

AN ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY
OF
KINGS MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MILITARY PARK
1985

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION



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PREFACE

This administrative history was made possible through a grant between the National Park Service and East Carolina University at Greenville, North Carolina, where I am pursuing a Masters degree in history. In the process of researching and writing the Kings Mountain administrative history, I received help from many people. Dr. Robert C. Wendling secured the grant for East Carolina and was also project director; my thanks to him for his encouragement. Dr. John A. Tilley, my thesis advisor, read the first draft and offered constructive criticisms that enhanced the quality of this study.

Regional Historian Lenard E. Brown of the Southeast Region was in contact with me throughout the project, and his advice was always helpful. One problem I encountered in my research was the paucity of source material from the 1950s and 1960s. Stan Robinson of the Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta did his best to locate files dealing with Kings Mountain. I will never forget meeting Stan at Fort Gillen, Georgia, and rummaging through a dusty warehouse in search of records pertaining to the park. For a young historian it was a valuable experience.

At the Washington Office, Chief Historian Edwin C. Bearss and Barry Mackintosh were especially helpful. Mr. Bearss assisted me in researching the files at his

office, and Barry offered valuable advice in numerous phone conversations.

Without the cooperation of Superintendent Mike Loveless and the staff at Kings Mountain, this history could not have been completed. Superintendent Loveless and Park Historian Jim Anderson graciously consented to be interviewed, and both interviews filled gaps in my research. In addition, Jim took me on a tour of the Howser House and Kings Mountain State Park. Park Ranger Chris Revels assisted me on my weekend visits and gave me a tour of the museum that clearly demonstrated the problems with the exhibits.

Thanks must go to Jamie Konarski for typing the manuscript and meeting all the deadlines, and to Susan Matthews for proofreading it.

Mr. and Mrs. John Scott and their son, Mike, provided me a place to stay when I visited the Washington National Records Center at Suitland, Maryland. I will always remember their hospitality.

My roommate, Bob Jacobson, was encouraging in numerous ways, and he always listened when I needed to blow off steam. Finally, special thanks go to my parents, Van and Helen Massey, and my girlfriend, Carmel Stuart, for their love and support. In addition, I want to thank my Dad for supplying the map on short notice.

CHAPTER 1

THE BEGINNING

The Battle of Kings Mountain

The victory of Charles, Lord Cornwallis at the Battle of Camden on August 16, 1780, paved the way for an invasion of North Carolina. By September plans had been set for a triple thrust into North Carolina. Cornwallis' right column was to move toward Wilmington and secure that port as a supply route. The main army under his direct command would form the center, and its mission was to head straight for Hillsboro. Finally, there was the left under the command of Major Patrick Ferguson, whose orders were to march north to the foothills of the western mountains and then link up with the main force at Charlotte.

Patrick Ferguson is one of the most interesting figures of the Revolutionary War. Considered to be one of the best marksmen in the British Army, Ferguson enhanced his reputation by inventing a breech-loading rifle, later known as the "Ferguson Rifle." This weapon could be used in all kinds of weather, was easier to load, and had a greater rate of fire, better range, and more accuracy than other firearms of the day. Ferguson formed a corps to test the rifle, but the unit was disbanded by General William Howe because he

had not been consulted on the issue. The rifles were placed in storage, and Ferguson never had an opportunity to prove their value. According to Kings Mountain Park Historian James J. Anderson, there is no evidence to support the idea that these rifles were used at the Battle of Kings Mountain. Anderson mentions that lists of the Loyalist supplies confiscated at the battle do not include any mention of a "Ferguson Rifle."¹ Ferguson's right arm was disabled at Brandywine, and in that battle he passed up an opportunity to shoot General George Washington because he felt it was ungentlemanly to shoot a man in the back.

Ferguson led a force of Loyalist militia that numbered approximately 1,000 men. This army reached Gilbert Town on September 7, and Ferguson issued a warning to the rebel frontiersmen: if they did not cease opposing the British, "he would march his army over the mountains, hang their leaders, and lay their country waste with fire and sword."

This threat did not cow the "over-mountain men," as the frontier patriots were called. Instead they responded to the challenge by meeting at Sycamore Shoals, on the Watauga River, in what is now part of eastern Tennessee, on September 25, 1780. A force of more than 1,000 men under the command of Colonels William Campbell, John Sevier, and Isaac Shelby left the next day on their horses with the intention of finding Ferguson before he found them.

¹Interview with James J. Anderson, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 6 March 1985.

Ferguson had received intelligence from his spies of the "over-mountain men" threat, so he left Gilbert Town and began marching eastward toward Charlotte, where Cornwallis' main force awaited him. On October 6 he reached Kings Mountain and camped there. That same day, Ferguson requested reinforcements from Cornwallis, stating that "three or four hundred good soldiers, part dragoons, would finish the business."

Kings Mountain is a rocky and wooded hill that rises about sixty feet above the surrounding plain. At its summit is a plateau that is approximately 600 yards long and about 70 feet wide at one end and 120 at the other. Ferguson made his camp here and told his men that "he was on Kings Mountain and that he was king of the mountain and that God Almighty could not drive him from it."

The Patriot force had reached Gilbert Town on October 3 to find that Ferguson had left. The army continued their pursuit and reached the Cowpens on October 6, where they were reinforced. After marching all night through heavy rains, they reached Kings Mountain at noon on October 7.

The "over-mountain men" army stopped a mile from Ferguson's camp, dismounted, divided into four groups, and moved to surround the ridge. At about 3 PM, the encircling Patriots were spotted by the Loyalist pickets, who immediately sounded

the alarm. The troops under the command of Colonels Campbell, Sevier and Shelby kept the Loyalists occupied with their attack on the northwest slope, while the other Patriot columns maneuvered into position around the mountain. As they climbed the mountain, the attackers had the advantage of cover because the tree line reached almost to the crest. Using trees and rocks for cover, the Patriots wreaked havoc on Ferguson's exposed army.

At the outset of the battle, Ferguson made a costly error. Although he had built his reputation as a marksman, he decided to defend his critical position with bayonet charges. Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee wrote in his memoirs that Ferguson failed to see that Kings Mountain was "more assailable by the rifle than defensible with the bayonet." Another Loyalist disadvantage was that in having to fire downhill, they aimed too high, and most of their shots passed harmlessly over the heads of the attackers.

Three times the forces under Campbell, Sevier, and Shelby reached the crest, only to be driven back by bayonet charges. Each counterattack was in turn met with the frontiersmen's accurate fire. Eventually, the Loyalists were pushed back toward their camp, where they were met by the other Patriot troops who had scaled the northern and eastern slopes.

The Loyalists found themselves surrounded on all sides and exposed to murderous fire. Driving his horse relentlessly, Ferguson appeared omnipresent as he blew a silver whistle to rally and direct his troops. Sensing the hopelessness of the situation, Ferguson made a desperate attempt to break through the Patriot lines and was shot from his horse. He died shortly after from the eight bullets that hit him.

Captain Abraham De Peyster took over command of the surrounded Loyalists. De Peyster made a futile attempt to rally the remaining troops and then ordered a surrender. The firing did not stop immediately, as many Patriots sought to avenge the massacre of Colonel Abraham Buford's Patriot force by Colonel Banastre Tarleton's British troops at Waxhaws on May 29, 1780. As Colonel Isaac Shelby recalled:

It was some time before a complete cessation of the firing on our part could be affected. Our men who had been scattered in the battle were continually coming up and continued to fire, without comprehending in the heat of the moment what had happened; and some who had heard that at Buford's defeat, the British had refused quarters . . . were willing to follow that bad example.

The hour long battle was a bloody affair. The Patriots lost 28 killed and 62 wounded out of the 900 who fought. The Loyalist losses totaled 157 dead, 163 wounded, and 698 taken prisoner. Ferguson's entire force was killed, wounded, or captured. Patrick Ferguson and the other Loyalist dead were buried on the battlefield.

On October 8 the Patriot army left the battlefield and marched to Gilbert Town. There some of the Loyalist prisoners were tried for atrocities, and nine were hanged. By late October the remaining prisoners were given over to Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, and the rest of the "over-mountain men" returned to their homes.

The Revolutionary War has been called the First American Civil War, and the Battle of Kings Mountain illustrates why. Patrick Ferguson was the only non-American to fight in the battle. This battle matched American against American, each side representing a different view on what course the country should take.

The Battle of Kings Mountain was one of the turning points of the Revolutionary War. Cornwallis was forced to withdraw from Charlotte to Winnsboro, South Carolina, and his offensive into North Carolina was delayed. This gave General Nathanael Greene the time to reorganize the Southern Army that had been routed at Camden. British General Sir Henry Clinton called the battle "the first link of a chain of evils that followed each other in regular succession until they at last ended in the total loss of America."²

²The best source on the Battle of Kings Mountain is still Lyman C. Draper's Kings Mountains and Its Heroes, which was originally published in 1881. Hank Messick's Bicentennial effort, Kings Mountain, is altogether too biased against Ferguson and the Loyalists. Shorter, informative accounts of the battle can be found in George F. Sheer and Hugh F. Rankin's Rebels and Redcoats, and Mark M. Boatner's Encyclopedia of the American Revolution.

The Celebrations: 1815-1930

After the battle, the site lay dormant for many years. The first recorded commemoration ceremony at the battlefield was held in 1815, due to the efforts of Dr. William McLean. Upon his election to the South Carolina State Senate in 1814, Dr. McLean called for a commemoration of the men who had died at Kings Mountain. Many of these dead men had been buried on the mountain after the battle, and their remains were unearthed by wolves and dogs. Dr. McLean, with the help of others, collected the scattered bones and reburied them in an area that has never been identified.³

Dr. McLean paid for the first monument to be placed on the battlefield. The dark slate monument honored Major William Chronicle and three other patriots who were killed during the battle and is the second oldest battlefield marker in the United States. The dedication ceremony was held on July 4, 1815, and Dr. McLean gave an address to honor the occasion. The inscription on the stone read: "Sacred to the memory of Major William Chronicle, Captain John Mattocks, William Rabb, and John Boyd, who were killed at this place on the 7th of October, 1780, fighting in defense of America." And on the opposite side it read, "Colonel Ferguson, an Officer

³Oswald E. Camp, In Commemoration of the Battle of Kings Mountain October 7, 1780, 1940, pp. 44.5, 68. Hereinafter cited as Camp, Commemoration. Camp, the first National Park Service superintendent at Kings Mountain, compiled this reference work for use by future park personnel. This work contains valuable information on the events that resulted in the establishment of a national military park at Kings Mountain.

of His Britannic Majesty, was defeated and killed at this place on the 7th of October, 1780."⁴

Eventually, the monument's inscription became illegible, and the Kings Mountain Association of Yorkville, South Carolina, erected a new marker beside it in 1914. The Daughters of the American Revolution later placed an iron fence around the monument to halt vandalism, but the vandals were not deterred, and the fence was removed in 1935.⁵

In January 1849, historian and artist Benson J. Lossing visited the battlefield while researching his Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution. Lossing made a drawing of the area around the Chronicle marker and left the following description of the landscape:

The whole range, in that vicinity, is composed of a series of great undulations, from whose sides burst innumerable springs, making every ravine sparkle with running water. The hills are gravelly, containing a few small bowlders. They are covered with oaks, chestnuts, pines, beaches, gums, and tulip poplars, and an undergrowth of post oaks, laurel, and sourwood. The large trees stand far apart, and the smaller ones are not very thick, so that the march of an army over these gentle elevations was comparatively easy. Yet it was a strange place for an encampment or a battle; and to one acquainted with that region, it is difficult to understand why Ferguson and his band were there at all.⁶

On June 4, 1855, the citizens of York District, South Carolina, held a public meeting and set October 4, 1855,

⁴Ibid., p. 6.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Benson J. Lossing, The Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution (New York: Harper & Brothers, Publishing, 1859) p. 423.

as the date for a celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain. An estimated 15,000 people attended the October 4 ceremony to hear John Preston and former secretary of the Navy George Bancroft speak. Among the artifacts displayed at the gathering were Colonel William Campbell's sword and William White's rifle.⁷

The 1855 celebration resulted in a push to erect a new monument at the battlefield to join the Chronicle stone. In November 1855 the Charleston Mercury called for the formation of an organization to erect a monument at Kings Mountain in honor of the battle's heroes. It was suggested that the governor of South Carolina head the organization.⁸

It was, however, the centennial of the battle that provided the impetus to construct a new monument. Preparations for the centennial began on May 24, 1879, at a meeting of citizens from Kings Mountain, North Carolina. They resolved to hold a public meeting at Kings Mountain on July 25 of that year and to invite citizens from the surrounding North and South Carolina counties to send delegates. Delegates from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia met on the 25th and organized the Kings Mountain Centennial Association. The Association resolved to celebrate the battle's centennial on October 7, 1880, and to "purchase a suitable monument."

⁷Camp, Commemoration, p. 79.

⁸Ibid., p. 79.3.

Colonel Asbury Coward was appointed chairman of the Executive Committee.⁹

The Kings Mountain Centennial Association purchased the land where the most intense fighting had occurred and raised funds from private sources and from the legislatures of North and South Carolina to erect the monument.¹⁰ On June 23, 1880, the cornerstone of the Centennial Monument was laid under the sponsorship of the Grand Lodge of Masons of South Carolina.¹¹

The principal event of the Centennial Ceremony was the unveiling of the new monument. The Centennial Monument stands about twenty-nine feet high and contains inscriptions in marble on its four sides. The front side is inscribed with the following words: "Here the tide of battle turned in favor of the American Colonies."¹²

The 31½ acres the Centennial Association purchased were neglected in the years following the celebration. Forest fires were caused by parties, and lumber was frequently hauled from the battleground. The Daughters of the American Revolution's Kings Mountain Chapter decided to gain possession of the land to preserve it. These women received this land from the Centennial Association with the help of Asbury Coward.¹³

It was the efforts of the Kings Mountain DAR that

⁹Ibid., pp. 79.4-79.5

¹⁰Ibid., p. 80.

