



Battle of Camden Special Resource Study



We are pleased to announce that the National Park Service (NPS) has begun a special resource study to consider whether the Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site and the Camden Battlefield Site should be added as a unit of the national park system. This newsletter outlines the study process, presents the study's schedule, and identifies opportunities for the public to participate in the planning process. Your participation is an important component of this special resource study.



WHAT IS A SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY?

The National Park Service was created to conserve unimpaired outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational resources. These resources have been set aside by the American people to protect, preserve, and share our nation's greatest stories. Usually a new unit of the national park system is established by an act of Congress. Before passing such legislation, Congress requires information about the quality of resources in the area under consideration and the potential for visitor enjoyment and efficient management. The National Park Service collects this information and reports its findings to Congress in a special resource study. This process ensures that only those candidate sites that are most deserving of designation are included within the national park system. To be considered for inclusion in the system, sites must meet legislatively mandated criteria of 1) national significance, 2) suitability, and 3) feasibility.

The special resource study for the Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site and the Camden

Battlefield Site was authorized by the Omnibus Lands Bill (PL111-11), signed into law on March 19, 2009. The legislation stated

The Secretary [of the Interior] shall complete a special resource study of the site of the Battle of Camden fought in South Carolina on August 16, 1780 and the site of Historic Camden. . .to determine

- (1) The suitability and feasibility of designating the sites as a unit or units of the national park system; and
- (2) The method and means for protection and interpretation of these sites by the National Park Service; other federal, state, or local government entities; or private nonprofit organizations.



The historic battlefield site encompasses approximately 1,300 acres located 8 miles north of the Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site.

Today, the battlefield is open country with light timber and marshland near two streams that bound the site on the east and west. The property was designated a national historic landmark in 1961. It was formally added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. In 2002, the Palmetto

Conservation Foundation purchased 310 acres of the core battlefield. The Hobkirk Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution donated 6 acres of the battlefield to Palmetto Conservation Foundation in 2005. The Daughters also donated a historical marker marking the supposed spot where the Patriot hero, Baron de Kalb, fell in the battle. In 2007, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation purchased an additional 160 acres of the battlefield, bringing the total battlefield acreage owned by the foundation to 476 acres.

Evaluation Criteria

Each of the following three evaluation criteria must be met for an area to be added to the national park system.

National Significance — Because they are historic and cultural sites, the Camden Battlefield Site and Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site will be evaluated using the criteria for national historic landmarks. National historic landmarks are sites that

- (1) are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained; or
- (2) are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States; or
- (3) represent some great idea or ideal of the American people; or
- (4) embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for a study of a period, style or method of construction, or that represent a significant, distinctive and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (5) are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture; or
- (6) have yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts, and ideas to a major degree.

Suitability — To be suitable for inclusion in the national park system, the site must represent a natural or cultural theme or type of recreational resource that is not already adequately represented in the national park system or is not comparably represented or protected for public enjoyment by another land-managing agency. This is determined by comparing and contrasting the study area with the character, quality, quantity, combination of resources, and opportunities for public enjoyment at similar resources areas.

Feasibility — To be feasible as a new unit of the national park system, the study area's natural systems and/or historic settings must be of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure long-term protection of the resources and to accommodate public use. Feasibility factors include landownership, acquisition costs, access, threats to the resources, staffing needs, and development requirements.





