

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina
COUNTY: Charleston
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
The Stono River Slave Rebellion

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 12 miles west of Charleston, S. C., on the  
Rantowles Vicinity: north side of U.S. 17, and west bank of Wallace Riv.

CITY OR TOWN: Rantowles

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: South Carolina

CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: Charleston

CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Seaboard Coast Lines Company

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P. O. Box 1620

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
County Office Building, Register of Mesne Conveyance

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2 Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN: Charleston

STATE: South Carolina

CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None known

DATE OF SURVEY: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)				(Check One)				<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered		<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered							

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This site marks the starting point of the Stono River Slave Rebellion. It was at this location, approximately 200 yards north of today's Highway 17, that slaves under the leadership of Jemmy, an Angolan slave, attacked the Hutchinson warehouse located near the river. After killing the two guards and siezing the arms within they proceeded towards Savannah and hoped-for freedom.

The site today has been plowed and appears to have been used for agricultural purposes. It is covered with weeds and low-growing bushes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | <u>Afro-American</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | <u>History</u>                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A false picture of life in colonial America would show masters and slaves living in perfect harmony. Yet, that is the impression many Americans have. Blacks were not so supine as to submit to enslavement without resistance. Colonists lived in fear of slave revolts and often had to suppress plots and uprisings.

One of the most serious slave insurrections which occurred during the colonial period took place about twenty miles southwest of Charleston, in Stono, South Carolina, September 9-10, 1739. A number of conditions existed in South Carolina during the 1730s which were conducive to a slave revolt: large numbers of slaves fresh from Africa had been imported into the province; these first and second generation Africans retained a large measure of their culture; the blacks vastly outnumbered the white population; the military threat posed by the Spanish in Florida and the constant intrigue on their part to lure slaves into Spanish territory; the accessibility of weapons; and above all, the institution of slavery itself.

The slave system in the province was patterned after the cruel form of slavery in Barbados. By the 1730s, South Carolina had developed the most severe form of chattel slavery of all the English colonies. Famine and epidemics increased what must have already been an intolerable situation for an African people who were not only unused to slavery, but were in many instances warriors who had been captured in battle.

Approximately eighty slaves participated in the Stono rebellion which brought destruction to several whites and plantations in the Stono area. The rebellion was led by a man named Jemmy who was an Angolan slave mistakenly called "Cato" in some accounts of the insurrection. Jemmy enlisted his followers from among the slaves who "belonged" to planters in the area. There is a strong possibility that his leadership powers were grounded in African beliefs and customs so prevalent throughout the slavery period. Witnesses to the event remarked that the slaves marched "like a disciplined company."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

A South Carolinian. "South Carolina Society." The Atlantic Monthly. XXXIX (July 1877).  
 Aptheke, Herbert. American Negro Slave Revolts. New York: International Publishers, 1969 (1943).  
 Blassingame, John W. The Slave Community, Plantation Life in the Antebellum South. New York: Oxford University Press, 1972.  
 Bridenbaugh, Carl. Cities in the Wilderness, The First Century of Urban Life in America, 1625-1742. New York: The Ronald Press, Company, 1938.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	OR		
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	80 ° 08' 42"	32 ° 47' 09"	32 °	47'	14"
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Marcia M. Greenlee, Historical Projects Director  
 ORGANIZATION: The Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
1420 N Street, N. W., Suite 101  
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D. C. 20005 STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____                  Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd.) - 2

Evidence also indicates that there was no information leak or betrayal of the plot to the planters or officials by any slaves in the Stono area.

On the day of the insurrection, approximately fifty-one slaves under Jemmy's leadership attacked the warehouse of a Mr. Hutchinson, killed the guards, Mr. Bathurst and Mr. Gibbs, and seized the weapons within. Other slaves came to join them until about eighty were assembled. Then, "they called out Liberty, (and) marched on with colours displayed, and two drums beating," towards freedom in St. Augustine in the Province of Florida. On their southward march the band of slaves burned plantations and murdered all whites they encountered along the way, with the exception of an inn-keeper named Wallace who was considered a "kind" slave master. Approximately six or seven buildings were burned before the freedom-fighters were spotted by Lieutenant-Governor William Bull who immediately spread the alarm and alerted the militia.