¹¹Ibid., pp. 81-84.

¹²Ibid., p. 88

¹³Ibid., p. 108.

resulted in the United States Congress appropriating \$30,000 for the erection of a new monument in 1906. In fact, the role played by this patriotic organization in Kings Mountain becoming a national military park cannot be overemphasized. The 1906 act stipulated that after the monument's erection, responsibility for its care would be transferred to the Kings Mountain Battle Ground Association of South Carolina. (This association and the Kings Mountain DAR chapter are the same.)¹⁴ The monument was completed in time for dedication at the 1909 celebration. The eighty-three foot obelisk is known as the United States Monument, and it is an example of the recognition the Battle of Kings Mountain was receiving at the federal level at that time.¹⁵

Each celebration, starting with 1815, and continuing with the ones in 1855, 1880, and 1909, added to the national recognition of the battle's significance in American history. The climax of the local efforts to attain recognition of the battle was the conflict's sesquicentennial commemoration in 1930. President Herbert C. Hoover brought the prestige of his office to the celebration by giving the principal address. The celebration was attended by approximately 80,000 people, and Hoover's speech was broadcast throughout the

¹⁴Kings Mountain National Military Park and State Park, "Master Plan," 1974, p. 34.

¹⁵George C. Mackenzie, Kings Mountain National Military Park (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service Historical Handbook Series, 1955), p. 43. Hereinafter cited as Mackenzie, Kings Mountain.

United States and Great Britain, making it an international event. The day was marked by the dedication of a new stone to mark Patrick Ferguson's grave. The gravestone was a gift from R. E. Scroggins of Charlotte, North Carolina, and the acceptance speech was made by Ronald Campbell of the British Embassy.¹⁶ Governor L. G. Hardman of Georgia called the Ferguson marker "another great step forward in the creating of a lasting international peace."¹⁷

An examination of the park area today makes one wonder how 80,000 people were able to attend the 1930 commemoration, as the park is heavily wooded. Fifty years ago the land that comprises Kings Mountain National Military Park was mostly farmland. Despite the heavy turnout, the commemoration ran smoothly, and the October 8 Charlotte Observer reported that "no traffic jams slowed motorists, there were no accidents reported as far as could be ascertained, and everything went off with a dispatch that was remarkable."¹⁸

The battle's sesquicentennial celebration ran concurrently with efforts to secure national park status for Kings Mountain; a bill appropriating \$225,000 to convert the battleground into a national military park had passed the House of Representatives and was scheduled to go before the Senate in December, 1930.¹⁹

The supporters of a national military park were nearing

¹⁶Camp, Commemoration, pp. 102-102.5.

¹⁷Charlotte Observer, 8 October 1930.

¹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹Camp, Commemoration, pp. 107.2-107.3.

a successful culmination of their efforts, but this point had not been reached without opposition.

Legislative Proposals and the War Department Opposition

Efforts by local representatives from the Kings Mountain area to make the battlefield into a national military park were consistently opposed by the War Department. The War Department was the steward of all national military parks and battlefield sites at this time. Their policy of opposition originated with an Army War College report that was approved by Secretary of War Dwight F. Davis on June 16, 1925. In this report American battlefields were classified by military importance as

those deserving of national parks; those of such great military and historical interest as to warrant locating and indicating the battle lines of the forces engaged, by a series of markers; and those of sufficient historical interest to be worthy of some form of a monument, tablet or marker to indicate the location of the battlefield.²⁰

The Battle of Kings Mountain was placed in the last classification. As a result, the War Department Appropriations Bill, when it was passed by the 69th Congress on June 11, 1926, provided \$15,000 for the surveying of various battlefields, but Kings Mountain was not included.

Representative A. L. Bulwinkle, of North Carolina's

²⁰Dwight F. Davis to A. L. Bulwinkle, 2 March 1927, National Park Service, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, D.C. Hereinafter cited as NARC.

7th Congressional District, introduced an amendment to the War Department Appropriations Bill to include \$1,500 for a survey of the battlefield at Kings Mountain. The amendment passed in the House, but was tabled by the Senate's Military Affairs Committee. Bulwinkle appealed to Secretary of War Davis but was refused help. Davis cited the Army War College report as the official War Department policy, and he stated that there would be no deviation from the battleground classifications unless Congress intervened. In Davis' opinion, the monuments at Kings Mountain were sufficient memorials.²¹

Bulwinkle persisted, however, and reintroduced the bill to provide for an inspection of the battlefield during the 70th Congress. The second attempt passed both the House and the Senate and was signed into law as Public Law 246 on April 9, 1928.²² The act appropriated \$1,000 for the survey and called for a four-member commission to be appointed by the Secretary of War. The commission was authorized to inspect the battlefield, determine its suitability for preservation and submit a report to the Secretary of War by December 1, 1928.²³

²¹A. L. Bulwinkle to Dwight F. Davis, 21 February 1927, NARC; Dwight F. Davis to A. L. Bulwinkle, 2 March 1927, NARC.

²²Edmund B. Rogers, History of Legislation Relating to The National Park System Through the 82nd Congress: Kings Mountain, United States Department of the Interior, 1958, Part I, p. 5. Hereinafter cited as Rogers, History of Legislation

²³U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, War Department Supplemental Estimates of Appropriation, 1928 and 1929, H. Doc. 267, 70th Congress, 1st. sess., 1928. Copy in Rogers, History of Legislation, Appendix B.

Public Law 246 stipulated that the Secretary of War, if possible, appoint people to the commission who were familiar with the battlefield. The Secretary appointed A. M. Grist from York County, South Carolina; G. G. Page from Cleveland County, North Carolina; Jacob F. Hambright from Cherokee County, South Carolina; and N. Y. DuHamel, the district engineer of the Corps of Engineers in Charleston, South Carolina.

The commission met at the battlefield on July 6 and reached a favorable decision. They decided that a 201.47-acre park was needed to preserve the battlefield for future generations. The Kings Mountain Battlefield Association agreed to donate 39.89 acres, and the remaining 161.58 acres would be purchased at an estimated \$25 an acre. The citizens of Cherokee, York, and Cleveland counties were considered by the commission to be highly supportive of the idea of a national military park. Local cooperation was further cited, as all three counties had built roads to the site, and York County was planning to improve its road in preparation for an increase in visitation. The commission "recommended that the park be inclosed by an ornamental iron fence and that a dwelling house be provided for a caretaker." The cost for establishing the park was estimated at \$208,546; estimates for yearly maintenance totaled \$5,620.²⁴

Secretary of War Davis disagreed with the commission's

²⁴U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Commemoration of Kings Mountain Battle, H. Rept. 2565, 70th Congress, 2d sess., 1929. Copy in Rogers, History of Legislation, Appendix B.

recommendations and made his opinions known to the chairmen of the House and Senate Committees on Military Affairs. Davis referred to the Army War College study that had classified the Battle of Kings Mountain as deserving only a single monument. The 1909 United States Monument filled this criterion in Davis' opinion; and since the battlefield had "been properly memorialized," there was no need for a park.²⁵

The commission's favorable report provided the impetus for Representative Bulwinkle to introduce H.R. 14449 to establish a national military park at Kings Mountain. The bill passed in the House and was sent to the Senate Military Affairs Committee, where it was pigeonholed.²⁶

A similar bill was introduced by Bulwinkle's successor, Representative Charles A. Jonas of North Carolina, during the second session of the 71st Congress. H.R. 6128 was sent to the War Department for review by the chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, W. Frank James. Secretary of War Patrick J. Hurley reiterated the earlier policy set forth by Dwight Davis. Hurley stated that under the War Department's classification scheme, Kings Mountain had "been properly commemorated."²⁷ Representative Jonas was disappointed

²⁵Dwight F. Davis to David A. Reed, 6 December 1928, NARC; Dwight F. Davis to John M. Marin, 6 December 1928, copy in Rogers, History of Legislation, Appendix B.

²⁶Rogers, History of Legislation, Part I, p. 4.

²⁷U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Commemoration of Kings Mountain Battle, H. Rept. 1671, 71st Congress, 2d sess., 1930. Copy in Rogers, History of Legislation, Appendix B.

and told Hurley that passing H.R. 6128 would be difficult "in the face of direct opposition on the part of the War Department."²⁸ It remained for the Congress to decide if Kings Mountain would become a national military park.

Eventually, the longstanding goal of making Kings Mountain into a national park was realized. H.R. 6128 was passed by the Senate and received presidential approval on March 3, 1931. Kings Mountain National Military Park was placed under the jurisdiction of the War Department. The Secretary of War was given authority to acquire the lands necessary for the park by either purchase or condemnation. Two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars was appropriated to complete the provisions of the act.²⁹

On July 28, 1933, a Presidential Executive Order transferred all military parks from the War Department to the Department of the Interior.³⁰ The story of Kings Mountain National Military Park and the National Park Service begins at this point.

²⁸Charles A. Jonas to Patrick J. Hurley, 11 February 1930, Historians Office, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

²⁹Rogers, History of Legislation, Part I, p. 5; U.S. Congress, Senate, H.R. 6128, S. Rept. 1865, 71st Congress, 3d sess., 1931. Copy in Rogers, History of Legislation, Appendix B.

³⁰Mackenzie, Kings Mountain, p. 44. The two year period in which Kings Mountain National Military Park was under the War Department is not covered because no records on the subject were found.

CHAPTER II

THE FORMATION OF THE PARK

Kings Mountain National Military Park was formally transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior on August 10, 1933. Prior to the transfer, the War Department had submitted estimates for military park development to the Public Works Administration. The War Department requested \$220,000 for improvements and maintenance at Kings Mountain.

The transfer of Kings Mountain to the National Park Service's administration necessitated a new study of the area and a resubmission of estimates for development. In response to a letter from Senator James F. Byrnes of South Carolina, Park Service Director Arno B. Cammerer stressed that if the government were to allocate sufficient funding for Kings Mountain, the inadequate roads leading to the park would have to be repaired by the state.¹

Meanwhile, the residents of the area were impatient for results. Kings Mountain had been a national park for two years, and no development could be seen. A program of improvements was viewed as a supplier of much needed

¹Arno B. Cammerer to James F. Byrnes, 27 September 1933, National Park Service, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, D.C. Hereinafter cited as NARC.

employment to an area in the midst of the Depression. Director Cammerer sympathized with these viewpoints, but emphasized that the roads approaching the park would need improvements before large sums could be appropriated for development.² Along with the desire for better roads was the realization that sufficient land had to be acquired to insure that Kings Mountain would be a park of high quality.

Land Acquisition

The process of land acquisition at Kings Mountain was an arduous task that lasted more than five years. In the formative stages, responsibility for land acquisition was assumed by the Kings Mountain Battle Ground Commission, one of its lawyers, W. G. Finley, J. A. Tate and Mayor W. B. Moore; all of them from York, South Carolina. These people began taking options on land for the military park. By November 1933 options had been secured on 1,000 acres surrounding the battlefield with a projected cost of \$121,000. Included in this was the 40.09 acres composing the battlefield, which was donated by the Kings Mountain Battle Ground Association. W. G. Finley wrote to Verne E. Chatelain of the Park Service's

²Arno B. Cammerer to Archie A. Barron, 10 October 1933, NARC.

historical division and asked for an idea of how much land the park would encompass. Finley requested a survey of the area and offered to get the state legislature's approval to begin condemnation proceedings against landowners who were holding out for exorbitant prices.³

At first, Director Cammerer did not favor condemnation because he felt time did not allow for it. He advocated bringing public pressure on the holdouts; if that failed, bonuses could be raised through subscriptions or donations. Finley's correspondence brought a change in policy, however, and Cammerer proposed that estimates of the amounts required for condemnation be prepared. But condemnation could not begin until the Public Works Administration allocated funds for the park.⁴

Land acquisition and park development in general were delayed because the Public Works Administration had not reached a final decision on allocations by mid-1934. Again, local residents became impatient, and again they were not encouraged by news from the Park Service. Funds for projects like Kings Mountain had been reduced, and there was no guarantee that a favorable decision would be made.⁵

³W. G. Finley to Verne E. Chatelain, 13 November 1933, NARC.

⁴Arno B. Cammerer to J. A. Tate, 25 June 1934, NARC; Cammerer to James F. Byrnes, 12 December 1933, NARC.

⁵Verne E. Chatelain to J. A. Tate, 25 June 1934, NARC.

Appropriations for Kings Mountain were finally made, and with these allocations came a change in the National Park Service's development proposal. The new program proposed to develop a recreation area around the military park as a buffer zone against intrusions. The recreation area was to enclose the battleground area in a half circle, and it would be administered by the state of South Carolina. A series of man-made lakes and campgrounds would be constructed. To achieve these goals, it was proposed that more than 10,000 acres be acquired, with two-fifths of that area comprising the military park and the rest being devoted to the newly designated Kings Mountain Recreational Demonstration Project.⁶ It was determined that 87 tracts totaling 10,371 acres should be acquired.⁷

Mr. G. H. Earp was appointed as Project Superintendent for the Kings Mountain Recreational Demonstration Project, and he immediately began coordinating efforts to acquire the lands necessary for park development. Earp encountered problems, however, as W. G. Finley, one of the lawyers for the Kings Mountain Battle Ground Commission, did not always cooperate. As a result, some landowners received

⁶Verne E. Chatelain, Memorandum for the Director, 23 April 1935, NARC; Arno B. Cammerer to Josiah William Bailey, 21 February 1936, NARC.