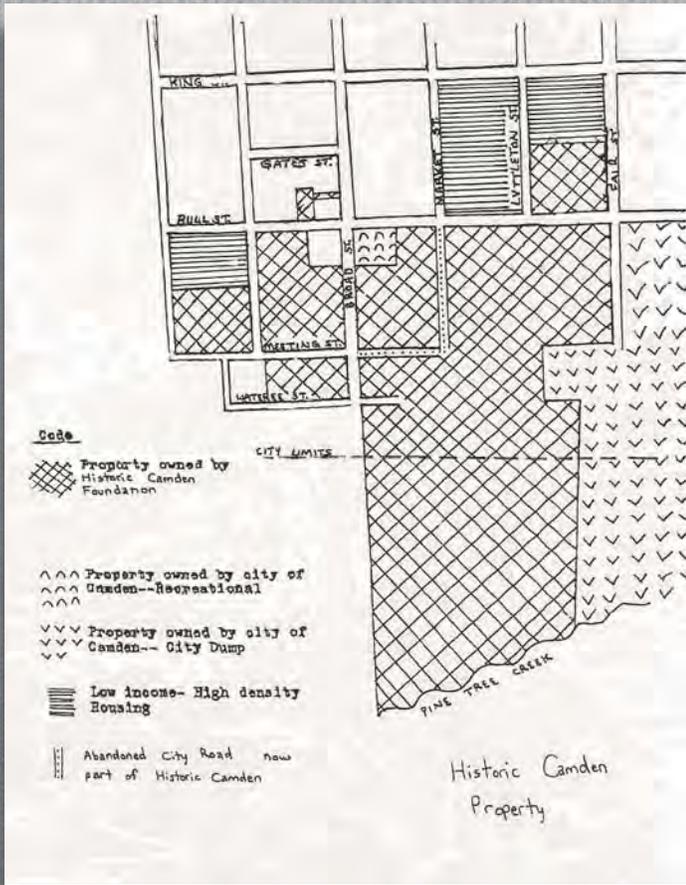
Battle reenactment at Historic Camden. Courtesy of Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site



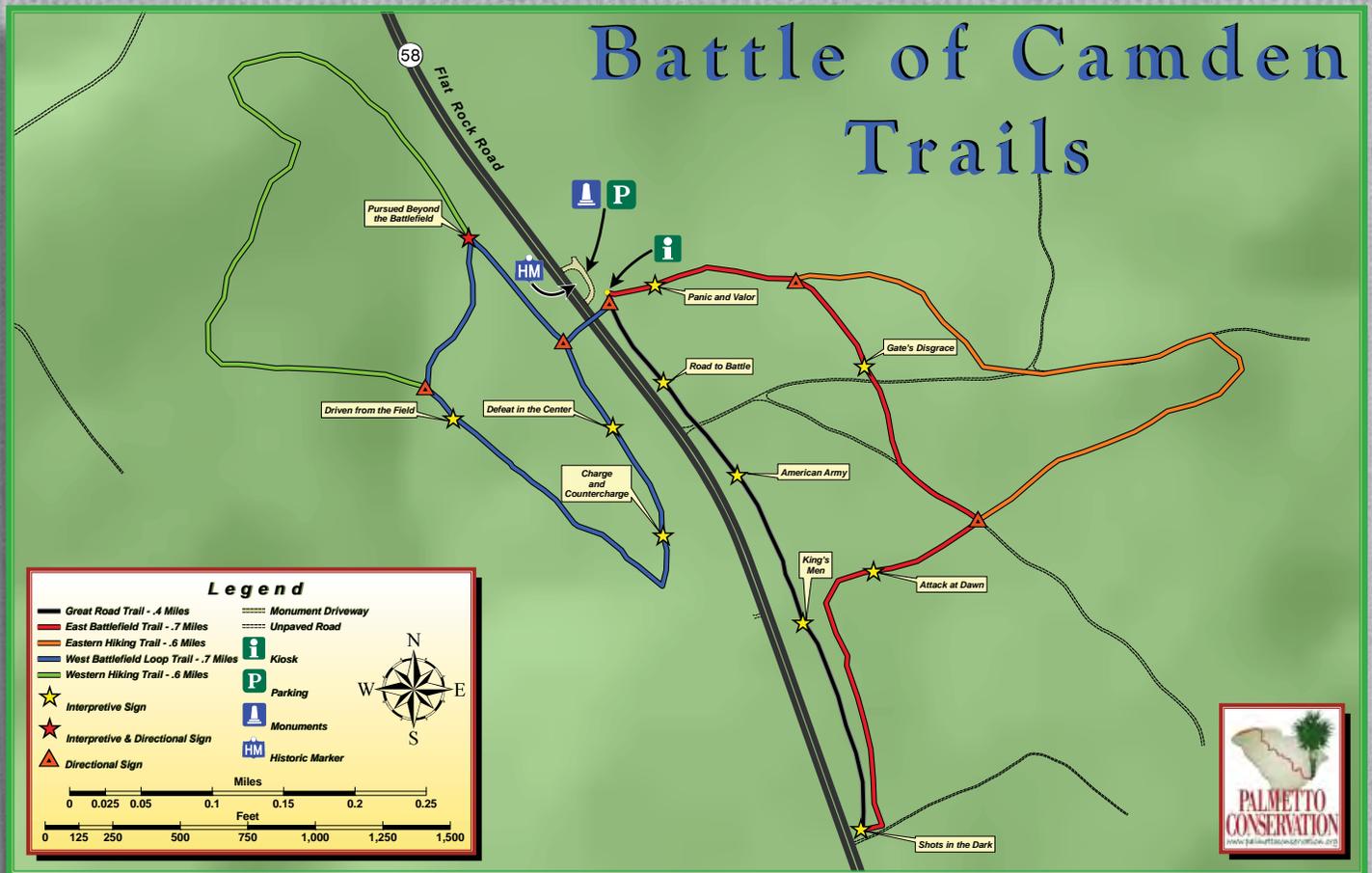
Bradley Cabin and Kershaw-Cornwallis Mansion reconstructions. Courtesy of Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site



