

DATA SHEET

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 15 1976

DATE ENTERED

MAY 13 1976

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☒ VICINITY OF☐ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

District #2

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Calhoun

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☒ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Delta Equipment Company

STREET & NUMBER

Box 90

CITY, TOWN

Kingstree

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
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 ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY 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			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	___ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
___1800-1899	___COMMERCE	X EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	X TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___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.

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY two
UTM REFERENCES

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

A

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING	

B

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING	

C

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING	

D

ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING	

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Katherine G. Hendrix, Historic Preservation Division

(Jeanne W. Ulmer, Director
Calhoun Museum/Archives)

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE

July 3, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

1430 Senate Street

TELEPHONE

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

STATE

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

5/13/76

106 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

5.12.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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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.

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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.