⁷H. Brooks, Memorandum for Mr. Moskey, 23 May 1938, NARC.

two separate impressions: one from Earp, and a different one from Finley. This caused bad feelings and held up the land acquisition process.

Problems were encountered in dealing with the Goforth family, who owned approximately 1,400 of the acres to be acquired. On May 24, 1935, a condemnation suit was brought against Preston Goforth to prevent timber cutting on his land. The hearing was slated for June 13, but W. G. Finley agreed to postpone the proceedings without consulting Joseph R. Moss, the other attorney for the Kings Mountain Battle Ground Commission. Finley decided that the government would have to directly condemn the Goforth land, and he would prevent the Kings Mountain Battle Ground Commission from acting. G. H. Earp obviously was exasperated at this because Finley was acting without Moss, and Moss' approval was required. Earp expressed his feelings in a letter to Regional Officer H. E. Weatherwax:

The situation in regard to the acquisition of certain lands by the Kings Mountain Battle Ground Commission appears hopeless, and I am very much discouraged. I have never before been in a position where I could not put up a scrap to defeat a man who was deliberately trying to gum up a project for his own imaginary aggrandisement, because he had "connections."⁸

⁸G. H. Earp to H. E. Weatherwax, 18 June 1935, Kings Mountain National Military Park Library. Hereinafter cited as KIMO.

Earp met more difficulties in dealing with the W. A. Morris tract. This tract contained the proposed dam site for the recreational project and much of the lake area as well. Morris refused to sign over the lease to his land because Finley had told him that the government would not accept the property unless Morris paid Finley fifteen dollars. Finley threatened to delay the settlement for one to two years. The Regional Office informed Earp that Finley would be paid \$25 for each abstract he prepared; and if this failed, another abstractor would be found.⁹ These problems lessened with the passage of time, as Tilford E. Dudley was brought in as Chief of Land Acquisition for the Recreational Demonstration Project and William M. Wilson became Assistant Project Attorney.

While a majority of the property owners consented to selling their land, payment for it was slow in arriving. These delays occurred in Washington and were out of the control of Earp as he tried to appease the impatient owners. Earp was informed by the Third Regional Office on February 24, 1936, that the delay in paying Oscar Cabiness and W. A. Morris for their tracts was a result of the Comp-

⁹G. H. Earp to Third Regional Office, 12 August 1935, KIMO.

troller General's objection "to the technical point that no statement to the effect that WPA labor was to be used in the project had been incorporated" in the Site Acquisition Accounts submitted to the General Accounting Office by the Resettlement Administration. The Washington Park Service office expected the matter to be resolved and payment delivered within the week.¹⁰

The problem had not been solved a month later. Oscar Cabiness stated that he would not give a renewal of his lease or allow any work to be done on his property if payment were not received by March 31. Earp emphasized the urgency of the situation to the Regional Office. He wrote, "the situation does not appear very rosy for the Kings Mountain Project. After March 31, we will have no lands upon which we are authorized to work either with CCC or WPA labor."¹¹

Earp did not receive a promising reply. The payment for lands under option had been held up since December 1935 by a "barrier." The Resettlement Administration could not overcome this difficulty, as it existed in a separate Federal Government Department. The Richmond Regional Office

¹⁰H. K. Roberts by E. M. Lisle, Memorandum for G. H. Earp, 24 February 1936, KIMO.

¹¹G. H. Earp to E. M. Lisle, 21 March 1936, KIMO; G. H. Earp to E. M. Lisle, 26 March 1936, KIMO.

was unclear as to what the "barrier" was and when it would be lifted. "To date our hands have been absolutely tied in this connection, but we are still hoping that we can obtain checks on key tracts within the very near future."¹²

It was hard for the landowners to understand the payment delays. The misunderstandings that arose inevitably halted development work on the park. Mrs. Lizzie Talbert posted a sign on her property that read:

No trespassing. Do not do any more work
on this place of any kind 'til I get pay
for it.¹³

Mrs. Talbert eventually let her land out to be farmed by Anderson Smarr. Smarr requested a Special Use Permit to be allowed to cultivate the land, but was refused because the Talbert tract was in the area of one of the proposed lakes. Smarr refused to leave the land unless he was forced to and began plowing the land and cutting trees down for firewood.¹⁴ Thus, an absurd stalemate occurred because payment on a tract of land had been delayed.

In one instance, condemnation proceedings resulted

¹²H. K. Roberts by E. M. Lisle, Memorandum for G. H. Earp, 23 March 1936, KIMO; H. K. Roberts by E. M. Lisle, Memorandum for G. H. Earp, 27 March 1936, KIMO.

¹³G. H. Earp to E. M. Lisle, 25 August 1937, KIMO.

¹⁴G. H. Earp to Regional Office, 16 March 1938, KIMO; A. E. Demaray to The Regional Director, 14 April 1938, KIMO; William M. Wilson to Oscar H. Doyle, 18 April 1938, KIMO; William M. Wilson to W. D. White, 5 May 1938, KIMO; Conrad L. Wirth to Mrs. Lizzie Talbert, 14 June 1938, KIMO.

from the delays in payment. Roger M. Grier, the administrator of the Theodocia Falls Estate, informed Earp that he had received an "attractive offer for the timber rights on the property on which you are now working in South Carolina, and in view of the fact that the government has not seen fit to pay us for the property on the option which was given to them over 18 months ago, I feel that we should go ahead and dispose of the timber."¹⁵ Earp reminded Grier that the land option was a "binding contract" and that the property must be delivered to the Park Service in the condition it was when purchased.¹⁶

Grier ignored Earp's reply, however, and the Spencer Lumber Company of Gastonia, North Carolina, began cutting the timber. Earp managed to halt the timber cutting with an injunction. The ensuing deadlock resulted in condemnation proceedings being brought against the Falls Estate.¹⁷

The value of the lands to be sold in relation to the value of the timber on those properties was a direct cause of many of the condemnation cases. This occurred in the cases of the Jeff Enloe and Will M. Camp tracts. The Enloe tract was owned by A. L. Lockridge, and the Camp property

¹⁵Roger M. Grier to G. H. Earp, 18 May 1936, KIMO.

¹⁶G. H. Earp to Roger M. Grier, 19 May 1936, KIMO.

¹⁷William M. Wilson to Tilford E. Dudley, 9 February 1937, KIMO; Conrad L. Wirth by Tilford E. Dudley, Memorandum for Regional Officer, Region One, 22 March 1937, KIMO.

belonged to Carlos and Stough Hopper. In the Lockridge case, condemnation proceedings were brought to prevent the plaintiff from hauling wood off the property. The Hoppers contended that they were not receiving the fair market value for their land and the timber on it; their refusal to accept the appraised land value resulted in condemnation.¹⁸

The two most difficult land acquisition cases involved the Goforth family and J. L. Van Dyke. As was indicated earlier, the Goforth family owned more than one-tenth of the land slated for acquisition. Preston Goforth had divided his land among his children, although not all of them had received deeds. The entire family held out for additional money above the appraised value of their land. As condemnation proceedings neared, the Goforths' lawyer, W. Blackburn Wilson, proposed compromise offers, but Park Service Assistant Director Conrad Wirth noted that the family's "asking price" was still "\$7,300 above the Government's average appraisal and \$5,583 above the Government's highest appraisal." It was decided not to reach an agreement on the proposals that were nearest the appraised value, "as such a compromise would unquestionably

¹⁸William M. Wilson to Oscar H. Doyle, 4 March 1938, KIMO; Stough Hopper to Senator Robert R. Reynolds, 7 December 1937, KIMO; A. E. Demaray to Senator Reynolds, 15 December 1937, KIMO.

be used by counsel on the other side in an effort to hike the compromise in the remaining cases."¹⁹ The government would try the Goforth cases.

The slowness of the land acquisition at Kings Mountain as reflected in the Goforth case was expressed in a letter from U.S. Attorney Oscar H. Doyle to R. Baldwin Myers, the Acting Chief of the Land Acquisition Division. Doyle wrote:

I am just as anxious as you are to dispose of all of the Kings Mountain cases at the very earliest possible date. I can understand how citizens of that community think that acquisition is proceeding very slowly. However, it is a situation for which I have no remedy. As you saw while in Court at Rock Hill, the trial of these cases is tedious and slow. Every possible effort will be made to dispose of all of them at the fall terms of the court.²⁰

The impasse with the Goforth family was eventually settled, but only after a struggle lasting more than four years.

Acquisition of the J. L. Van Dyke tract proved especially difficult as Van Dyke, described as a "contentious old man," ²¹ refused to give up his property at any cost. Van Dyke began by selling timber rights on his land to the Bessemer City Lumber Company, which promptly

¹⁹Conrad L. Wirth by R. Baldwin Myers to William M. Wilson, 27 May 1938, NARC.

²⁰O. H. Doyle to R. Baldwin Myers, 31 May 1938, KIMO.

²¹G. H. Earp to O. H. Doyle, 10 August 1939, KIMO.

began cutting and hauling off the wood. The company did "considerable cutting" before being stopped by a court order.²² Van Dyke's attorneys claimed that the property contained gold-bearing sand. Samples were taken of the land, and no trace of gold was found.

The complicated and "hotly contested" Van Dyke case reached the U.S. District Court at Rock Hill, South Carolina on March 15, 1939. The Park Service had to produce seven witnesses to testify on timber, land, and mineral values on the Van Dyke property.²³ The ensuing ruling was favorable to Van Dyke: he received \$4,000 for his 161.65 acres, or about \$25 an acre.²⁴

Van Dyke refused to accept the check, however, claiming that he had never sold his home and had no intention of leaving. G. H. Earp asked U.S. Attorney Oscar H. Doyle for help in the matter. "Please render the necessary assistance as early as convenient," Earp wrote, "as I have been criticized for not moving him off, and I should prefer having him moved in a legal manner rather than my extra legal manner."²⁵ Van Dyke was finally compelled to leave

²²G. H. Earp to Oscar H. Doyle, 23 February 1939, KIMO.

²³M. C. Huppuch, Memorandum for Regional Director, Region One, 27 February 1939, KIMO.

²⁴National Park Service, Land Records Division, "Master Deed Listing," 31 December 1984, file L1429, KIMO.

²⁵G. H. Earp to Oscar H. Doyle, 17 August 1939, KIMO.

his land. This ended the land acquisition process.

Land acquisition had taken time, but had been successful due largely to the efforts of G. H. Earp and William M. Wilson. The early work of the Kings Mountain Battle Ground Commission in securing options on the land was beneficial in providing the impetus for the acquisition of more property. Land acquisition was not opposed by property owners as much as it would appear from reading the above; less than ten percent of the tracts were acquired by condemnation. Now that the Kings Mountain Recreational Demonstration Project lands had been acquired, it remained to decide how those lands would be disposed.

Land Disposition

During the land acquisition process, questions arose as to what agency would administer the Kings Mountain Recreational Demonstration Area. B. Floyd Flickinger, the superintendent of Colonial National Historical Park, had been appointed as coordinating superintendent for Kings Mountain. In a July 21, 1937, memorandum to the Director, Flickinger outlined a plan that entailed placing the military park and the recreational area under one head. Flickinger felt that having the two areas administered by separate agencies could lead to problems. Placing the areas under joint National Park Service administration

would, in Flickinger's opinion, provide an efficient operation.²⁶

The final Park Service decision followed the original intention to give the Recreational Demonstration Area to South Carolina. The state and the Park Service had been cooperating on the development at Kings Mountain, so the transfer was the next logical step. Region One's Acting Director Herbert Evison met with Assistant Regional Director E. M. Lisle, and they agreed that South Carolina should receive the Recreational Demonstration Area once development was completed. Evison summed up their reasoning when he concluded that "South Carolina is one of the states now in the park field that is meeting its responsibilities well."²⁷

By September 1939 it became imperative that the military park's boundary be finalized. Money had been allocated for the construction of an administration-museum building at Kings Mountain National Military Park, and the location selected was within the Recreational Demonstration Area. Associate Director Arthur E. Demaray found no record that the Secretary of War had made a decision on the area that would comprise the military park, prior to its transfer

²⁶B. Floyd Flickinger to The Director, 21 July 1937, NARC.

²⁷Herbert Evison, Memorandum for the Director, 29 May 1939, NARC.

to the Interior Department. Demaray requested the Solicitor's opinion on the Secretary of the Interior's authority to determine the final boundaries of the park.²⁸

The Solicitor's opinion on April 4, 1940, stated that the Secretary of the Interior could establish the boundary at Kings Mountain. Demaray recommended that 4,012 acres be included in the military park. This area included the battlefield and "contiguous lands that are necessary for the proper commemoration of the event, such as the historic routes of march used by the Colonial and British forces in connection with the battle." Demaray wrote that:

The area retained in the recreational demonstration project is rolling forest land and has been developed for intensive recreational use. It has no historical significance and is not necessary for control and protection of the proposed park area. It is contemplated that the land remaining within the recreational demonstration project will eventually be transferred to the State of South Carolina for administration as a state park.²⁹

On July 11, 1940, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes signed an order determining that Kings Mountain National Military Park would comprise 4,012 acres in Cherokee and York Counties, South Carolina.³⁰ The park's

²⁸A. E. Demaray, Memorandum for the Acting Assistant Secretary, 27 September 1939, NARC.

²⁹A. E. Demaray, Memorandum for the Secretary, 17 May 1940, NARC.

³⁰Kings Mountain National Military Park and State Park, "Master Plan," 1974, p. 33.

boundary was not to be permanent, however, as the next twenty years would be marked by attempts to reduce the size of Kings Mountain National Military Park.

Settling the Park Boundary

Soon after Secretary Ickes authorized the Kings Mountain landholdings to be fixed at 4,012 acres, sentiment to reduce the size of the military park was made known.