Courtesy of Pamela Patrick White (www.ppatrickwhite.com)



Courtesy of Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site



Courtesy of Palmetto Conservation Foundation

A RANGE OF MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

To be eligible as a unit of the national park system, an area must also require direct NPS management instead of protection by some other agency or by the private sector. Thus, an evaluation of a range of management alternatives must be included in the special resources study.

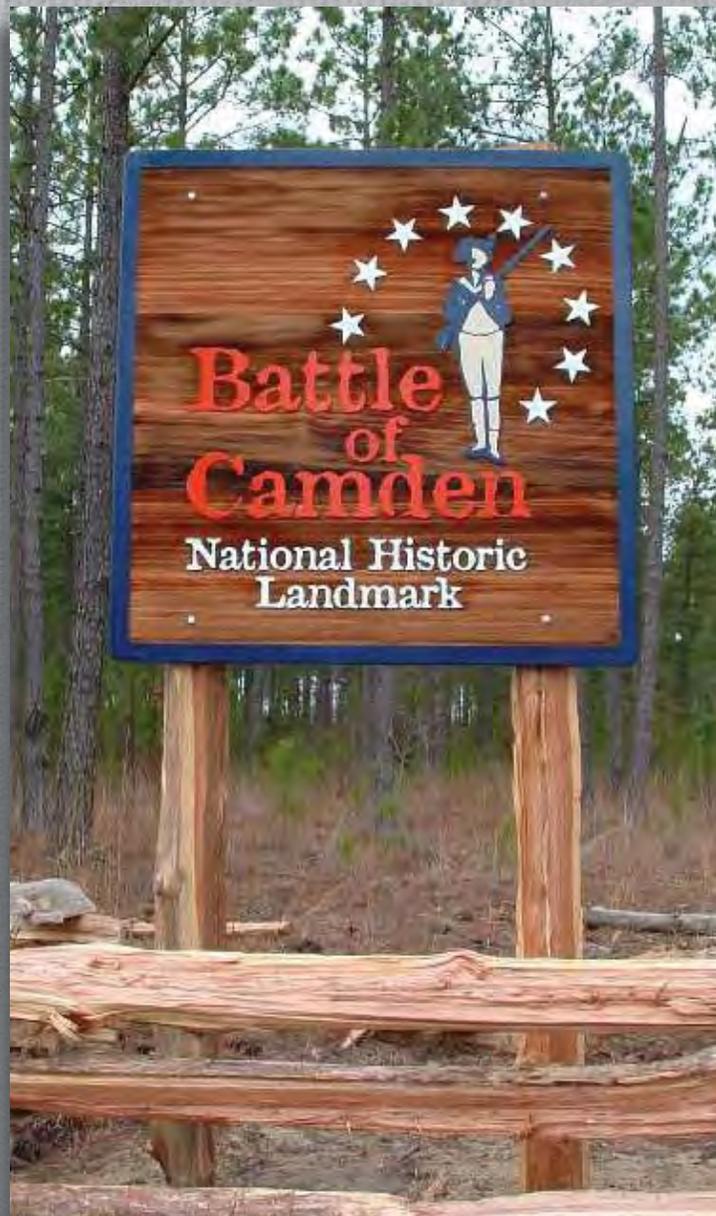
A study may recommend establishment of a new national park system unit. This typically involves the transfer of lands to the Department of the Interior for protection and operation by the National Park Service. However, in some cases, a different arrangement may provide appropriate protection and opportunity for public enjoyment. Options may include management by another federal agency, local government, nonprofit organization, or the private sector. The study team will outline these options as a range of reasonable management alternatives. Establishment of a new park system unit will not be recommended unless this option is clearly superior.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACTS OF EACH MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVE

