



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 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 Congaree Site consists of field and forest areas, through the center [redacted] Parts of the stream are cultivated in flat, lowlying fields; other parts of the site are forests and there are several small stream channels in the area. A number of abandoned early 20th Century dwellings are scattered over the site. This area is primarily utilized for farming and hunting.

A significant back country fort of 1718, Fort Congaree, was located at [redacted] been determined archeologically. The location of the site of the 1718 Congaree Fort has been established from evidence in early maps of the colony and contemporary records. Archeological investigation of the area will undoubtedly determine the exact location of the fort but the following statement points out additional historical evidence to substantiate the location advanced by the late Dr. R.L. Meriwether, recognized authority on the history of the South Carolina backcountry.

The following statement has been prepared by William L. McDowell, Jr., Deputy Director of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, concerning the location of Fort Congaree.

"The General Assembly in 1717 provided that one of four frontier garrisons should be located 'at the Congarees'. After one unsuccessful attempt the fort was built the following year. Captain Charles Russell was appointed commander of the garrison and factor for the Indian trade. The fort was reduced as a garrison in 1722 and the men stationed there discharged by order of the Governor and Council. Captain Russell was ordered to distribute the public provisions, powder and bullets among the people remaining at the fort. It is likely that the fort continued to be used as a trading post or factory when the authorities decided it was no longer necessary to keep it as a military outpost, relations with the Catawbas and Cherokees having improved to the point that they were no longer afraid of a surprise attack on the frontier.

"The importance of the fort as a trading post is indicated by John Barnwell's Map of Southeastern North America which he presented to the Board of Trade in London in 1722. The map shows the trade post as being located on the path from Charles Town to the Catawba and Cherokee tribes at 'Congree', an English factory, the map in fact showing the paths entering and leaving the factory or trading post.

"Barnwell's Map is the earliest representation of a structure located at the Congarees we have record of, but  
(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |  |                                       |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1691, 1718, 1733

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

The Congarees is an exceptionally important and interesting historic site, which, because of its central geographic location and the fact that it was the crossroads of the South Carolina colony for a long period of time, occupied no small place in the early development of South Carolina. Significant both economically and strategically, "the Congarees" figured in legislative actions as early as 1691, serving as a trading area and settlement, frontier outpost, military staging point, early township, crossroads of the great trade paths of the Catawba and Cherokee nations, and a center of back country development.

The following statement concerning the significance of "the Congarees" was prepared by William L. McDowell, Deputy Director of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists. Mr. McDowell edited the Journals of the Commissioners of the Indian Trade, 1710-1718 and Documents Relating to Indian Affairs, 1750-1754 and is a recognized authority in the field of Indian Affairs in South Carolina during the Colonial Period.

"The location of the 1718 fort [redacted] There were good reasons for doing so, all of which added up to the fact that the site was one of economic and strategic importance. Known as the 'Congarees' from the time the settlers first had contact with the Indians who inhabited the area, the great trade paths to the Catawba and Cherokee nations crossed there. After reaching the Congarees from Charles Town, the path forked, 'the Catawba path ran northwestward to the Wateree town on Wateree River, and along it to the Waxhaws and the Catawbas, where it met the famous Occaneechi path from Virginia'. The other fork, the route to the Cherokee country, followed the lower side of the Congaree watershed, through Saluda Old Town and Ninety Six and then over to the lower town, the traders went to the Middle Settlements, Valley Towns, and the Overhills. The significance of the location was such that John Barnwell's map of 1722, referred to above, actually shows the paths leading to and from the trade factory at the Congarees.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cooper, Thomas, ed. The Statutes At Large of South Carolina. Volume III. Columbia, South Carolina: A.S. Johnston, 1838.  
 Crane, Vernon W. The Southern Frontier, 1670-1732. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1956.  
 Cuming, William P. The Southeast in Early Maps, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1962.  
 McDowell, William L., ed. Journals of the Commissioners of the Indian Trade 1710-1718. Columbia, South Carolina: South Carolina Archives Department, 1955.

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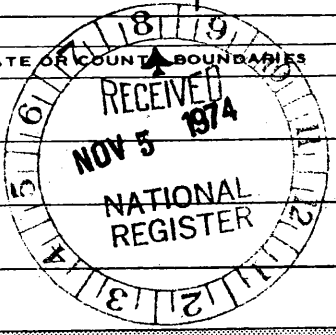
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER  | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|   | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW  |                         |                         |        |   |                         |  |
| NE  |                         |                         |        |   |                         |  |
| SE  |                         |                         |        |   |                         |  |
| SW  |                         |                         |        |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE BOUNDARIES

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Historic Preservation Staff

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Department of Archives and History DATE: October 21, 1974

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.