W. G. Finley expressed the view that the government had acquired more land than was necessary to commemorate the battle. In a letter to the first National Park Service superintendent, Oswald E. Camp, Finley proposed that most of the land be made into a national forest, and only 100 to 250 acres be kept as Kings Mountain National Military Park. Camp informed Finley that the Park Service would not concur with such a proposal.³¹

In the following years, the Director's Office and the Region One Office agreed that a boundary reduction was needed at Kings Mountain. This official opinion was supported by evaluations from the field level. Harry T. Thompson of the Landscape Division inspected the park's boundary in August 1941 and concluded that the Branch of

³¹W. G. Finley to Superintendent Camp, 10 February 1941, file 602, KIMO.

Historic Sites should conduct a study "with a view to turning over as much as 3,000 acres of the military park . . . for development and use by the State of South Carolina." Regional Landscape Architect Ralph W. Emerson concurred with Thompson. Emerson wrote:

. . . it is my opinion that we have too much land. . . . It is recommended that the lands to the west of a line from the vicinity of the Houser [sic] House to the intersection of the AT&T trunk line and Route T-1 (Piedmont Road) be disposed of at the first opportunity. This section of the park seemingly has no historical significance, and its ownership simply adds to the costs of operation and protection.³²

Emerson's proposed boundary was used in future reduction proposals.

Acting Associate Regional Director Lisle outlined a boundary change to Custodian Ivan J. Ellsworth on June 20, 1945. This plan was influenced by Historian Rogers W. Young's 1936 report on Patriot troop positions at the battle. Lisle admitted that in suggesting the changes, "no attempt has been made by the Branch of History to follow natural features nor to meet administrative problems."³³ Custodian Ellsworth consented to Lisle's ideas providing the disposed lands were to be under public, and not private, ownership.³⁴

³²Harry T. Thompson, Record of Field Trip, 15 August 1941, Historian's Office, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. Hereinafter cited as WASO-HIST; Regional Landscape Architect Emerson, Memorandum to Regional Director, Region One, 14 September 1944, file 602, KIMO.

³³E. M. Lisle, Memorandum to Custodian Ellsworth, 20 June 1945, file 602, KIMO.

³⁴Ivan J. Ellsworth, Memorandum to E. M. Lisle, 26 June 1945, file 602, KIMO.

The boundary problem had not been resolved when Superintendent James B. Felton resumed his duties in April 1946, after a four-year absence caused by his military service during World War II. Felton prepared a new Boundary Status Report that disagreed with the proposed boundary changes. The report stated that no one outside of the Park Service was in favor of reducing the park's size. Felton argued that the existing boundary protected the park from intrusions and was "well defined and strategic." He wrote, "The area is surrounded by roads, streams and cleared right-of-way which ease protection problems."³⁵

The Regional Office disagreed with Felton's assessments, and a conference was held on May 12, 1947, with Regional Director Thomas J. Allen, Assistant Regional Director Lisle, Regional Landscape Architect Emerson, Regional Engineer W. E. O'Neil, Jr., and Superintendent Felton attending. After this meeting, Felton introduced a compromise to reduce the park's holdings by approximately one thousand acres. Felton's idea was to retain the north, east, and south boundaries, and revise the west boundary so it would run northwest from Piedmont Road's intersection with the AT&T trunk line to a point north of Brown's Mountain on the Cherokee-York county line. From this point the boundary would run to the intersection of the Duke Power Company line with the Dillingham Branch. It

³⁵Boundary Status Report, Kings Mountain National Military Park, 14 March 1947, file 602, KIMO.

would then follow the Dillingham Branch to its connection with Kings Creek. This idea would allow the park to keep the Howser House; though Felton was more interested in saving the gravel and sand pit on that property than the stone house. (The Howser House is a stone dwelling built in 1803 and will be the subject of a later chapter in this history.) Felton's plan would also ensure that the park's source of topsoil for landscaping purposes would be retained.³⁶

Felton's boundary proposal divided opinion further at the Region One Office. The regional landscape architect wanted more land taken from the park, while the regional historian felt that the existing boundary should remain. Regional Director Allen refused to sign the Boundary Status Report and favored additional land reduction.³⁷

Superintendent Ben F. Moomaw inherited the boundary problem when he was transferred to the park in July 1951. Moomaw developed his own compromise proposal and related it in a letter to James Felton, who had been reassigned to Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks. Moomaw wrote,

³⁶Boundary Status Report, Kings Mountain National Military Park, 28 November 1947, file 602, KIMO.

³⁷Thomas J. Allen, Memorandum for the Director, 17 February 1948, file 602, KIMO.

"I thought that you might be interested since Tom Allen's drastic revision was too much for either of us to agree with."³⁸

Moomaw recommended that two tracts of land be disposed of and two acquired. The Mary Morris and C. F. Harry estates were to be acquired. Miss Morris had refused to sell her land during the initial land acquisition, but her death had reopened the possibility. The Morris house was viewed as potential quarters for park personnel. Moomaw wrote that the Harry land "has little or no historic significance but due to its shape and location it constitutes a constant threat to the well being of the park, particularly if it were to fall into unfriendly or otherwise undesirable ownership. . . ."³⁹

The plan proposed removing the Howser House land and a tract in the isolated southwestern part of the park. Moomaw thought that the isolated tract could be exchanged for the two tracts recommended for acquisition. Removing the Howser House land would relieve the park of a problem area; and although Moomaw admitted that the house had been listed by the Historic American Building Survey, he asserted that "except for age it has no historic significance, nor

³⁸Ben F. Moomaw, Jr., to James B. Felton, 19 January 1953, file 602, KIMO.

³⁹Ben F. Moomaw, Jr., Memorandum to Regional Director, Region One, 16 January 1953, file 602, KIMO.

is it feasible to repair or restore it due to the excessive cost."⁴⁰

By September 1956 a Boundary Status Report had been agreed on. Moomaw's plan was accepted, with the exception that the Howser land be kept to ensure that an adequate boundary would be maintained. The state of South Carolina had built Route No. P-11-86, which had the effect of eliminating a half mile of traffic from the Historic Yorkville-Shelbyville Road. The new road ran alongside the Howser property and made its disposal unwise, as it would create "an inholding."⁴¹ The state road made it necessary to acquire a triangle-shaped portion of the Mary Morris Estate that lay between the old Yorkville-Shelbyville Road and the new Route No. P-11-86. The public part of the Yorkville-Shelbyville Road within the park would be kept as a fire road.⁴²

The Harry and Morris tracts were to be exchanged for the 200-acre isolated area that was separated from the park by a road and had an imperfect and unnatural boundary. The acquired lands were the scenes of commercial logging and had been considered as potential mining sites.

⁴⁰Ibid.

⁴¹Ben F. Moomaw, Jr., Memorandum to Regional Director, Region One, 18 September 1956, file L-1417, KIMO.

⁴²Ben F. Moomaw, Jr., Memorandum to Regional Director, Region One, 22 March 1957, file L-1417, KIMO.

Acquisition of these tracts would protect the park's historical setting from intrusion. Director Conrad L. Wirth saw the benefits of the boundary change, and in a memorandum to the Solicitor's office, he stated that if legislation for the revisions was enacted, "the northwest, west and southwest boundaries of the park, with minor exceptions, would follow streams or well-defined public roads."⁴³

It now remained for the land acquisition to become law, and this was achieved with ease. H.R. 3496 was introduced in the House on January 27, 1959, by Congresswoman Gracie Pfost of Idaho, and was sent to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. At a hearing before the Public Lands Subcommittee on February 13, representatives of the Park Service were questioned about the willingness of the private landowners to exchange their tracts, and about the value and improvements made on these lands. The subcommittee was advised that the private lands were valued at \$2,800 more than the federal land. Superintendent Moomaw had met with the property owners, but no decision had been made.⁴⁴ The subcommittee made a favorable report to the full committee, and it was subsequently passed by

⁴³The Director, Memorandum to Legislative Counsel, Office of the Solicitor, 4 June 1957, file L-1417-R, KIMO.

⁴⁴The Director, Memorandum to Assistant Secretary, Public Land Management, 16 February 1959, file L-1417-R; E. T. Scoyen to Gracie Pfost, 19 February 1959, WASO-HIST.

the House on March 16 and by the Senate on June 12. Public Law 86-62, to revise the boundary of Kings Mountain National Military Park was signed into law on June 23, 1959.⁴⁵

The Morris Estate had been transferred to Mary Morris' sister, Mrs. J. R. Norman. The Wachovia Bank and Trust Company represented the C. F. Harry Estate, and negotiated with the Norman family for the purchase of their farm so the two tracts could be offered together to the Park Service.⁴⁶ The two tracts totalled 110 acres and were valued at \$7,400, while the 172 acres of federal land was given a value of \$7,740 in appraisals made by E. Fort Wolfe, a Gaffney, South Carolina attorney. Wolfe's appraisals were considerably more favorable than the earlier estimates that placed the value of the private lands at \$2,800 above that of the park's land. The exchange was to be made on an "equal exchange basis."⁴⁷ The deed for the land exchange was dated July 26, 1960, and was filed for record the following day.

The boundary revision brought Kings Mountain's landholdings to 3,945.29 acres, which is the park's size today. The resolution of the boundary problem was a victory

⁴⁵U.S., Congress, 86th Cong., 1st Sess., Daily Digest 105: D585.

⁴⁶Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 9 February 1960, KIMO.

⁴⁷E. M. Lisle, Memorandum for Ben F. Moomaw, 16 May 1960, file L-1425, KIMO.

for Kings Mountain against the voices at the Regional Office that would have drastically reduced the park's size. The reduction would have caused problems in properly managing and protecting the historical resources that were the park's reason for being.

CHAPTER III

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARK, 1933-1976

The development process at Kings Mountain National Military Park moved slowly. This fact can be attributed to different factors. One common problem that impeded development was lack of funding. During much of Kings Mountain's history, the United States has been involved in war or in the midst of economic crisis. As a result, the National Park Service has operated on modest budgets. Kings Mountain has not always received top priority in funding for park development, and this has retarded growth and forced the park's staff to operate with inferior facilities. The nation's bicentennial was a factor that led to Kings Mountain receiving adequate visitor and administrative facilities. Kings Mountain's status as a park commemorating a Revolutionary War battle was a major factor in these developments. This chapter will cover the broad topic of park development from 1933 to the construction of the new visitor center.

Rogers Young and the Beginnings of an Interpretive Program

Although Kings Mountain was placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior in June 1933, it was four years before permanent National Park Service personnel were assigned to the park. Junior Historian Rogers W. Young was sent temporarily to Kings Mountain and Guilford Courthouse national military parks from his position at Fort Pulaski National Monument, and he spent the next year dividing his work between the two military parks.

At Kings Mountain, Young conducted research on positions of the Patriot and Loyalist troops during the battle, and he wrote a report on his findings in 1936. Young also attempted to establish an "historical-educational program" at the park. He advocated the use of Civilian Conservation Corps personnel as guides to interpret the battle for park visitors. It was proposed that a contact station be constructed to protect the guides from inclement weather. Young saw the need for signs and markers detailing the route of march the Patriot and Loyalist troops followed to the battle and their battle positions.¹

¹Rogers W. Young to Verne E. Chatelain, 11 October 1935, National Park Service, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, D.C. Hereinafter cited as NARC. Rogers W. Young to Verne E. Chatelain, 26 February 1936, NARC.

The contact station was erected on the southwest summit of the battlefield ridge. The contact booth contained a desk and bench for the guides, and registration sheets for visitors. Young trained the CCC guides in their interpretive duties. He instructed them in the battle's story, the topography of the area, and methods of handling visitors. At the time of his transfer from Kings Mountain in June 1936, Young was proposing the addition of trails following the troop positions in the battle and the construction of roadside parking areas.²

Young was sent back to his original post at Fort Pulaski because his transfer to Kings Mountain had never been authorized. Director Cammerer's request that Young be permanently assigned to Kings Mountain was denied.³

Young's departure worried local park supporters. Mrs. R. E. Bratton, the regent of the Kings Mountain Daughters of the American Revolution chapter in York, South Carolina, wrote Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes to express concern at Young's transfer and the resulting impact on Kings Mountain's historical program.

²Rogers W. Young, Bi-Weekly Report to Verne E. Chate-lain, 10 June 1936, NARC.

³E. K. Burlew, Memorandum for the Director, 26 August 1936, NARC.

Mrs. Bratton was assured that the program at Kings Mountain would be completed in spite of Young's departure.⁴

Early Development--Kings Mountain Gets a Superintendent

Two CCC camps were established to develop the park area. One camp, MP-1, was to develop the military park, while the other, SP-7, was organized to work in the area set aside for the proposed state park.

Development at Kings Mountain, however, was held up by the land acquisition process. Since funding for land purchases was not being released, the CCC camps were relegated to fire prevention work. Fire reduction activities were restricted to the properties that had been acquired, or where options had been obtained. Boundary surveys were conducted by the CCC in coordination with the acquisition of these properties.⁵

On April 29, 1936, Kings Mountain was placed under the administration of Superintendent B. Floyd Flickinger of Colonial National Historical Park. Flickinger was the coordinating superintendent of the southern Revo-

⁴Harry Slattery to Mrs. R. E. Bratton, 12 September 1936, NARC.

⁵Harper L. Garrett, "Report of Visit Made December 1935 and January 1936," Historians Office, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. Hereinafter cited as WASO-HIST. O. A. Cozzoni to O. G. Taylor, 22 October 1935, WASO-HIST.

lutionary War parks. It was soon obvious, however, that Kings Mountain needed an on-site superintendent. The lack of a permanent park superintendent placed a burden on Flickinger, and further developments at Kings Mountain necessitated the presence of a superintendent.