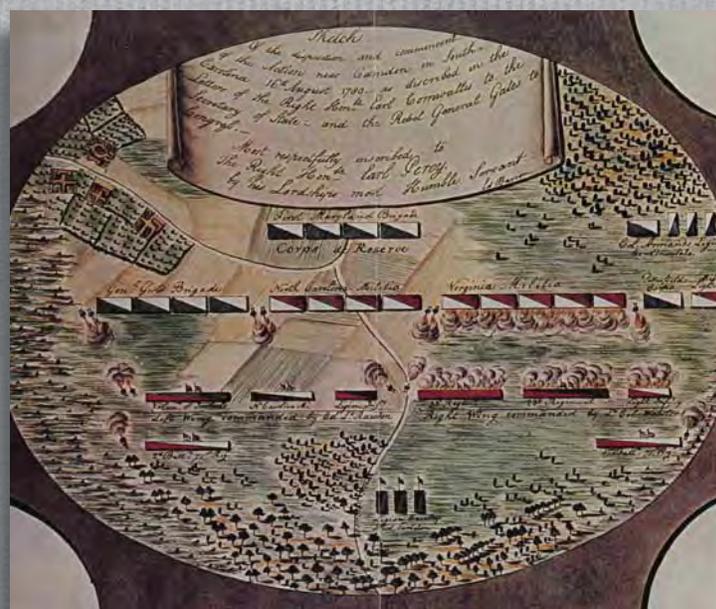
The study team will analyze the effects of each alternative on natural and cultural resources, local communities, and visitor use. This environmental assessment will focus on those resources and values that would be affected by the implementation of each alternative.

PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION OF THE STUDY

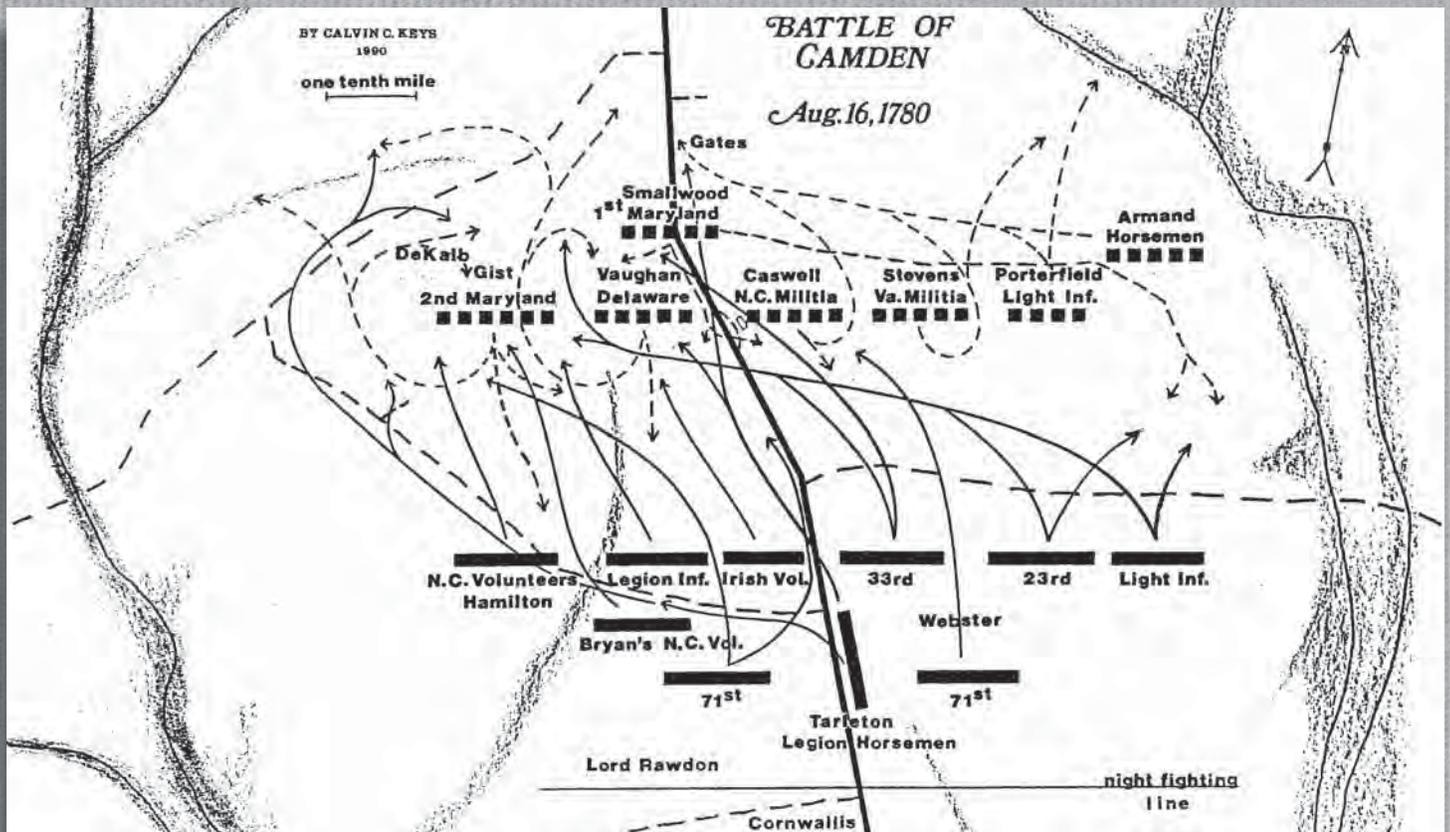
The study team will prepare a special resource study/environmental assessment that includes the determination of significance, suitability, feasibility, management alternatives, environmental assessment, and cost analysis. A preferred alternative will not be identified in the document. After a 30-day public review period, public comments will be collected, analyzed, summarized, and incorporated as appropriate into a preliminary recommendation of the National Park Service's preferred alternative. A legislative package that includes the final study, recommendation, and summary of public comments will be assembled and transmitted to the NPS Washington Office. The National Park Service director will use the study and the recommendation in formulating an NPS recommendation that will be transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior and the Office of Management and Budget. The findings and recommendations of the study will then be submitted to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives. Upon review of the report and recommendation, Congress has the option to pursue legislation establishing a new unit of the national park system or making another designation.



