuche and Stube oriented to the gable-end fireplaces rather than disposed around a central chimney. The Kuche extends the width of the house and includes the front and rear entrances on axis and stairs in the northwest corner. A six-foot wide fireplace is centered on the north wall and features a decorative surround with reeded pilasters and decorative panels. The southern half of the house is divided between the Stube in the southeast corner and the slightly

larger Kammer situated in the southwest corner, at the rear of the dwelling. Each room has a fireplace that adjoins the partition wall and divides the two rooms. The layout of the second floor is similar to the first floor plan, except only the large room above the Küche is heated.

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In 1976-77, the NPS restored the Howser house to its circa 1900 appearance. The walls were repointed and the window sashes were repaired. Deteriorated first floor joists were replaced and the interior walls were replastered and painted. Damaged or missing interior woodwork, such as the lower stair, was repaired or replaced. The gable-roofed entrance to the cellar was rebuilt and the kitchen ell, which had deteriorated significantly, was restored. Land surrounding the house was regraded and drains were installed around the perimeter to control the flow of water. Several architectural features dating from circa 1900 were not included in the restoration, such as the sheet metal roof (replaced with wood shingles) and the wood-and-glass door, which was replaced with a six-panel wood door.

Although no outbuildings associated with the Howser House survive, several landscape features remain that contribute to an understanding of the significance of the house and its associated land use patterns. Privy and log barn foundations are visible and indicate the approximate size and location of these structures. The well, although not visible, has been filled and remains intact. Howser Road, which remains unpaved, follows its early nineteenth century path along the east and south sides of the house and across Kings Creek. Also, Stone House Road, known during the 1920s as the Dillingham Road, served as an access and egress path south and west of the house. The steep grade between the rear of the house and Kings Creek has three terraces that were probably constructed during the second half of the nineteenth century. The uppermost terrace, linked archeologically with the house construction period, features a three-foot-high, seventy-foot-long stone wall along the rear of the house that provides a level back yard. The two lower terraces follow the curving slope and vary between five and ten feet tall and 500 to 600 feet long. Finally, the Howser Cemetery is located on the west side of Howser Road, approximately 500 feet north of the Howser House. It contains approximately twenty marked and unmarked graves, including those of Henry Howser and his family.

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Overall, the Howser Homestead retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Design and workmanship are essential to understanding the significance of the house and remain intact, despite decades of tenant occupancy and neglect. Historic spatial organization is retained by the original road system, cemetery, house, terraces and outbuilding sites. However, the removal of the actual outbuildings, and the forest regrowth have compromised the historic farmstead setting that once consisted of cultivated fields and orchards interspersed with woodlots.

<b>Aspects of Integrity:</b>	Location
	Location
	Materials
	Workmanship
	Feeling
	Association

### Landscape Characteristic:

#### Spatial Organization

The Howser Homestead retains part of its historic spatial organization. The Howser (formerly part of Yorkville-Shelbyville) Road is still in the same configuration running by the cemetery and wrapping around the south and west sides of the house. The house itself remains in its original location with the stone and earthen retaining walls to its northeast and northwest. The outbuilding sites and road trace to the south of Howser Road still remain, but they are largely obscured by vegetation. And the overall vegetation patterns themselves have mostly changed and impact the overall setting of the property. Instead of a pattern of farmsteads with orchards, fields and woodlots, the land has mostly reverted to a forest succession.

#### Buildings and Structures

The Henry Howser House (1803) is a three-bay, double-pile stone house set on a raised basement. The wood-shingled, side-gable roof is flanked by two interior gable-end chimneys. The symmetrical interior belies a more traditional German three-room floor plan. NPS restored the house to its c. 1900 appearance during the 1970s.