At first, the Washington Office withheld approval of the new position on the basis that Kings Mountain was not an established park. Flickinger pointed out the absurdity of this reasoning. The park already encompassed 2,000 acres and would soon double in size. A superintendent was also needed to supervise the programs Rogers Young had instituted. Flickinger's plea was heard, and on August 19, 1937, the permanent position of superintendent was established for Kings Mountain. The annual salary for the position was \$2,600. In October of that year, Oswald E. Camp, the superintendent of the Statue of Liberty National Monument, was appointed as the first superintendent at Kings Mountain.⁶

In October 1937 Regional Director Carl P. Russell, Associate Historian Roy E. Appleman, B. Floyd Flickinger, Superintendent Camp, and Project Manager G. H. Earp toured

⁶B. Floyd Flickinger to the Director, 5 August 1937, NARC; Hillory A. Tolson to B. Floyd Flickinger, 23 September 1937, NARC; R. O. Jennings to B. Floyd Flickinger, 9 October 1937, NARC.

the park and discussed future developments. Appleman later expressed his opinions on development to Regional Director Russell. Appleman felt that development should be limited to a trail system, historical markers, adequate roads, an administrative building, and the superintendent's residence. Once these needs were met, "physical development of the area should stop," and "intrusions should be kept to a minimum." Appleman proposed that the area be restored to its 1780 appearance through natural processes. The intrusion of man into the landscape should be limited. Appleman pointed out that the erection of the Centennial Monument had probably caused the destruction of a group of rocks that the Loyalist riflemen had used for cover during the battle. Efforts needed to be taken to prevent the destruction of historic landmarks in the future.⁷

On December 1, 1937, Oswald E. Camp assumed his duties as superintendent at Kings Mountain. Camp found that CCC laborers were constructing a new entrance road. Camp MP-1 was closed two weeks after Camp's arrival. This left Camp SP-7 to complete development at the military park, as well as finish its regular work in the Recreational Demonstration Project.⁸

⁷Roy E. Appleman to Regional Director Russell, 15 October 1937, NARC.

⁸Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 3 January 1938, Kings Mountain National Military Park. Hereinafter cited as KIMO.

An administrative problem that needed correction was the separate administration of the military park and the Recreational Demonstration Project. Kings Mountain National Military Park was directed by Coordinating Superintendent Flickinger from his office at Colonial National Historical Park, while the Recreational Demonstration Project was administered by the Region One Office in Richmond. The development of the two areas required more coordination, so the supervision of Kings Mountain was transferred to Region One by Director Cammerer in April 1938. Cammerer was aware that the military park's lack of an approved development plan was an immediate problem. He noted that "development of the area has been delayed to such an extent that the local people, on two separate occasions, have requested that something be done to expedite it."⁹ Hopefully, the administrative change would facilitate development at Kings Mountain.

The Recreational Demonstration Area

When Kings Mountain National Military Park was transferred from the administration of Colonial National His-

⁹Ronald F. Lee, Memorandum for the Director, 11 April 1938, NARC; Arno B. Cammerer to B. Floyd Flickinger, 20 April 1938, NARC.

torical Park to Region One, the Recreational Demonstration Area had been developed considerably. The Park Service had always intended for this area to be deeded to South Carolina as a state park when the development was completed.

By the fall of 1939, most of the Recreational Demonstration Area's development had been completed. Two lakes, Lake McElwee and Lake Crawford, had been finished. Lake McElwee covered sixty acres, while Lake Crawford had a size of nine acres. Lake McElwee was part of a group camp unit of thirty acres, which had forty-four buildings and space for at least one hundred campers. The area also had a day use section at Lake Crawford. This area was used by visitors who were not staying overnight. The day use section provided picnic and cooking facilities, as well as bathhouses.

The group camp was operated by the South Carolina State Forestry Commission's Park Service. Groups could rent the camp for periods of one week or more at a charge of \$5 per person. The South Carolina Park Service provided food and handled the details of administering the camp. The campers were allowed to organize their own recreational program.¹⁰

¹⁰Rock Hill (S.C.) The Herald, 31 October 1939, KIMO.

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes' order of July 11, 1940, established the military park's land base at 4,012 acres. The Recreational Demonstration Area was allowed the remaining 6,000 acres. In June 1944 the state of South Carolina accepted the Recreational Demonstration Area.¹¹ The area was designated Kings Mountain State Park. The state park has fulfilled its purpose as a recreational haven for local residents. Besides providing a buffer zone against intrusions, the state park also offers camping, cooking, and swimming facilities to the public. This relieves the military park of these responsibilities, and the headaches that result from them.

Staff Shortages

After Kings Mountain was transferred to Region One, a conference was held to discuss the development program. The CCC was authorized to construct a new contact station, to begin a tree-planting program, and to place new markers in the park. The entrance road was to be graded and prepared for surfacing. Tentative plans were made for construction of administrative and museum facilities and an amphitheater. The amphitheater was

¹¹ Superintendent's Annual Report, 22 July 1944, NARC.

a result of the local people's desire for a suitable location to hold the annual anniversary celebration. Since Superintendent Camp was the only permanent Park Service employee at the park, it was decided to turn approved development projects over to Project Manager Earp for execution. This would coordinate the work of the remaining CCC camp and lighten Camp's workload.¹²

Camp worked under many handicaps during the early period. He was without clerical or ranger assistance, and he constantly reminded his superiors of this. The need for ranger protection was obvious. The monuments and markers were defaced constantly by vandals using pencils and lipstick.¹³ The newly completed contact station's windows were broken by vandals on the night before the battle's 158th anniversary celebration in 1938. On the next day the broken windows were seen by those attending the ceremony. Camp asked Director Cammerer for help. He wrote:

Depredations of this, or any, character, cannot be brought to a stop without adequate personnel. The writer has repeatedly urged funds for the appointment of personnel particularly protection rangers. It is impossible for the writer to act as ranger on

¹²Ronald F. Lee, Memorandum for the Director, 21 April 1938, NARC.

¹³Roy E. Appleman, Memorandum for the Files, Kings Mountain National Military Park, 22 April 1938, WASO-HIST.

4,000 acres of property, much of which he has not yet even seen, owing to the large amount of purely clerical work necessary in the office. It is not believed to be the Service policy that the Superintendent should even attempt such work.¹⁴

Camp's pleas were not heeded until December 6, 1940, when Ranger Stanley McComas arrived to provide much needed protection for the park. The clerical position was not filled, however, and Camp performed clerical duties until his departure in January, 1942.¹⁵

The Administration-Museum Building

The chief priority at Kings Mountain was the construction of an administration-museum building. Superintendent Camp was using an abandoned CCC building as his office. A humorous (in retrospect) incident occurred in December 1938, when Army authorities from Fort Macon, South Carolina, tore down half of the office while Camp was away on leave. The reasons for the action are unclear. An angry Camp returned to find papers scattered over the floor, and some files were lost. The next month was spent repairing the damage and sealing the office so it could be used again. The Washington Office sympathized with Camp's

¹⁴Oswald E. Camp, Memorandum to the Director, 3 November 1938, NARC.

¹⁵Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 3 January 1941, KIMO.

predicament and promised to help. Camp replied that an administration building was the park's greatest need. He wrote that "the present office is not the type to inspire respect for the Service in the minds of quite a large number of visitors who come to see the Superintendent."¹⁶

The decision was made to build an administrative facility at Kings Mountain. Since the park's staff was to be small, it was decided to combine the administrative and museum functions in one building. Opinion was divided on the site. Two locations were proposed: one grouped the administration-museum building with the amphitheater at a site southeast of Kings Mountain and east of the main park road, while the other site was north of the battlefield and to the west of the park road. The first location was proposed by Landscape Architect Kenneth B. Simmons, Regional Architect O. M. Bullock, and Regional Engineer L. M. Gray. The other site had the support of Assistant Research Technician Ralston B. Lattimore, Oswald E. Camp and Project Manager Earp. Because of the differences in opinion, Regional Director M. R.

¹⁶Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 3 January 1939, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 1 February 1939, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 3 March 1939, KIMO. J. R. White, Memorandum to Oswald E. Camp, 17 May 1939, KIMO; Oswald E. Camp, Memorandum for the Director, 23 May 1939, NARC.

Tillotson called for a conference at Kings Mountain to settle the issue.¹⁷

The conference was held on February 14, 1939. Although the principal topic was the location of the administration-museum building, the group discussed the preservation of historic structures within the park as well (see Chapter 5, The Hawthorn House Interlude). The meeting did not produce the desired result, as opinion remained divided on the location of the administration-museum building.

Kenneth Simmons differed with the proposal made by Lattimore, Camp, and Earp because it would place the building opposite the existing parking area. Lattimore had suggested that the problem of visitors crossing the road to get to the museum could be solved by constructing a subway under the road. Simmons thought this proposal was not feasible. The Simmons, Bullock, and Gray proposal kept the administration-museum building and the parking area on the same side of the road as the battlefield. This site had the advantage of level ground, and the amphitheater could be located nearby. This would reduce construction costs.¹⁸

¹⁷V. R. Ludgate, Memorandum for Resident Landscape Architect Wilhelm, 13 January 1939, NARC; M. R. Tillotson, Memorandum for the Director, 23 January 1939, NARC.

¹⁸Kenneth B. Simmons, Memorandum for the Regional Landscape Architect, 20 February 1939, NARC.

Ralston B. Lattimore realized that his plan had flaws. He admitted that constructing the building at the site he proposed with Camp and Earp would cause an intrusion on the historic scene, but this location was "the best in the park area in reference to control." Lattimore reiterated his idea of a subway leading from the parking area to the building. Oswald E. Camp thought a subway was unnecessary since traffic was not heavy enough to warrant its construction. Lattimore and Camp agreed that the amphitheater should not be located near the administration-museum building. Instead they proposed a site three-quarters of a mile from the administrative facility's location. Camp emphasized that the amphitheater should be located in a private area, out of "sight and sound of road traffic," and with "some cover to take care of considerable heat during the season of our greatest visitation." Since the amphitheater would only be used on special occasions, Camp felt that visitors would not mind walking the extra distance.¹⁹

Regional Historian Roy E. Appleman studied the situation and concluded that both sites were suitable. He decided, however, that the Lattimore-Camp proposal had

¹⁹Ralston B. Lattimore to the Regional Director, Region One, 23 January 1939, NARC; Oswald E. Camp to the Regional Director, Region One, 27 January 1939, NARC.

the greatest merit because it coincided with the existing parking area and battlefield trail. The existing trail began 100 yards from the Centennial Monument. Under the Simmons-Bullock proposal, the trail would start at the eastern end and lowest point of the battlefield ridge. Appleman stated that the battle had ended at this point, and locating the trail there would present the story to the visitor in a confusing "backwards" way.

If the Simmons-Bullock plan were selected, the existing parking area would have to be obliterated. Otherwise, the visitors coming from U.S. Highway 29 would be stopped by the existing trail. After walking the trail, they would re-enter their cars and return to Highway 29, without having visited the administration-museum building. Superintendent Camp had compiled statistics showing that most of the park's visitation was from the north via Highway 29. After reviewing these facts, Appleman concluded:

If the Service is willing to take the point of view that planning and work so far performed at Kings Mountain has been a mistake and is willing to obliterate the parking area, roadside development, and trail up the western spur of Kings Mountain, then I would be favorably inclined towards the site recommended by representatives of the Branch of Plans and Design. Otherwise, I would be strongly opposed to it as I believe it will result in an extremely bad situation relative to contacting the visiting public and making

available to visitors museum, educational and administrative facilities.²⁰

The Lattimore-Camp proposal was chosen as the site for the administration-museum building. In retrospect, this decision can be viewed as an unfortunate one since the Simmons-Bullock site is near the present visitor center location. The Lattimore-Camp site allowed the existing parking area and trail system to be retained, and this was a factor in its being chosen.

Meanwhile, problems were encountered at the legislative level in obtaining funds for the construction of the administration-museum building. Local park supporters grew impatient again. W. G. Finley told the Regional Office that as of September 1938, "the development of Kings Mountain National Military Park proper has been under way for some four years, and to date there is practically nothing to show for it."²¹

Senator Byrnes of South Carolina was a major force in obtaining the funds for development. Park Service officials had requested the inclusion of \$25,000 in the 1940 budget to fund the construction at Kings Mountain, but this request was turned down. Byrnes protested to

²⁰Roy E. Appleman, Memorandum to Regional Director, 16 March 1939, NARC.

²¹W. G. Finley to Carl P. Russell, 26 September 1938, NARC.

Secretary Ickes, stating that due to the paucity of funds, the CCC laborers "were forced to work upon trails, roads and the clearing of undergrowth." Kings Mountain had the necessary labor for construction, but the funds were not being allocated. Byrnes told Ickes that "the Park Service should be permitted to do some work in this area of a permanent character. Now, after several years work, there are no permanent improvements on the grounds."²²

Because of economic necessity and the park's small staff, the administrative and museum facilities were combined into one structure. This caused an increase in the funding request to \$40,000. In May 1939, the Park Service's Acting Director A. E. Demaray asked Secretary Ickes to approve the request that this amount be taken from old Public Works funds. Demaray stressed that Kings Mountain's visitation had doubled in the past year, and there was "an urgent need" for administrative and museum facilities at the park.²³ Demaray's idea did not work. The Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works turned down the request for funding because there were

²²James F. Byrnes to Harold L. Ickes, 10 May 1939, NARC.

²³A. E. Demaray, Memorandum for the Secretary, 20 May 1939, NARC.

not "sufficient unobligated balances of old Public Works funds to allocate for the project." There were no other funds for constructing the administration-museum building.²⁴

Senator Byrnes did not give up. On August 5, 1939, the Third Deficiency Bill was approved. The bill contained an amendment (introduced by Byrnes) that allocated \$40,000 for the construction of an administrative-museum building at Kings Mountain.²⁵ The site was selected, the money was allocated, and now it was time to build the structure.

