NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

JAN 0 2 1990

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Buford's Massacre Site

other names/site number Buford's Battleground

2. Location

street & number SC Hwy 522, approximately 1/4 mi. S of its intersection with SC. Hwy. 9 ☐ not for publication

city, town Tradesville ☒ vicinity

state South Carolina code SC county Lancaster code 057 zip code

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☐ private	☐ building(s)		buildings
☒ public-local	☒ district	1	sites
☐ public-State	☐ site	1	structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure		2 objects
	☐ object	2	2 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic Resources of Lancaster County

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Mary W. Edmonds — 12/11/89

Signature of certifying official — Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, SC Department of Archives & History, Columbia, SC

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Amy Federman — 2/15/90

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Defense/Military Facility/Battlefield
Recreation and Culture/Monument

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Monument
Recreation and Culture/Monument
Landscape/Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A
roof N/A
other Stone / Marble
Stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Buford's Massacre Site is a primarily open plot of land, approximately two acres in area. It is located on S.C. Highway 522, about one-quarter-mile south of its intersection with S.C. Highway 9, and about nine miles east of Lancaster, in northeast Lancaster County.

The site includes two monuments, both commemorating the action. The first, erected in 1860, is a marble obelisk, approximately 8.5' high (15' high from base to tip) and 2' square at the base, on a marble and sandstone base. A stone wall, approximately 121.5' x 34' and approximately 1.5' high and 2.5' wide, encloses the monument and a mass grave of eighty-four Americans killed at the site. Another mass grave, of twenty-five Americans who later died of their wounds, is said to be located approximately 300 yards from the enclosure; it is unmarked. The second monument, erected in 1955, is a granite tablet, approximately 7' high and 4' wide. It duplicates the inscription on the earlier monument, which has been largely obliterated by weather and vandals. Buford Monument Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was created in 1893, and a small frame sanctuary stood on the site until 1902.(1) A single grave, dated 1894, is near the enclosure and dates from the short tenancy of the church on the site.

☐ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets

[x] See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- [x] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository: SC Department of Archives & History, Columbia, SC

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 2 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	534200	3844150
B			
C			
D			

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nomination is shown as the black line on the accompanying Lancaster County Tax Map 58, Parcel 127, drawn at a scale of 1" = 400'.

[ ] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the massacre site, mass grave, and monuments, and is that property set aside as a county historic site by Lancaster County.

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Tracy Power, National Register Historian

organization SC Department of Archives & History date 8 August 1989

street & number PO Box 11669 telephone (803) 734-8610

city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29211

★U.S.GPO:1988-0-223-918

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

[x] nationally [ ] statewide [ ] locally

Applicable National Register Criteria [x] A [ ] B [ ] C [ ] D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) [ ] A [ ] B [ ] C [ ] D [ ] E [ ] F [ ] G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Military	1780	29 May 1780
	1860	1860

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder
White, William T.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Buford's Massacre Site is nationally significant as the site of an important action during the American Revolution in the South. It is also significant for its potential to yield information in historical archaeology.

On 12 May 1780, after a two-month siege, General Benjamin Lincoln surrendered Charleston and its garrison of nearly 6000 troops to the British under General Sir Henry Clinton. Lincoln's army had been the major American force in the South and the fall of Charleston was the most significant American defeat of the war. The surrender of both the city and the army lost not only South Carolina but most of the South to the British.(2)

Early that year a detachment of 350 to 400 soldiers had been organized in Virginia to reinforce the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Virginia Regiments and the 1st and 2nd Virginia Detachments at Charleston. This reinforcement, consisting of both Continental veterans returning after furloughs and new recruits, was commanded by Colonel Abraham Buford. Though most of Buford's command was infantry, it included a part of Colonel William Washington's 3rd Continental Dragoons and five pieces of artillery.(3)

The reinforcement, however, was still about thirty miles north of Charleston when Buford learned of Lincoln's surrender. His small detachment was now the largest body of Continentals in the South. Buford's orders were to move to the outpost at Camden and collect all the provisions and munitions he could carry, destroying the rest. He was then to march into North Carolina and help rebuild the shattered American army. Brigadier General William Caswell, commanding about 700 North Carolina militia, had also been sent south to reinforce the Charleston garrison and joined the Virginians on their retreat north. When the combined force reached Camden on May 25th, Caswell left Buford, marching on to the Pee Dee River. Buford, with several wagons of stores, left Camden on the morning of May 27th, retreating toward Salisbury, North Carolina.(4)