Before the militia arrived, there was another witness to the band of marching slaves. A Mr. Golightly observed the insurgents and also rode out of their way to seek help. Golightly went to the Presbyterian church located in Wiltown where the Reverend Archibald Stobo was preaching to a numerous congregation of planters from the quarter. Unfortunately for the rebels, the law requiring that planters take weapons and ammunition to the churches on Sundays was in effect at the Wiltown church. Consequently, it was relatively easy to draft a militia from among the members of the congregation. The militia (It is not clear whether or not the militia that emerged from Wiltown was the same militia referred to by Lieutenant-Governor Bull. Presumably it was a different group.) left the church immediately under the command of Mr. Bee in pursuit of the slave army which had increased in numbers as other slaves joined the group of rebels.

By the time the militia reached the slave army, they had marched to a site approximately twelve miles from the area where Mr. Golightly had originally observed them. According to available accounts of the insurrection, shortly before the militia arrived, the slave army set fire to a plantation which has since been referred to as "Battlefield". The fire was extinguished but a hole in the floor was permitted to remain open for many years, as a memorial of the transaction.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd.) - 3

Persons either testifying or writing about the insurrection have differed regarding the manner in which the slave rebellion was put down with relative ease. Several witnesses claimed that the slaves were singing and dancing, supposedly from the influence of rum, which distracted their attention from the approaching militia. In other accounts, witnesses and historians in turn, have claimed that a feeling of confidence swept over the slave army and they deliberately slowed down their pace southward. In fact, they were overtaken by the province militia. Regardless of the particulars surrounding the defeat of the rebels, evidence seems to verify the fact that the militia caught them off guard - making defeat relatively easy.

During the encounter with the militia, fourteen freedom-fighters were killed on the spot; and within ten days, about twenty more, with a total of forty, brought down altogether. Although some surrendered, the search continued months later for the others who had escaped.

White residents of the province thought that blacks were incapable of engineering a rebellion of their own; and so over-emphasized the role played by the Spaniards of Florida in the event. While it is true that the Spanish offered slaves their freedom and that many had successfully escaped there, Spaniards could not have been everywhere in the province stirring up trouble in the slaves' quarters to justify white South Carolinians' constant fear and agitation regarding slaves. The effect of the Stono Insurrection was devastating. As Alexander Hewatt put it, "All Carolina was struck with terror and consternation by this insurrection." It is clear that the Spaniards posed a menace to the province, yet, the real threat was harbored within the state, within the slave quarter itself.

The Stono Insurrection exacerbated the fear and terror already in the white population of the province. When the legislative assembly met the same month, heated debates led finally to one of the most comprehensive slave codes adopted in the English colonies. The law was designed to prevent further rebellions and provide the white population a measure of protection. The law remained substantially unchanged until the Civil War, yet slave rebellions and other acts of protest continued until slavery was ended.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERNECES (cont'd) - 2

- Carroll, B. R., Compiler. Historical Collections of South Carolina: Embracing Many Rare and Valuable Pamphlets and other Documents Relating to the History of that State, From Its First Discovery to Its Independence, in the Year 1776. Vol. I. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1836.
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- Klingberg, Frank J. An Appraisal of the Negro in Colonial South Carolina, A Study in Americanization. Washington, D. C.: The Associated Publishers, 1941.
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- "Report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the causes of the Disappointment of Success in the Late Expedition against St. Augustine". Collections of the South Carolina Historical Society. Charleston: South Carolina Historical Society, 1887.
- Scarborough, Ruth. The Opposition to Slavery in Georgia Prior to 1860. Nashville: George Peabody College for Teachers, 1933.

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Smith, Henry A. M. "Willtown or New London". The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine. Vol. X, No. 1. January 1909.

"Radnor, Edmundsbury and Jacksonborough". The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine. Volume XI, No. 1. January 1910.

Smith, W. Roy. South Carolina As a Royal Province, 1719-1776. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1903.

South Carolina Gazette. 11 August to 18 August 1739.

The St. Augustine Expedition of 1740, A Report to the South Carolina General Assembly. Reprinted from The Colonial Records of South Carolina with an Introduction by John Tale Lanning. Columbia: South Carolina Archives Department, 1954.

WALLACE

CREEK

#2

#1

owners

# 1 Peter Miller

Rt. 1 Box 227

Ravenel, S.C.

29470

#2

S.C. Sea Island Farmers Cooperative

P.O. Box 55

Adams Run

29426

U.S. Hwy. 17 → TO CHAS. →

S.C. Hwy. 162