The first development at the park involved the amphitheater. It was designed to seat 1,200 people and could be expanded to hold 3,000, if necessary. The structure was situated in a "natural rounded amphitheater" in a heavily wooded area. The amphitheater was first used in the battle's 159th anniversary celebration in 1939.²⁶

Superintendent Camp supervised the development projects at Kings Mountain. Camp envisioned a park that would impress visitors, and he was often abrasive toward the Regional Office when his expectations were unfulfilled. Camp protested the construction estimates that allowed \$28,800 for the administrative-museum building and \$6,600

²⁴A. E. Demaray to James F. Byrnes, 8 June 1939, NARC.

²⁵Charlotte Observer, 6 August 1939.

²⁶Rock Hill (S.C.) The Herald, KIMO; Roy E. Appleman, Memorandum for the Regional Director, 6 September 1939, WASO-HIST; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 4 November 1939, KIMO.

for the superintendent's residence. He pointed out that Kings Mountain was potentially the second largest military park in the country after Chickamauga-Chattanooga, and he thought it was "not proper that modest buildings be erected at the outset of the building program." Camp was aware that the administration-museum building at Chickamauga-Chattanooga had cost approximately \$57,000, while Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields Memorial National Military Park had a new superintendent's residence that had cost about \$25,000 to construct. He added that "no such expensive construction is desired by the writer at the Kings Mountain National Military Park, but it is his desire and great ambition to have here construction adequate in every way to its use, surroundings and the importance of this Revolutionary Battlefield Park."²⁷

Camp also disagreed with construction details. He vehemently opposed the construction of white and black toilets in the administration-museum building. The white toilets were to be situated in the main entrance hall, while the black toilets were to be located in the basement. Camp felt that restroom facilities should be removed from the building. He told the Regional Office that

²⁷ Oswald E. Camp, Memorandum for the Regional Director, Region One, 9 February 1940, NARC; Oswald E. Camp, Memorandum to the Regional Director, Region One, 28 August 1939, NARC.

"the necessity is regretted of designing the building to fit an appropriation, instead of having the appropriation made to provide funds for the building after design and estimate of cost."²⁸

Between 1939 and the summer of 1942, Kings Mountain underwent unprecedented development. A major project was the obliteration of the one-day-road and the revision of the main park drive. The one-day-road cut through the battlefield; this intrusion necessitated the road's obliteration. In January 1941, 72,000 pine and hardwood seedlings were planted in the park, and some planting was done on the obliterated one-day-road. The CCC laid base stone on the main park drive in preparation for the road's surfacing. The surfacing was completed in November 1941.²⁹

The contract for constructing the administration-museum building was awarded to the Southeastern Construction Company of Charlotte, North Carolina. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on August 12, 1940. On April 2, 1941, Superintendent Camp received the master key to the completed building, and he moved his office furni-

²⁸ Oswald E. Camp, Memorandum for the Regional Director, Region One, 9 January 1940, NARC.

²⁹ Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 3 January 1940, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 3 February 1941, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 3 December 1941, KIMO. Superintendent Camp constantly refers to the "one-day road" in his monthly reports. There is, however, no explanation of how the name originated.

ture in on April 11. During the park's Easter service on the following day, the new building was opened to the public and received favorable reaction.³⁰

The War Years

When James B. Felton succeeded Oswald E. Camp as superintendent on January 15, 1942, he found an administration-museum building that was structurally complete, but without power. The CCC had been working on the construction of a superintendent's residence, but this project had proceeded slowly and was not complete. Felton found that working conditions in the administration-museum building were uncomfortable. He reported that "the furnace in the administration building cannot be used without power. Work in the superintendent's office has been difficult, for fireplace heat in this room has been totally inadequate."³¹

With the advent of World War II, CCC enrollment at Kings Mountain decreased from its average of 205 men to approximately 50 in February 1942. Felton observed that "work details in the field have been very small all month. Progress toward realizing the use of facilities

³⁰ Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 3 August 1940, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 1 September 1940, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 3 May 1941, KIMO.

³¹ Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 5 February 1942, KIMO.

provided in the administration building has been slow. None of the work programs in the park are on schedule."³²

On March 15, 1942, the CCC work at Kings Mountain ended. Superintendent Felton was distressed as it appeared as if the park's development projects would not be completed. The CCC's departure also took away the guides who had conducted tours of the battlefield. This increased Superintendent Felton's and Ranger Stanley McComas' workload, for now they had to spend more time in contact with visitors. Felton gave the following report on the bleak situation at Kings Mountain:

Word of the termination of their activities [the CCC] came as a hard blow to our ambitions; however, lack of enrollee personnel has served to nullify most CCC effort in the field these past two months. Despite this factor we did hope to finish many jobs which through hurried abandonment have been left in semi-chaotic condition. Materials have been necessarily scattered in the administrative group as construction continues here. Several outlying points in the park have been quitted without proper cleanup of debris. Road shoulders along the main park drive appear very ragged. The lower parking area remains unsightly. The general condition of the Battleground leaves much to be desired. WPA is the only force on hand which may be able to clear up this situation. How much work they can accomplish in this direction is a matter of question.³³

Felton was referring to the Works Projects Administration. Because of the labor shortage, area farmers were

³²Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 3 March 1942, KIMO.

³³Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 2 April 1942, KIMO.

pressing for the termination of WPA activities. The York County WPA cooperated by giving lists of its workers with farm experience to farm employment representatives. Fourteen of the fifty WPA laborers at Kings Mountain qualified for farm employment. Felton realized that workers were needed on the farms, but the WPA labor was needed at Kings Mountain to complete a power line and road improvements. He told Mrs. R. E. Bratton of the York, South Carolina, DAR chapter that without WPA help it would be impossible to keep the administrative-museum building open.³⁴

Congressman J. P. Richards responded to these problems with a letter to Park Service Director Newton B. Drury. Richards wrote:

To save my life, I cannot see why a permanent museum administration building in a great National Military Park should be closed on account of the lack of relief labor. It seems to me that there should be some one stationed permanently at this museum building to be paid out of the regular National Military Park appropriations.³⁵

Acting Director Demaray told Richards that Kings Mountain already had adequate permanent personnel. The problems at the park stemmed from the lack of power to the administration-museum building, and the WPA project

³⁴Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 2 April 1942, KIMO; James B. Felton to Mrs. R. E. Bratton, 12 March 1942, NARC.

³⁵J. P. Richards to Newton B. Drury, 16 March 1942, NARC.

was supposed to construct the needed power line. Demaray added that "completion of the work is contingent upon the continued assignment of adequate labor which is becoming difficult due to defense projects having first priority."³⁶

Eventually, area farmers took half of the park's WPA employees. In spite of this manpower shortage, the power line was completed in June 1942. Electricity was available to Kings Mountain.³⁷

On August 30, 1942, James Felton left the park to begin naval officer training. He was replaced by Vernon A. Neasham of Region Four. Neasham arrived on October 23 and found that the superintendent's residence was not ready for occupancy. Construction on the house had begun two years before, but the residence was unfinished because a heating system had not been installed. There were no funds available to hire the labor to complete the work. The residence was not occupied until July 1, 1944, when custodian Ivan J. Ellsworth moved in.³⁸

During the war, gasoline rationing and the tire

³⁶A. E. Demaray to J. P. Richards, 21 March 1942, NARC.

³⁷Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 5 June 1942, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, July 1942, KIMO.

³⁸Stanley McComas, Memorandum for the Regional Director, Region One, 28 September 1942, NARC; Fred T. Johnson, Memorandum for the Director, 8 October 1942, NARC; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 8 August 1944, KIMO.

shortage caused a decrease in visitation. In August 1942 the park received 1,154 visitors, as compared to August 1941 when 4,345 people visited the park. The war also sapped the park's labor force. On September 29, 1942, the WPA project at Kings Mountain was ended. Vernon Neasham noticed that the problem "of hiring adequate personnel to carry on the authorized work of the park is becoming increasingly difficult, as it is in other Service areas. During the entire month of November . . . no regular janitor was available to work in the administration-museum building. Consequently, both Ranger McComas and the Acting Superintendent served as Acting Janitor."³⁹

Kings Mountain was used by the armed forces for tactical training during the war. In June 1943, 120 men in thirty-five trucks camped at the park overnight. The park's rugged terrain was ideal for maneuvers by small infantry detachments.⁴⁰

Custodian Neasham received an appointment in the United States Naval Reserve and reported for duty on February 22, 1944. He was replaced by Ivan J. Ellsworth,

³⁹ Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 3 September 1942, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 2 October 1942, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 1 December 1942, KIMO.

⁴⁰ Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 5 July 1943, KIMO.

a park ranger from Mammoth Cave National Park. . Ellsworth was the park custodian until James Felton returned from the service on April 10, 1946.⁴¹

"We are lassoed in a poor plan"

When Felton returned from his four-year absence, he was surprised that the park was not as rundown as he had feared. Felton noticed that the trees planted by the CCC had grown considerably, and it was hard to see formerly "barren areas." He concluded that "considering funds and personnel which have been available to this area in the past few years, it appears that a good job of maintenance and improvement has been accomplished."⁴²

Felton found that there were immediate needs at Kings Mountain. The park did not have a service area to store vehicles and equipment. Highway Engineer Ralph L. Lipscomb noticed the problem's extent when he visited the park in August 1947. Lipscomb described his visit as follows:

This being my first visit to this area I received a shock that must be experienced by all visitors to the area. You enter this area over a well-maintained road that creates the proper impression on all visitors. This impression is quickly changed when you drive into the parking area of the Museum-Headquarters Building. From the appearance you get here you wonder if you

⁴¹Superintendent's Annual Report, 22 July 1944, NARC; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 1 May 1946, KIMO.

⁴²Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 1 May 1946, KIMO.

haven't made a mistake and gotten into the Service Area. The area around the Museum Headquarters Building and Parking Area is being used to store trucks and other heavy equipment and road maintenance materials.⁴³

Lipscomb was informed that this arrangement was necessary until the service area was constructed. Lipscomb suggested that the equipment be moved to the proposed site of the service area, so visitors would not see it. This situation was not resolved until the utility area and service road were constructed in September 1952, and an equipment storage building was built in the fall of 1953.⁴⁴

From September to December 1946, Park Service personnel discussed changes in the parking situation at Kings Mountain. For the first time, opinions were expressed that the administration-museum building was poorly located. Regional Historian Roy Appleman visited the park in August 1946 and was informed that only a fourth of the people who parked in parking lots across the road from the administrative-museum building actually visited the museum. Instead, they climbed the mountain, saw the monuments, and returned to their cars to depart. As a result, many visitors never received the information and interpretive services

⁴³Ralph L. Lipscomb, Memorandum to Regional Engineer, 28 August 1947, NARC.

⁴⁴Ralph L. Lipscomb, Memorandum to Regional Engineer, 28 August 1947, NARC; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 11 October 1952, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 7 December 1953, KIMO.

the museum offered. Appleman concluded that "it becomes increasingly apparent that the administration-museum building is on the wrong side of the road."⁴⁵ Appleman's opinion is ironic, since he had supported the existing site earlier. He had based his decision on the location's proximity to the existing parking area. What evolved was a case of two wrongs failing to make a right--the parking areas were poorly located; but instead of alleviating this problem, the administration-museum building was constructed at an equally bad site.

At this time there were two parking lots across the main park drive from the museum: an upper and a lower parking area. During the period from 1943 to 1946, personnel from Region One and Washington had favored changing the connecting road between the parking areas into a footpath. The upper parking area would be obliterated, since it was viewed as an intrusion on the historic scene. This idea had the support of Regional Landscape Architect Ralph W. Emerson and Acting Regional Director Elbert Cox. Emerson commented that "this problem has been discussed for many years and it is time a final decision

⁴⁵Roy E. Appleman, Memorandum for the Regional Director, 27 September 1946, NARC.

is made so the plan and program of development may be crystallized."⁴⁶

Superintendent Felton and Roy Appleman opposed the plan. Appleman mentioned that the lower parking area was a half mile from the United States Monument, a distance many people would not be willing to walk. Appleman stressed that "we must make it easy, not hard, for visitors to see the historic areas if we are to serve the best interests of the public. . . . I believe local public opinion could react adversely and damagingly to the Park Service if the road up the slope and parking area were removed. I cannot see a good defense on our part against such criticism."⁴⁷

James Felton estimated that fifty percent of the park's visitors would not make the extended walk to the battlefield. Felton told the Region One Office that

those of whom work this park realize that the location of the Administration-Museum Building in relation to the parking facilities, main drive and battleground is unfortunate. We are lassoed in a poor plan. The present technicians who have inherited this problem strived to tailor a poor basic design to our needs. In doing so, I am of the opinion that we are attempting to cover past errors in planning at the expense of the visitor.⁴⁸

⁴⁶Ralph W. Emerson, Memorandum for the Regional Director, 26 November 1946, NARC; Elbert Cox, Memorandum for the Director, 11 December 1946, NARC.

⁴⁷Roy E. Appleman, Memorandum for the Regional Director, 21 October 1946, NARC.

⁴⁸James B. Felton, Memorandum for the Regional Director, 30 September 1946, NARC.

Acting Director Hillory A. Tolson studied these proposals and decided that the upper parking area would remain. He emphasized that adequate signs be placed to encourage visitors to see the museum before touring the battlefield.⁴⁹

Mission 66 Development

On July 21, 1951, James Felton left Kings Mountain to assume a park ranger's position at Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks. Before his departure, Felton reflected on the situation at Kings Mountain:

We have made an effort to improve the physical appearance of the area. Perhaps this was amiss and a case of trying to do much with little. My successor. . . will inherit several serious maintenance problems. These are the headaches of an inadequately financed park. It is hoped that the next Superintendent will have more success in this endeavor than has been mine.⁵⁰

Felton's successor, Ben F. Moomaw, was able to see the park's development and maintenance problems reach a solution, but it took Moomaw's entire twenty-five-year tenure at Kings Mountain for these problems to be resolved. The development of the park proceeded slowly. On his second anniversary at the park, Moomaw could reflect

⁴⁹Hillory A. Tolson, Memorandum for the Regional Director, Region One, 31 December 1946, NARC.