[x] See continuation sheet

Meanwhile, the British were aware of Buford's force, and planned to destroy it before it left South Carolina. Lieutenant General Charles Lord Cornwallis, with about 2500 British regulars and Loyalists, detached a force of about 270 soldiers in pursuit of Buford on May 27th. They were commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton of the British Legion, a Loyalist unit created in New York and easily recognized by its distinctive green jackets. The 130 cavalry and 100 mounted infantry of the Legion were joined by forty regulars of the 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons and one piece of artillery, a three-pounder.(5)

Tarleton, after a forced march which covered 150 miles in fifty-four hours, caught Buford just south of the South Carolina-North Carolina boundary on the afternoon of 29 May 1780. He sent Buford a flag of truce, demanding the Virginians' surrender. Exaggerating his strength as 700 cavalry and mounted infantry, with reinforcements under Cornwallis close behind, Tarleton offered Buford terms similar to those accepted by Lincoln at Charleston. "If they are accepted, you will order every person under your command to pile his arms in one hour after you receive the flag: If you are rash enough to reject them, the blood be upon your head," the summons concluded. Buford answered, "I reject your proposals, and shall defend myself to the last extremity." He sent his advance guard, wagons, and artillery ahead on the road to Salisbury and prepared to defend a position astride the road.(6)

The Legion cavalry quickly routed Buford's rear guard, and the British commander formed his slightly-outnumbered force with the mounted infantry in the center and the cavalry on each flank. Though the Virginians formed in line to receive the expected charge, Buford ordered them to hold their fire until Tarleton's horsemen were within ten yards. As the Loyalists and regulars charged, hacking with sabers and thrusting with bayonets, the Americans were unable to load and fire their muskets with any effectiveness.(7)

After this point both the American and British accounts of the action are so dependent on the writers' own prejudices that the sequence of events, and their details, are virtually impossible to reconstruct. Most accounts agree that all or part of Buford's force surrendered, or attempted to, soon after the fight began and that the British did not properly accept the Americans' surrender. An American officer present called the fight "a dreadful massacre," while Tarleton called it a "complete success." The prevailing American view was that the severity of the battle was no accident, but a deliberate decision by Tarleton. It was seen as part of the British plan to conquer America by any means, whether civilized or

not. Most narratives claimed that Tarleton tricked Buford, offering his men quarter and then brutally cutting them down without mercy. "This sanguinary massacre was one of Tarleton's most atrocious acts of barbarity," wrote Alexander Garden in 1828, "yet it exalted him in the favour of Lord Cornwallis, and raised his military reputation, in the opinions of the British nation, to the most exalted degree of perfection." British narratives, on the other hand, characterize the British reaction as an unfortunate result of the battle. It was, they observed, caused by the Virginians' continued resistance after they had raised the white flag; or by angry members of the Legion who mistakenly believed that Tarleton had been killed. "The king's troops were entitled to great commendation for their activity and ardour on this occasion," Charles Stedman wrote in 1794, "but the virtue of humanity was totally forgot."(8)

What is certain is that the fighting was confused and quite bloody. Though originally formed in line, both Buford's defenders and Tarleton's attackers quickly lost any semblance of organization, and the action degenerated into a savage hand-to-hand fight between individuals or small groups. Captain John Stokes of the 2nd Virginia Regiment, for example, was wounded twenty-three times by dragoons with sabers and infantrymen with bayonets, losing a hand and a finger; remarkably, he survived. One American account claimed that the British "killed at least 200 men in a most Cruel & Inhumane Manner, after piling their Arms." According to another narrative, "they went over the ground plunging their bayonets into every one that exhibited any signs of life, and in some instances, where several had fallen one over the other, these monsters were seen to throw off on the point of the bayonet the uppermost, to come at those beneath." Several British accounts give only slightly less graphic descriptions of the fight. "I have cut 170 Off'rs and Men to pieces," Tarleton wrote Cornwallis immediately after the battle. One of his officers later boasted that "in three minutes after the attack was begun, there was not a rebel on the field that was not levelled with the ground."(9)