Set into the slope to the northeast and northwest of the house are a series of three terraces. These are thought to be built during the second half of the nineteenth century, although the uppermost terrace, built of stone, is linked archeologically with the construction of the house. This stone wall is three feet high and seventy feet long and provides a level rear yard. The two lower terraces are roughly 500 to 600 feet long, vary in height between five and ten feet, and

follow the curving contour of the terrain. These lower terraces are somewhat overgrown in places with woody vegetation.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Howser Terraces

Feature Identification Number: 142885

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 90161

LCS Structure Name: Howser Terraces

LCS Structure Number: HS-26

Feature: Henry Howser House

Feature Identification Number: 135514

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 12243

LCS Structure Name: Howser, Henry, House

LCS Structure Number: HS-02

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Henry Howser House*



*Howser upper stone terrace (July 2009)*



*Howser terraces - from downhill, looking back towards house (July 2009)*

### **Small Scale Features**

Two types of small-scale features are located at the Howser Farmstead: outbuilding sites, and a cemetery. The Howser outbuilding sites date to a period between 1790 - 1882, and consist of three animal barns, a tenant house, and a cotton house on the south side of Howser (Stone House) Road, and a well on the north side of the road near the house. Few above-ground features remain.

The Howser Cemetery is located a short distance to the northeast of the house on a low rise near Howser (Stone House) Road. The cemetery includes the graves of Henry Howser and his family. Fourteen marked graves with approximately eight to ten marble and granite early- and mid- nineteenth century headstones are present. Several other gravesites are identifiable by soil depressions. The area is cleared, but many of the headstones and markers are in poor condition.

### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Howser outbuilding foundation sites

Feature Identification Number: 142883

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Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Howser Cemetery

Feature Identification Number: 142887

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Howser Cemetery headstones

Feature Identification Number: 135512

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 90218

LCS Structure Name: Howser Cemetery Headstones

LCS Structure Number: HS-04

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Howser Cemetery (July 2009)*



*Howser Cemetery Headstone (July 2009). Note the broken and worn condition.*



*Howser Outbuilding Site (July 2009).*

### **Circulation**

Howser Road (c. 1800) passes through the Howser Farmstead curving closely by the house, separating it from the Howser outbuilding foundations to the southeast. It is a 12' to 16' wide gravel-surfaced road running from Main Park Road to Stone House Road west of Howser House. It was part of the former configuration of Yorkville-Shelbyville Road. A road trace also leads east southeast from Howser Road between the outbuilding sites. It is partly obscured by trees and woody vegetation.

### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Howser House road trace  
Feature Identification Number: 142893  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Yorkville-Shelbyville Road  
Feature Identification Number: 135516

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Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	12252
LCS Structure Name:	Yorkville-Shelbyville Road
LCS Structure Number:	HS-11
Feature:	Howser Road
Feature Identification Number:	135520
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	90159
LCS Structure Name:	Howser Road
LCS Structure Number:	HS-24

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Yorkville-Shelbyville (Howser) Road*



*Road trace at Howser Farmstead (2009).*

## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Fair  
**Assessment Date:** 07/08/2010

### Impacts

**Type of Impact:** Deferred Maintenance  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** The stone wall and terraces, and the outbuilding foundations, are covered in woody vegetation in parts.

**Type of Impact:** Release To Succession  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** The trace road leading south from the outbuilding sites is starting to be obscured by a succession of tree growth.

**Type of Impact:** Erosion  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** The LCS lists erosion as an impact to the Howser Cemetery headstones. The headstones, and the cemetery in its entirety, are in a moderate state of deterioration. Some of the headstones are broken in two, or cracked and weathered. Efforts have been made, however, to clear undergrowth from the area.

## Treatment

### Treatment

**Approved Treatment:** Undetermined  
**Approved Treatment Document:** Cultural Landscape Report  
**Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:**

A Cultural Landscape Report was written for the park by Susan Hart in 2003. It specifies preservation/rehabilitation as a treatment recommendation, but only for the battlefield. It does not address the Howser or Goforth Norman Farmsteads.

## Bibliography and Supplemental Information

### Bibliography

**Citation Author:** Susan Hart Vincent  
**Citation Title:** Cultural Landscape Report  
**Year of Publication:** 2003  
**Source Name:** CRBIB  
**Citation Location:** SERO, KIMO

**Citation Author:** Robert W. Blythe, Maureen A. Carroll, Steven H. Moffson  
**Citation Title:** Historic Resource Study  
**Year of Publication:** 1995  
**Source Name:** CRBIB  
**Citation Location:** SERO, KIMO

**Citation Author:** Edwin C. Bearss, Michael Alderstein  
**Citation Title:** Historic Structure Report  
**Year of Publication:** 1974  
**Source Name:** Other