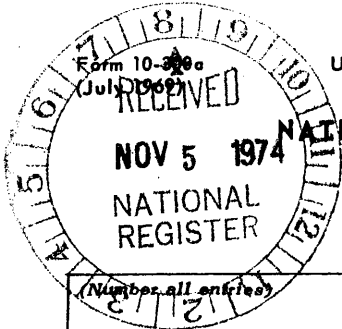
A.R. Warleson  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: DEC 31 1974

ATTEST:

Arty George Tenney  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: DEC 31 1974



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |                |             |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| STATE            | South Carolina |             |
| COUNTY           | Lexington      |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |                |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER     |                | DATE        |
|                  |                | DEC 31 1974 |

Congaree Site  
# 7 Description (continued A)

it is not detailed enough to place the fort-factory on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

William Faden's Map of... South Carolina (London: 1780) had located the Congaree fort at the point Meriwether describes. The historian reconstructed the land grants and conveyances in the vicinity of Saxegotha township and found that Patrick Brown had received a grant of 300 acres of land in 1735 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"The fort's location on Patrick Brown's grant is verified by other records. Thomas Brown of the Congarees, Patrick's brother, was a licensed Indian trader to the Catawbas before 1735 and carried on his trade with them 'from the place of his usual residence near the Congrees Old Fort [REDACTED]

Thomas made his will in 1743 and provided that his daughter Elizabeth should receive his plantation or tract of land of 712 acres which he had purchased from James Hopkins. The tract had formerly belonged to Doctor Gibson and was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"Thomas Brown made his will in 1743 and it was probated before a later fort was built at the Congarees in 1748 so Brown could only have referred to the 1718 fort. The property described in his will was granted to Daniel Gibson in 1732. Brown purchased two tracts at Congarees opposite Saxegotha township in 1735 and one of these he willed to his daughter. Meriwether has shown in his reconstruction of land ownership [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(continued)

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

(Continuation Sheet)

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| STATE<br>South Carolina |             |
| COUNTY<br>Lexington     |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY        |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER            | DATE        |
|                         | DEC 31 1974 |

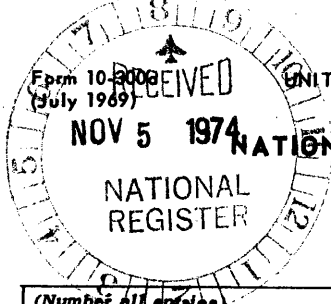
(Number all entries)

Congaree Site  
# 7 Description (continued B)

land granted to Patrick Brown thus has been reasonably established but the exact site can be located only by archeological investigation."

This property is in possible imminent danger due [REDACTED]





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |                |             |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| STATE            | South Carolina |             |
| COUNTY           | Lexington      |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |                |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER     |                | DATE        |
|                  |                | DEC 31 1974 |

(Number all entries)

Congaree Site  
# 8 Significance (continued A)

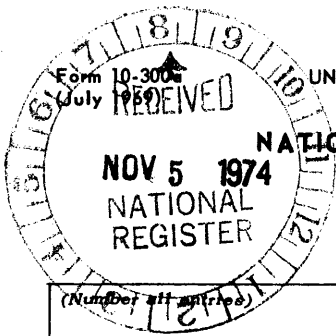
"The importance of the 'Congarees' area to the colony's Indian trade was well recognized long before the fort and public trade factory were built. For economic reasons the General Assembly passed an act in 1691 withdrawing the traders to certain limits beyond which they were forbidden to go. The Congarees was one of the limits established which in effect meant the Indians beyond the area could bring their skins down to the traders located there and barter for the goods and merchandise they wanted. By 1703 the 'Congree Settlements' were prosperous enough to attract the Assembly's attention when Commissioners were appointed to assess real and personal estates for taxes.

"As the traders traveled the path and pushed further westward the Congaree trade may have declined, but building the fort in 1718 and making its garrison commander the factor for the Indian trade renewed the importance of the area to the colony's economy. When the fort was reduced four years later and the garrison discharged, a nucleus remained in the area to carry on trade and development which continued with the settlement of Thomas Brown and others who obtained grants in the 1730's. When the new governor, Robert Johnson, put his scheme for settling the interior of the country into effect, the township at the Congarees came to be known as Saxegotha. The early traders and settlers at the Congarees fort site had prepared the way for the later development of the area; they were forerunners of Saxegotha which was laid out a short distance above the fort site, Brown's trading post across the river and the 1748 fort, all of which have been lost or practically forgotten now.