The mounted British had a decisive advantage over the Virginians, and their casualties were quite light; they lost only five killed and fourteen wounded. Buford's losses were so appalling as to give credence to the term "massacre": 113 killed, 150 wounded, many of whom died soon afterwards, and fifty-three prisoners, for a total of 316 out of some 350 to 400 engaged. Most of the Americans who escaped, including Buford, were mounted.(10)

Local citizens buried eighty-four of the dead in a mass grave on the field that afternoon, and twenty-five others in another mass grave about 300

yards from the first, the next day. The wounded were taken in wagons to Waxhaw Presbyterian Church, where many of them died and were buried in the churchyard. Many Virginians suffered multiple saber and bayonet wounds which testified to the severity of the action; an American officer who saw the wounded "found many of them absolutely naked, having been stripped of their clothes, and that the average of wounds inflicted, amounted to sixteen to each man."(11)

Buford's Massacre was one of the many vicious actions which characterized the campaigns in the backcountry South. When the Revolution in South Carolina became a civil war from 1780 to 1782, the bitterness of the opposing forces was echoed by the lasting bitterness of spoken and written accounts of the fighting. Buford's Massacre became a symbol of British atrocities and Tarleton became known as "Bloody Tarleton."(12) At Kings Mountain, in October 1780, and Haw's River, in February 1781, victorious Americans shouted "Give them Buford's play!", "Remember Buford!", and "Tarleton's Quarter!" before brutally shooting and cutting down Loyalists who pleaded for mercy. When Tarleton was decisively defeated at Cowpens in January 1781, American officers had difficulty restraining their men, who taunted British prisoners with cries of "Tarleton's Quarter!"(13) The true significance of Buford's Massacre was not in its military results, which were temporary, but in the intense hatred it created, which was lasting, and which encouraged American efforts to force the British out of the South. "The local inhabitants were at first appalled and then infuriated," observed Henry Lumpkin, a military historian of the war in the South. "'Tarleton's quarter' became a watchword, as the British would grimly discover."(14)

The massacre's historical significance was not neglected by later South Carolinians. As interest in the Revolution increased in the first half of the nineteenth century, local interest in a monument to Buford's command also increased. Attempts were made to memorialize both the site and the mass grave as early as 1845, but the plans were not realized until 1860. Contributions were collected from Lancaster District and neighboring areas, and William T. White, a prominent Charleston sculptor and stone-cutter, was commissioned to design and create the monument. It was described in the Charleston Courier as "beautiful for its unpretending simplicity . . . designed to commemorate an event that will never fail to kindle a feeling of indignation in the bosom of the patriot. The bloody massacre at the Waxhaws will never be forgotten."(15) The monument's dedication, in June 1860, was marked by several speeches from local civic and religious leaders, who noted that they "had assembled together to erect a monument in honor of the brave dead, who had for so many years tenanted their

silent homes without a stone to mark the spot where they lay."(16) The inscription read:

> Erected to the memory and in honor of the brave and patriotic American soldiers who fell in the battle which occurred at this place on the 29th May 1780 between Col. Abraham Buford who commanded a regiment of 350 Virginians and Col. Tarleton of the British Army with 350 Cavalry and a like number of Infantry.
>
> Nearly the entire command of Col. Buford was either killed or wounded, 84 gallant soldiers are buried in this grave. They left their homes for the relief of Charleston, but hearing at Camden of the surrender of that city, were returning. Here their lives were ended in the service of their country.
>
> The cruelty and barbarous massacre committed on this occasion by Tarleton and his command after the surrender of Col. Buford and his regiment, originated the American war cry, "Remember Tarleton's Quarter." A British historian confesses at this battle "The virtue of humanity was totally forgot."

The Lancaster County Historical Commission and the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a modern monument, duplicating the inscription of the 1860 monument, in 1955.

Although no archaeological survey has been conducted at the Buford's Massacre site, the limited amount of landscape disturbing activities suggests that it has the potential to yield valuable archaeological data.

NOTES

(1) Lancaster County Deed Book H, pp. 269, 610, Lancaster County Records, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.; The Centennial History of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church 1803-1903. Prepared and Published by order of the Synod. (Charleston: Presses of Walker, Evans, and Cogswell Co., 1905), p. 434.

(2) Russell F. Weigley, The Partisan War: The South Carolina Campaign of 1780-1782, Tricentennial Booklet Number 2 (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press for the South Carolina Tricentennial Commission, 1970), pp. 6-7; H. Henry Lumpkin, From Savannah to Yorktown: The American Revolution in the South (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1981, pp. 41-49; John S. Pancake, This Destructive War: The British Campaign in the Carolinas 1780-1782 (University, AL: University of Alabama Press, 1985), pp. 63-67.