Courtesy of Palmetto Conservation Foundation



Courtesy of Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site



Courtesy of Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site

Special Resource Study Timeline

The special resource study will take approximately two years to complete. The key milestones in the effort along with target dates are outlined below. Opportunities for your continued involvement are also included. The light shaded area represents the step the study team is currently undertaking. The study is beginning the first phase of the project. The goal of this phase is to initiate public outreach and gather information on the resource and the socioeconomic environment.

STEP	PLANNING ACTIVITY	DATE	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY
1 WE ARE HERE	Initiate Project: The planning team will identify the project scope and issues and seek public input on process (times, dates, and locations for public meetings will be announced in the near future).	Winter 2010-2011	Respond to this newsletter. Attend public meetings.
2	Determine Significance, Suitability, and Feasibility: The study team will consult with subject matter experts to determine the site's level of significance, uniqueness, and manageability to become a part of the national park system.	Spring/Summer 2011	
3	Develop Future Management Alternatives: The planning team will explore a range of management alternatives for the site(s). A newsletter will be prepared and distributed to the public for their input.	Fall 2011	Attend public meeting and respond to newsletter; track the planning process on the NPS park planning website
4	Publish Study Document and Distribute for Public Review: The study of management options and impacts of each alternative is published with an environmental assessment, which will be made available for public and agency review.	Spring 2012	Attend public meetings, review study report on the NPS park planning website, submit your comments.
5	Transmit Study Report and Recommendation to Congress: The study document, summary of public comments, and NPS recommendation will be transmitted to Congress.	Fall 2012	

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HOW YOU CAN STAY INVOLVED

The NPS park planning website is a tool for tracking the planning process, reviewing newsletters and planning documents, and submitting comments on planning documents. To access the site go to parkplanning.nps.gov/bacascoping. This will take you to the project's homepage where you will find additional information on the planning project. Clicking on "Plan Process" will show you what stage of the planning process is underway. The "Documents List" will have links to other documents associated with the planning process, including newsletters. The "Open for Comment" page will provide a link to any document that is currently on public review. Once you have clicked and opened the "Open for Comment" page, you can comment on the document by clicking on "Comment on Document."



*Thank you for your interest
in the Battle of Camden
Special Resource Study!*

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