"Strategically the Congarees were important as a buffer while the tribe inhabited the area. It was also used as a military staging point and frontier outpost, as well as a place of refuge from Indian outbreaks. As long as the Congarees were the colony's allies no fort was needed to protect the frontier. But the area was used as a staging point by Colonel John Barnwell to gather Indian allies to accompany his expedition against the Tuscaroras in North Carolina in 1711.

"The revolt of the Yemasees and their allies including the Congarees in 1716 ended with the defeat and dislocation of the tribes in the confederacy. In addition, the Congarees suffered enslavement and transportation to the West Indies.

(continued)



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

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE            |             |
| South Carolina   |             |
| COUNTY           |             |
| Lexington        |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE        |
|                  | DEC 31 1974 |

(Number all entries)

Congaree Site  
# 8 Significance (continued B)

The tribe which inhabited the site of the fort is virtually unknown today except for the river whose name it bears. The site therefore has significance not only for its strategic importance to the colony but as a place inhabited by one of the lost tribes of Carolina whose contact with and destruction of the white settlers may still be studied to some extent from the artifacts which remain in the relatively undeveloped area of the Congarees.

"The fort which was constructed and garrisoned with 20 men from 1718-1722 was the colony's answer to filling the vacuum left by the Congarees loss. Its construction was even more significant when it is recalled that the Assembly considered removing the Catawbas from their towns to settle in the area and Charite Hagey, the Cherokee Conjuror, first proposed the colony build a fort and trading post at the Congarees in peace talks with Lieutenant General James Moore in 1716. The Conjuror did not care to have his tribe's ancient enemy astride the trade path to Charles Town with the Creeks at his back and the northern tribes coming down the great war path through the valley of Virginia any time they were inclined to do so.

"In 1730 Sir Alexander Cuming came through the Congarees before going to Keowee and beginning his adventure in the Cherokee nation. Escorted by Colonel George Chicken, a former Commissioner of the Indian Trade, and the surveyor, George Hunter, until Cuming left them behind, the Scotch baronet returned later accompanied by his guide, the trader Ludowick Grant, and six of the Cherokees who crossed the Atlantic to visit the 'Great King' and sign the Treaty of 1730, an event which had a predominant influence on Cherokee relations with the English until the mid-18th century.

"With the new township settlement beginning in 1733 the history of the Congarees becomes that of a larger area and the significance of the early site more one of related developments than of specific events. The path from Charles Town brought other visitors to the vicinity, passing and repassing the Congarees. Governor James Glen met in conference with the Catawbas at Saxegotha in 1746. Strange Indians appeared in the area in 1745 and 1756 resulting in the settlers petitioning for military aid and organization. A palisade

(continued)



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

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |                |             |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| STATE            | South Carolina |             |
| COUNTY           | Lexington      |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |                |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER     |                | DATE        |
|                  |                | DEC 31 1974 |

(Number all entries)

**Congaree Site  
# 8 Significance (continued C)**

fort and barracks was ordered constructed at Saxegotha which were completed in 1749.

"When the crisis in Cherokee relations occurred in 1751 many settlers took refuge at the Congarees from the threat of Indian attack and it was here that the immediate cause of the Cherokee War, 1760-61, can be said to have taken place in 1759. The Cherokee head men who were accompanying Governor William Henry Lyttleton to Fort Prince George at Keowee to talk peace were made hostages leading to the break in Cherokee - Carolina relations a few months later. During the war British regulars of both Colonel Archibald Montgomery and Colonel James Grant's expeditions camped at the Congarees on their way to attack the Cherokee towns in 1760 and 1761. It was also the Congarees where white prisoners captured by the Cherokees during the war were brought for their families to meet them upon their release following the treaty of peace agreed to in 1762.

"Recalling these events does serve to emphasize the important central geographic location of the area and the fact that it was the crossroads of the colony for a long period of time. To preserve the surviving evidence of its history is to recognize a nearly forgotten place which occupied no small place in the early development of South Carolina and its environs."



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| STATE<br>South Carolina |             |
| COUNTY<br>Lexington     |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY        |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER            | DATE        |
|                         | DEC 31 1974 |

(Number all entries)

Congaree Site  
# 9 Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Meriwether, R.L. Expansion of South Carolina, 1729-1765. Kingsport, Tennessee:  
Southern Publishers, Incorporated, 1940.  
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Carolina  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History. MS Journal of the Upper  
House of the Assembly, February 28, 1744.  
Will of Thomas Brown, probated June 5, 1747. Secretary of Province MS Wills,  
Book MM, WPA Transcripts, Wills, 1740-1747.