(3) Alexander Garden, Anecdotes of the American Revolution, Illustrative of the Talents and Virtues of the Heroes and Patriots, Who Acted the Most Conspicuous Parts Therein, Second Series (Charleston: A.E. Miller, 1828; Reprinted as Volume III, Brooklyn, 1865), p. 126; C.A. Flagg and W.O. Waters, "Virginia's Soldiers in the Revolution," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography XX:3 (July 1912), 275-276; Francis B. Heitman, Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution April, 1775, to December, 1783, New, Revised, and Enlarged Edition (Washington: The Rare Book Shop Publishing Company, 1914), pp. 59, 131, 574; Robert K. Wright, Jr., The Continental Army, Army Lineage Series (Washington: Center of Military History, U.S. Army, 1983), pp. 154-55, 283-292, 346.

(4) Garden, p. 126; Walter Clark, Editor, The State Records of North Carolina. Published Under the Supervision of the Trustees of the Public Libraries, by Order of the General Assembly (Winston, NC: M.I. & J.C. Stewart, Printers to the State, 1896), Volume XIV, p. 832; William Dobein James, A Sketch of the Life of Brig. Gen. Francis Marion and a History of His Brigade From Its Rise in June 1780 until Disbanded in December, 1782 With Descriptions of Characters and Scenes not Heretofore Published . . ., Reprint Edition (Marietta, GA: Continental Book Company, 1948), p. 38, Appendix, pp. 1-2.

(5) Banastre Tarleton, A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781, in the Southern Provinces of North America (London: T. Cadell, 1787), pp. 26-27; Philip R.N. Katcher, Encyclopedia of British, Provincial, and German Army Units 1775-1783 (Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1973), pp. 24, 83.

(6) Tarleton, pp. 28, 77-78; Garden, p. 127; Clark, p. 833; James, Appendix, p. 2.

(7) Tarleton, pp. 29-30; Garden, p. 128; Clark, 833; James, Appendix, pp. 2-3.

(8) Garden, p. 128, 129-30; Tarleton, p. 31; Charles Stedman, The History of the Origin, Progress, and Termination of the American War (London: Printed for the Author, 1794), Volume II, p. 193.

(9) Tarleton, pp. 29-31; Garden, pp. 128-30, 197-98; James, Appendix, pp. 2-6; Clark, p. 858; James, Appendix, p. 4; Tarleton to Cornwallis, 29 May 1780, quoted in Robert D. Bass, The Green Dragoon: The Lives of Banastre Tarleton and Mary Robinson, Second Edition (Columbia: Sandlapper Press, 1973), pp. 81-82; "Account of Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton," Gentleman's Magazine (London), March 1781.

(10) Tarleton, pp. 30-31, 84.

(11) Tarleton, pp. 31-32; Garden, 129; Camden Journal, 18 June 1845; Henry Lee, Memoirs of the War in the Southern Department of the United States, Second Edition (New York: University Publishing Company, 1869), p. 165; George Howe, History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina (Columbia: Duffie & Chapman, 1870), Volume I, pp. 536-37.

(12) Weigley, pp. 6-7; Lumpkin, pp. 49-50, 168, 249-250; Pancake, pp. 70-71.

(13) Lyman C. Draper, King's Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain, October 7th, 1780, and the Events Which Led to It, Reprint Edition (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1967), p. 282; Lumpkin, p. 102; Edwin C. Bearss, "The Battle of Cowpens: A Documented Narrative & Troop Movement Maps," unpublished report (Washington: Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, 1967), p. 40; John C. Dann, Editor, The Revolution Remembered: Eyewitness Accounts of the War for Independence (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1980), p. 202.

(14) Lumpkin, p. 250.

(15) Quoted in Lancaster Ledger, 16 May 1860.

(16) Lancaster Ledger, 6 June 1860.

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Name of property: Buford's Massacre Site
(Historic Resources of Lancaster County
multiple property submission)
Location of property: Lancaster County, South Carolina
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives & History Staff
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives & History
Date of photograph: October 1989

1. Massacre site, looking south
2. 1860 Monument (Contributing)
3. 1955 Monument (Noncontributing)