

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Lancaster	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 31 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Battle of Hanging Rock Historic Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
South on U.S. Route 521 from Heath Springs about 3.5 miles

CITY OR TOWN:  
Heath Springs

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045      COUNTY: Lancaster      CODE: 057

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Wooded Area</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Lancaster County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

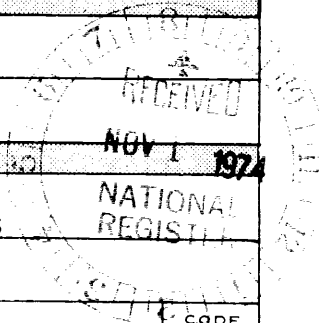
DATE OF SURVEY: 1973       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

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7. DESCRIPTION

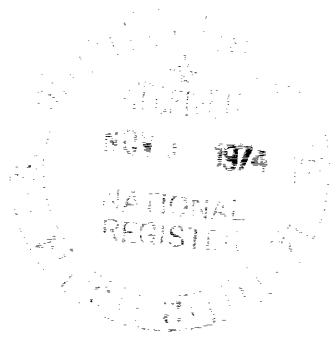
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The property nominated for Hanging Rock Historic Site includes the high ground around Hanging Rock, a portion of Hanging Rock Creek, and the plateau to the west of the creek that centers around county road 58. Hanging Rock itself, near which General Sumter's men left their horses before going into battle, is east of the creek on a high bluff. The whole area on the east side of the creek is strewn with huge, rounded boulders and is heavily wooded with steep banks. To the west of the creek, the ground rises sharply and reaches a plateau, where the British and Tories camped. Bryan's Tories were camped to the north, the British Legion troops immediately to the south, and Major Bryan's troops south of the Legion. This plateau was partly wooded and partly open fields, some of which are still visible along road 58. On the extreme south end of the nominated property, along road 58, are several houses and the Mt. Zion Church and cemetery.

North of Hanging Rock, on Hanging Rock Creek immediately above the county road bridge, is an old Indian ford. Large flat boulders in the creek bed connect the two banks at this point.

The Battle of Hanging Rock was one of approximately 182 recorded battles and skirmishes that took place in South Carolina.



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**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) **1780**

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As part of a series of strongholds planned to maintain the British position in South Carolina, an outpost was established at Hanging Rock in 1780. The importance of this post was in its strategic location on the road from Camden to Charlotte.

The first American attack on the post occurred on July 30, 1780, led by Major William Richardson Davie, with forty dragoons and forty mounted riflemen. General Thomas Sumter simultaneously attacked the British post at Rocky Mount, about 15 miles to the east on the Broad River. Davie's attack on a garrisoned house near the fort at Hanging Rock, and not the fort itself, was successful; he took about 60 horses and 100 stand of arms. Sumter was unable to take the post at Rocky Mount, and in retreating, met two parties of British coming to reinforce the post. They skirmished, and about 60 British and 20 Americans were killed. Sumter came away from the fight with prisoners, horses, and arms.

On August 5, 1780, Sumter crossed the <sup>catawba</sup> ~~Broad~~ River 20 miles north of Rocky Mount at Land's Ford, where his 300 South Carolina militiamen were joined by about 500 North Carolinians under Major Davie and Colonel Robert Irwin. They marched 16 miles during the night and reached Hanging Rock Creek early Sunday morning.

The British garrison was held by 1,400 men under the command of Major Carden of the Prince of Wales Regiment. They were encamped on the west side of the creek, on high ground protected by a deep ravine formed by the creek. The British units lay in three divisions, from north to south along the ridge: about 900 Tories under Colonel Samuel Bryan on a hill south of Hanging Rock Creek, (separated from the center by a ravine and band of woods; about 160 of Colonel Tarleton's Legion and Hamilton's Regiment in some houses at the center; and the British regulars under Colonel Brown in open ground to the south.

Sumter's surprise attack began at six o'clock, the men advancing across the creek against Bryan's Tory militia. Sumter meant to attack the entire British line, but misjudged; the American units met instead the northern end of the British line. Within half an hour the Americans had taken the Tory camp, sending the Tories fleeing through the woods into the center of the British line. Tarleton's troops charged twice with fixed bayonets, aided by Brown's regiment advancing on the Americans' right flank. Sumter's

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bass, Robert D. Gamecock. The Life and Campaigns of General Thomas Sumter. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1961.

Draper Collection. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. MSS. VV, books 4, 5.

Gregorie, Anne King. Thomas Sumter. Columbia, S. C.: R. L. Bryan Company, 1931.

(see continuation sheet)

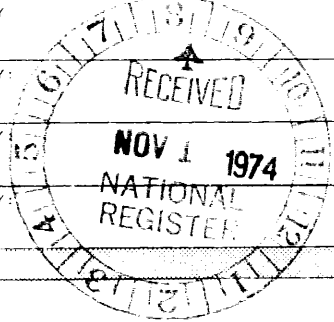
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	34 °	34'	03"	80 °	40'	23"			
NE	34 °	34'	03"	80 °	39'	26"			
SE	34 °	32'	59"	80 °	39'	26"			
SW	34 °	32'	59"	80 °	40'	23"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approximately 370 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: John Califf, III

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History DATE: 10/28/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

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

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:

National  State  Local

Name: Charles E. Lee

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: Oct 30, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert W. Mortenson  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: DEC 31 1974

ATTEST: George F. Emery  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: DEC 31 1974

NW 1/4 Sec 19  
 T 115 N R 9 E  
 S 1/4 Sec 19  
 NW 1/4 Sec 19

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

men took cover behind rocks and trees, firing into the mass of British troops. Within a few minutes, most of the British officers were shot down; Major Carden resigned his command to Captain Rousslet of Tarleton's Legion.

Sumter's troops then attacked the main British camp, using British ammunition. The British retreated further south to Colonel Robinson's camp, but Sumter moved in and took two-thirds of that camp also.

At this point, some 40 of Tarleton's calvary were returning to camp and heard the noise of the battle. They attacked the Americans, but turned back by Major Davies' calvary, they retreated towards Camden.

After three hours of fighting, many of Sumter's men were unable to continue the battle. It was agreed to plunder the British camp and depart. About one o'clock that afternoon, the Americans left the Hanging Rock fort while the British looked on.

During this engagement, American losses included 20 men killed, 40 wounded, and 10 missing. About 130 British and Tories were killed, with an equal number wounded, and 73 taken prisoner. General Sumter was himself wounded but continued directing his troops until their withdrawal from the battle.



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9. Major Bibliographical References

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McCrary, Edward. The History of South Carolina in the Revolution 1775-1780. New York: Russell & Russell, 1969.

Salley, A. S., Jr. Col. William Hill's Memoirs of the Revolution. Columbia, S. C.: The State Company, 1921.

Wheeler, John H. Historical Sketches of North Carolina from 1584 to 1851 (a reprint from the original edition). New York, 1925.

Information from Mrs. H. C. Floyd, Lancaster, S. C. 1974.