⁵⁰Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 9 July 1951, KIMO.

on such improvements as the utility and service area, and the sowing of the main park drive's shoulders. According to Moomaw, the park's staff was "several steps nearer to a completed park each year."⁵¹

With the end of World War II, visitation to national parks, including Kings Mountain, increased rapidly. The parks were still operating on limited, war-time budgets, and were unable to handle the increased visitation. The situation deteriorated steadily, and in 1955 Director Conrad L. Wirth obtained President Dwight D. Eisenhower's approval to initiate a ten-year program to bring the parks up to quality standards. The restoration program was called Mission 66 because it would conclude with the Park Service's fiftieth anniversary in 1966.⁵²

The Mission 66 development program at Kings Mountain included the construction of two employee residences, a residence road, the erection of new interpretive signs and markers, planting and landscaping, and the erection of a flagstaff. The employee residences were needed as the superintendent was the only member of the park's

⁵¹Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 11 August 1953, KIMO.

⁵²William C. Everhart, The National Park Service (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1983), pp. 25-27.

staff to permanently reside in the park. Having more personnel in the park on a permanent basis would provide better fire protection and law enforcement.

The C. T. Bennett Construction Company of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, was awarded the contract for the new residences. The residences were finished and occupied by the park historian and clerk in July 1958.⁵³

Superintendent Moomaw was unhappy with the new employee residences. The other two structures in the park--the administration-museum building and the superintendent's residence--were of Early American design, and conformed with the park's historic background. The new residences were of a modern design; and to Moomaw this was unacceptable. Moomaw viewed the houses after the construction was completed and remarked:

We now wish that we had had the technical advise [sic] of an architect when the plans were being circulated for comment and approval. If so, local approval would not have been given, because many glaring, undesirable (and offensive design) features could have been pointed out to us.

It is suggested that future plans be studied on the ground with small area Superintendents and an architect. . . to avoid what we now believe to be a serious mistake, by virtually

⁵³Superintendent's Annual Report, 1956, file A26, Washington National Records Center, Suitland, MD; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 10 December 1958, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 11 April 1958, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 11 August 1958, KIMO.

having these garish, modernistic monstrosities forced on the parks, especially period, or historic parks.⁵⁴

The Mission 66 construction was the last development of a major scale the park would see for years. In ensuing years, however, it became obvious that new visitor facilities were needed.

The New Visitor Center

With the passage of time, it became evident that the administration-museum building was not adequate to handle park visitors. Visitation increased at a steady rate after World War II. For example, in 1953 the park received more than 100,000 visitors, as opposed to 71,500 people in 1952.⁵⁵ The problems of handling visitation with inadequate facilities endured through the 1960s.

Matters were complicated by the lack of parking spaces. On a typical Sunday afternoon in the summer or during school group-tour season, the park would handle 800 to 1,200 visitors in two to three hours. Because of the parking shortage, cars were parked along the roadside and on the lawn. Park personnel had to direct traffic to prevent accidents.⁵⁶

⁵⁴Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 11 April 1958, KIMO.

⁵⁵Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 9 November 1953, KIMO.

⁵⁶Interview with Jim Anderson, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 15 October 1985.

Once inside the museum, the visitor encountered a poorly-ventilated and hot building. Inadequate ventilation was a problem for years. In June 1948, James Felton installed an electric fan to provide relief from the heat. With the fan operating, the thermometer in the room registered a cool ninety-three degrees.⁵⁷

From 1956 onward, live slide talks were given to visitors. The slide talks were given in the building's basement. Visitors were distracted by the overhead pipes they "could literally reach up and touch." Another distraction occurred when the upstairs commodes were flushed, and the water ran through the pipes. According to Park Historian Jim Anderson the park "simply outgrew this building."⁵⁸

Funds for new construction projects were limited, and Kings Mountain was overlooked continually. Superintendent Moomaw was chagrined when he noticed that the park was removed from the Park Service's 1968 construction program. Moomaw explained Kings Mountain's predicament to Regional Director Jackson E. Price:

This has happened each year since 1964. It is beginning to be a habit. In view of the enormously increased travel to Kings

⁵⁷Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 7 July 1948, KIMO.

⁵⁸Interview with Jim Anderson, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 15 October 1985.

Mountain and the loading of facilities that are designed to take care of 24,000 people a year, we are now handling in the neighborhood of 400,000 per year. Our conditions are crowded, at times unsanitary, and rather odoriferous in the Visitor Center. We again make a plea that if anything is left over from this reduced program, that some thought be given to work on the Visitor Center at Kings Mountain.⁵⁹

These problems were apparent to two teams that evaluated the park's management and operations. A 1969 management appraisal report wondered how Moomaw had managed "to hold the line these many years and present to some 341 thousand annual visitors such a clean and orderly park area, despite obvious handicaps facing management."⁶⁰ An operations evaluation team visited the park in 1971 and reported that "the basic interpretive program at Kings Mountain consists of an outmoded 1930-type visitor center which contains a small museum, a basement room which serves, very inadequately, as an auditorium for the presentation of slide talks. . . ."⁶¹ With these observations coming from outsiders, it became obvious that Kings Mountain needed new visitor facilities.

⁵⁹Ben F. Moomaw, Memorandum to Regional Director, Southeast Region, 19 February 1968, file D22, National Park Service Warehouse, Fort Gillen, GA.

⁶⁰"Management Appraisal Report," 2 May 1969, file A5427, KIMO, p. 3.

⁶¹"Operations Evaluation Report," October 1971, file A54, KIMO, p. 34.

The approaching Bicentennial of the American Revolution provided the impetus for Kings Mountain to get a much-needed development program. The park was included in the Park Service's Bicentennial Development Program.

To prepare for these developments, a new master plan was necessary. A master plan for Kings Mountain was prepared by the National Park Service's Eastern Service Center in 1971, and approved by Southeast Regional Director David D. Thompson. The master plan recommended that a new visitor facility be constructed. The plan proposed an open field near the amphitheater as the site for the building. The old administration-museum building could be converted into an administrative headquarters for the Park Service or be used as a youth hostel.⁶²

A development concept plan was prepared at the same time. The plan was followed except for a proposal that the United States Monument be relocated to a spot adjacent to the new visitor center. The old site of the monument would then be restored as a 1780 Loyalist campsite. Fortunately, this proposal was turned down. Robert M. Utley, the Assistant Director of Park Historic Preservation, told Regional Director Thompson that the monument was more than sixty years old and qualified for nomination

⁶²Kings Mountain National Military Park and State Park, "Master Plan," 1974, p. 23.

to the National Register of Historic Places. Utley opposed the monument's relocation because, "in essence, we would be giving a necessarily artificial and modern creation precedence over a genuine and significant historic structure." Thompson approved the development plans on the condition that the United States Monument would not be moved.⁶³

The development concept plan proposed the obliteration of the upper parking area. The lower parking area would be retained for staff parking. The new visitor center and parking area were to be "located on a 4-acre site west of the existing amphitheater and 250 yards south of the battlefield surrender site." The amphitheater was slated for renovation. The old administration-museum building was to be renovated and used as the park's headquarters.⁶⁴

The Laxton Construction Company of Charlotte, North Carolina, was awarded the contract to construct the visitor center. Construction began in October 1974, and the building was completed two and a half months ahead of schedule in July 1975. The visitor center was opened

⁶³Kings Mountain National Military Park, "Development Concept," 1973, p. 13; Robert M. Utley, Memorandum for Regional Director, Southeast Region, 5 March 1974, file H2623, WASO-HIST; David D. Thompson, Memorandum to Assistant Director, Park Historic Preservation, WASO, 15 March 1974, file H2623, WASO-HIST.

⁶⁴Kings Mountain National Military Park, "Development Concept," 1973, pp. 11-12.

in August 1975. The structure contained 7,000 square feet of floor space, and was "constructed primarily of materials native to the Kings Mountain area, including granite, 'bluestone,' pine and hardwoods." A theater with a seating capacity of 125 was included, as well as an eighteen-minute motion picture that told the battle's story to visitors. The new parking lot was designed to hold 107 vehicles and five buses.⁶⁵

The development package included the renovation of the amphitheater and the paving of the battlefield trail, which had been covered with gravel before. The access to the trail was changed to coincide with the new visitor center location. Half of the new trailside exhibits were audio-visual. This improved the interpretation of the battle to the visitor.⁶⁶

Now that the visitor center and parking area were completed, the park staff was sure that problems with handling visitation were over. During the first three months the facility was open, however, several parking overflow situations developed. The staff was directing traffic and parking again. As a result, Superintendent Andrew M. Loveless requested funds to construct an overflow

⁶⁵National Park Service, "News Release," KIMO.

⁶⁶Interview with Jim Anderson, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 15 October 1985.

parking area. Loveless stated that "without the overflow lot visitors will not be able to visit the park once the existing parking area is filled or they will have to wait for parking spaces, causing traffic congestion and unsafe conditions." This proposal was withdrawn, however, as the parking situation slackened in the following months. At present, the parking area is adequate for park needs, and visitors no longer have to cross the road to visit the museum.⁶⁷

The combination of the Bicentennial and Kings Mountain's need resulted in the park receiving the visitor facilities that had been desired for years.⁶⁸ Today, Kings Mountain has facilities that should satisfy the park's administrative and interpretive needs for many years.

⁶⁷Interview with Jim Anderson, Kings Mountain National Military Park, 15 October 1985; "Development/Study Package Proposal," 15 October 1976, file D2215, KIMO.

⁶⁸Interview with Jim Anderson, Kings Mountain National Military Park, 15 October 1985.

CHAPTER IV

THE ADMINISTRATION OF COWPENS 1937-1981

The Site 1929-1959

When Oswald E. Camp became the first National Park Service superintendent at Kings Mountain, on December 1, 1937, he also assumed responsibility for the management of Cowpens National Battlefield Site. Cowpens was administered by the superintendent at Kings Mountain until March 1981. This chapter will provide a brief overview of the administration of Cowpens during this period and the developments that led to the site's expansion to a park.

The Battle of Cowpens occurred on January 17, 1781. General Daniel Morgan's Patriot force defeated a British force under the command of Colonel Banastre Tarleton. Morgan used brilliant tactics to destroy an army that was numerically superior to his own. Cowpens was an important victory for the Patriots and joined Kings Mountain as a part of the chain of events that led to the final British defeat at Yorktown. The battle is unique because of the interesting personalities of the rival leaders, and Morgan's successful, if not accidental, use of the tactic of double envelopment.

Unlike Kings Mountain, Cowpens did not receive recognition as a national park at first. Only one acre was set aside to commemorate the battle. Cowpens National Battlefield Site was authorized by an Act of March 4, 1929. The site's purpose was described as follows:

To preserve that part of Cowpens Battlefield grounds. . . where General Daniel Morgan, commanding, participated in the Battle of Cowpens on the 17th day of January 1781.¹

The War Department was given jurisdiction over Cowpens National Battlefield Site and responsibility for erecting a monument; this was done in 1930. This monument and the one acre of land were the only commemoration the Battle of Cowpens was to receive for many years. Cowpens was among the historical areas transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior by the Executive Order of June 10, 1933.²

During his tenure at Kings Mountain, Junior Historian Rogers Young visited Cowpens and wrote this description:

The area is small, being V-shaped and about one acre in size. It is entirely undeveloped and appears abandoned. The monument requires some repointing, but

¹Cowpens National Battlefield, "Master Plan," 1970, p. 4.

²Cowpens National Battlefield, "Master Plan," 1970, p. 5; Thomas Alan Sullivan, Proclamations and Orders Relating to The National Park Service up to January 1, 1945 (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1947), pp. 6-7.

the iron fence surrounding it is in a deplorable condition, since it is rapidly deteriorating. This fence should be removed entirely as it is quite unsightly. No development in the area will be of any permanence, however, until there is provided some type of caretaker or custodian to stop the abuse of the area by drunken motorists, and mutilating trophy seekers.³

As a result of Young's recommendations, General V. Price became the site's custodian in August 1936, and held that position until October 1967. He was succeeded by Henry Lee Price, who maintained the grounds until February 1978, when the first full-time Park Service personnel arrived at the site.⁴ The Prices were farmers who gave their time toward keeping the Cowpens site mowed and properly maintained.

Although Cowpens came under the administration of Kings Mountain in December 1937, the site is not mentioned until the superintendent's monthly narrative report for September 1943. On September 27 the site was inspected by Assistant Director Hillory A. Tolson, Acting Chief Historian Herbert E. Kahler, Acting Regional Director Oliver G. Taylor, and Kings Mountain Custodian Vernon A. Neasham. The group discussed repairs to the monument and the fence that enclosed it. Future development of the site was also discussed. It was concluded that paving

³Rogers W. Young, Bi-Weekly Report to Verne E. Chatelain, 6 June 1936, National Park Service, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

⁴Neal G. Guse, Jr., and Lloyd K. Whitt, Officials of Southeast Region Offices and Parks, National Park Service (Atlanta: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 15 December 1983), p. 10. Hereinafter cited as Guse and Whitt, Officials of Southeast Region.

the country roads that ran along both sides of the monument, and acquisition of the DAR marker and the woods that lay south of the federal land, were future alternatives. The DAR marker was the Washington Light Infantry Monument that was erected in 1856 by the Washington Light Infantry of Charleston, South Carolina.⁵

In post-World War II years the staff at Kings Mountain was increased gradually, and it became possible to make monthly inspection trips to Cowpens. Superintendent James B. Felton inspected the area on May 23, 1950, and realized that the site's general appearance needed improvement. Felton was aware, however, that no funds were available for such work.⁶ The situation was the same in August of that year, and Felton remarked that, "Until adequate funds are available for the maintenance of this area discrepancies previously mentioned here will continue to exist."⁷

Historian Roy Appleman of the regional office in Richmond visited Cowpens on September 21 in the company of Superintendent Felton and Caretaker Price. Felton was left optimistic by the results of the inspection. He reported that the enthusiastic approach of Appleman to the problems of this long forgotten area was amazing.

⁵Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 6 October 1943, Kings Mountain National Military Park Library. Hereinafter cited as KIMO.

⁶Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 3 June 1950, KIMO.

⁷Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 6 September 1950, KIMO.

The monument was to be repointed with available funds. Felton hoped that a balance would be left from the project "to use toward making the picture they visualized a reality."⁸ Whatever Appleman's ideas were, they were never implemented. The monument was cleaned and repointed in March 1951, but no further development occurred at the site.⁹

Ben F. Moomaw replaced Felton in July 1951, and during his twenty-five-year tenure at Kings Mountain, the events that led to the enlargement of Cowpens gradually unfolded. A month after his arrival, Moomaw and Historian Benjamin Davis met with Mrs. Guy Vaughan of the Spartanburg Chapter of the DAR. This group offered to donate an additional acre to the Service. The tract included the Washington Light Infantry Monument.¹⁰

Although this acre was not acquired, Moomaw was able to obtain for the Park Service a fourth of an acre at Cowpens. In coordination with the Mission 66 development of the site, Moomaw encouraged local residents to support the closing of an old dirt road that was situated between South Carolina Highways No. 11 and 110 at the apex of the Park Service's land. He also hoped to acquire a small triangle of private land at the southern end of the site. Moomaw felt that these actions "would greatly

⁸ Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 6 October 1950, KIMO.

⁹ Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 8 June 1951, KIMO.

¹⁰ Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 6 September 1951, KIMO.

facilitate our planned development of the memorial treatment of the site." Through Moomaw's efforts the Daniel Morgan Chapter of the DAR, from Gaffney, South Carolina, agreed to accept title to the property, while the Cherokee County Commissioners cooperated by closing the old dirt road.¹¹ The Cherokee County Supervisor later agreed to grade and gravel the dirt road, allowing the Park Service to build a parking lot and a walkway there.¹²

Senator Olin D. Johnson introduced Senate bill S. 602 to enlarge Cowpens National Battlefield Site in January 1957. The Act became law on July 18, 1958, and Cowpens was to be enlarged from one to a limit of two acres. The Daniel Morgan DAR chapter donated the .24 acres to the government on June 24, 1959, and this constituted Cowpens' boundary for the next fifteen years.¹³

The Mission 66 development at Cowpens ran concurrently with the boundary change. The Mission 66 program at Cowpens entailed the building of a seventeen-car parking lot and a walkway to the monument. The grounds were planted with new grass and were graded, and a flagstaff was erected. The main feature in the development was

¹¹Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, September 1956, KIMO.

¹²Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 12 May 1958, KIMO.

¹³Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 7 February 1957, KIMO; Cowpens National Battlefield Site, "Master Plan," 1970, p. 5; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 11 August 1958, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 10 July 1959, KIMO.

the installation of exhibit cases with audio-visual messages.¹⁴ Moomaw reported that these improvements "have made the local people very proud of their area. Now for the first time in history, we of the National Park Service do not have to make any apologies for this area, as for the first time it looks like one of our areas."¹⁵

Public reaction to these developments was favorable. The improvements resulted in a visitor increase; visitation increased from an average of 50-75 people a month to 800 in July 1959. Kings Mountain staff contacts with the local residents were encouraging, as these people were happy that Cowpens was finally receiving some recognition.¹⁶

Difficulties were encountered, however, in keeping the audio interpretive devices running consistently. During October 1959, the message repeater was inoperative for two weeks. As the staff became familiar with working with the "electronic devices," these maintenance problems decreased.¹⁷

¹⁴Superintendent's Annual Report, 1956, file A26, Washington National Records Center, Suitland, MD. Hereinafter cited as WNRC.

¹⁵Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 6 May 1959, KIMO.

¹⁶Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 10 July 1959, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 11 August 1959, KIMO.

¹⁷Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 10 Jul 1959, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 9 November 1959, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Report, 6 April 1962, KIMO.

Cowpens Becomes a Park 1966-1981

In the fall of 1966 public sentiment in favor of a park at Cowpens was made known. The support for enlargement of the area was centered in Gaffney and Spartanburg, South Carolina. Since it was an election year, the park received the endorsements of Senator Strom Thurmond, several incumbent congressmen, and all of the new political candidates. Frank Sossanon of the Gaffney Ledger was an active force in encouraging area citizens to raise funds to be used toward the expansion of Cowpens. As a result of this public relations campaign, a development program for Cowpens was submitted in February 1967.¹⁸

On January 6, 1969, Representative Tom S. Gettys introduced a bill to expand the Cowpens National Battlefield Site. It was now realized that the existing site did not properly interpret the important Revolutionary War battle. H.R. 2073 would amend the 1958 act "to authorize the acquisition by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, transfer from any Federal department or agency, or exchange such lands and interests therein

¹⁸Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 3 November 1966, WNRC; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 6 December 1966, WNRC; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 7 March 1967, WNRC.

contiguous to the present site as the Secretary of the Interior designates as being necessary for the interpretation, protection, administration or public use of the site."¹⁹

A master plan for Cowpens development was prepared by a planning team and received approval by Southeast Region Director J. Leonard Volz on October 8, 1970. The master plan proposed that the two monuments be relocated. The visitor center would have a "rooftop observation deck" from which the visitor could view the battlefield. Afterwards, visitors could take an automobile tour of the battlefield, with parking available at strategic locations. The park was to be enlarged to encompass the entire battlefield, and "sufficient land to re-establish the setting at the time of the battle." Restoration of the area to its 1781 appearance was the eventual goal.²⁰

The most complicated part of the plan was the proposed relocation of State Highways 11 and 110 from their routes through the park to positions along the proposed boundary. The South Carolina Highway Department approved the relocation and agreed to maintain the relocated sections of the highways. The Park Service agreed to acquire the new right-of-way, provide a contractor for construction of the new sections, and then deed the right-of-way to

¹⁹Cowpens National Battlefield, "Master Plan," 1970, p. 5.

²⁰Ibid., pp. 5-7.

the State when the project was completed. Park Service personnel felt that control of the relocated sections was not essential to the preservation efforts at Cowpens.²¹

During the planning process, public meetings were held to discern to what extent the public supported the enlargement of Cowpens. After one of these meetings, J. A. Parris, a Cowpens resident, circulated a petition protesting the proposed park. Parris' reasons for protest included the fact that there were ninety houses within the proposed park area, at least twelve elderly widows lived in the area and would have to be relocated, and a government-financed community water district ran through the park area. Ben Moomaw was surprised at the petition, because Parris and the others who signed it had been at a hearing on Cowpens, and had "made no protest when requested to do so." Moomaw checked the signatures and noticed that not all of them belonged to property owners.²²

This petition is illustrative of the protests against the enlargement of Cowpens. Superintendent Loveless recalls that opposition to the park was "sporadic,

²¹Cowpens National Battlefield, "Master Plan," 1970, p. 12; "Memorandum of Agreement Between the National Park Service United States Department of the Interior and the South Carolina Highway Department," 1977, KIMO.

²²J. A. Parris to Ben F. Moomaw, 18 November 1970, file L1425, National Park Service Warehouse, Fort Gillen, GA. Hereinafter cited as Fort Gillen; Ben F. Moomaw, Memorandum to Director, Southeast Region, 23 November 1970, file L1425, Fort Gillen.

unorganized, and done on an individualized basis, so as a result, there was no coordinated attempt to resist it." At the same time, the proponents of the park were well organized, with political support. According to Loveless, sentiment favoring the park increased in relation to the distance one went from Cowpens. The people who were to be displaced, and those living on the periphery of the park, considered Cowpens an intrusion, while through the rest of Cherokee County support was considerable.²³

Meanwhile, Representative Gettys introduced another bill to revise the boundary at Cowpens National Battlefield. Through Gettys' efforts this bill was included in the Park Service's omnibus legislation (S. 2601), which was enacted on April 11, 1972. The area's name was changed to Cowpens National Battlefield, and 845 acres were to be added to the park. Appropriations for land acquisition totaled \$2.3 million and \$3.2 million was allocated for development.²⁴

When Mike Loveless succeeded Ben Moomaw as superintendent, he found that development at Cowpens was dead. Land acquisition was proceeding nicely, but the acquired land was not being developed. The Cowpens land development program bill had been deleted from the Park Service's

²³Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 16 October 1985.

²⁴U.S. Congress, House. Increases in Appropriations Ceilings and Boundary Changes in Certain Units of the National Park System, H.R. 10086, 92nd Cong., 2nd sess., 31 January 1972, Congressional Record 118: 1705-1718; "Statement for Management, Cowpens National Battlefield," 19 July 1979, p. 1, file D18, KIMO.

requests for legislation. Park Service priorities were concentrated in other areas. Cowpens found itself in competition with development projects, some of them critical, in other areas of the Park Service. These delays left Cowpens in danger of being "largely two state highways running down through the middle of essentially vacant lots."²⁵

Local park supporters appealed to their representatives. Senator Fritz Hollings, with the support of the rest of the South Carolina delegation, used congressional add-ons to extend the development funding to \$5.1 million. All the construction bills for Cowpens were add-ons at the committee level.²⁶

The development program was complicated by the "90 major buildings, including 27 farm residences, 45 yearround residences, 2 service stations and 3 garages within the area."²⁷ This necessitated the relocation of the people that lived within the new park boundary and the obliteration of many buildings. Although these people "were not overly anxious to dispose of their property," the land acquisition process, as a whole, ran smoothly.²⁸

²⁵Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 16 October 1985.

²⁶"Statement for Management, Cowpens National Battlfield," 19 July 1979, pp. 1-2, file D18, KIMO; Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, 16 October 1985.

²⁷"Statement for Management, Cowpens National Battlefield, 12 July 1978, p. 2, file D18, KIMO.

²⁸Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, 16 October 1985.

In July 1978 Superintendent Loveless made the following statement about the state of land acquisition and park development:

An intense amount of interest in the development has been expressed by the surrounding landowners, many of whom have been displaced by the land acquisition process. The National Park Service is being scrutinized very carefully by these citizens, who are naturally curious about park activities, but who are also waiting to see whether the Government will proceed with development as described in the Master Plan.²⁹

One historical structure, the Robert Scruggs House, was designated for preservation. The house was built about 1828, so it was not related to the Battle of Cowpens. It was, however, considered to be a typical nineteenth century yeoman farmer's residence in the Piedmont region. The structure was originally "a one-room log cabin with a loft, chimney and fireplace on the east side." Around 1872, the cabin was enlarged and framed, and an additional chimney was built on the west side. At the time of its acquisition, the frame addition was in poor condition due to damage from termites and the elements, while the original section was relatively stable. By April 1980, the Scruggs House had been restored and was opened to

²⁹"Statement for Management, Cowpens National Battlefield," 12 July 1978, file D18, KIMO.

the public with the assistance of seasonal employees. The interpreters were dressed as a farm couple, in period clothing made available by an Eastern National Park & Monument Association donation. (See Chapter 6, Concessions) The interpretive talks included demonstrations of "drop-spinning and simplified butter making."³⁰

Three houses were retained to serve as park employees' housing, while a fourth home was renovated for use as a temporary visitor center. The latter was used until November 1980. The lack of efficient visitor facilities prevented full development of an interpretive program for Cowpens until the permanent visitor center was completed.³¹

Supervisory Park Ranger Patricia M. Stanek entered on duty at Cowpens in February 1978 to provide on-site supervision. At the time of Stanek's arrival, vandalism was a major problem at the park. The homes that had belonged to relocated residents were now easy prey for vandals. A park technician was hired to provide law enforcement that would end the vandalism.³²

Superintendent Loveless realized that law enforcement at Cowpens would be hampered by inconsistencies in juris-

³⁰"Statement for Management, Cowpens National Battlefield," 19 July 1979, p. 2, file D18, KIMO; Superintendent's Annual Report, 11 February 1981, KIMO.

³¹"Statement for Management, Cowpens National Battlefield," 12 July 1978, p. 2, file D18, KIMO.

³²Ibid., p. 11.

diction there. The recently acquired lands were under proprietary jurisdiction because the federal government had not "accepted the cession of exclusive jurisdiction proffered by South Carolina law." The one acre that the Park Service had administered since 1933 was under exclusive jurisdiction. Loveless commented that, "Such mixed jurisdiction is inadequate and leads to confusion on the part of both the public and local law enforcement agencies and conversion to concurrent jurisdiction is recommended as a solution."³³ In September 1984 the jurisdiction of Cowpens was changed to concurrent. (See Chapter 6, The Jurisdiction Question.)

The development at Cowpens was completed in three phases. The first phase in 1977-1978 included the relocation of State Highways 11 and 110, obliteration of the state roads that intruded into the park, construction of a tour road and a visitor center parking lot, relocation of the houses that were to be used as employees' quarters, and the moving of the 1930 monument from the battlefield to an area in front of the proposed visitor center location. A \$1.3 million contract for this construction was let to Champion Landscaping of Kings Mountain, North Carolina.³⁴

³³Ibid., p. 7.

³⁴Andrew M. Loveless, Memorandum to Regional Director for Public Affairs, Southeast Region, 24 April 1978, file A2623, KIMO; Superintendent's Annual History Report, 7 April 1978, file A2621, KIMO.

Construction of the new visitor center highlighted the second phase of development that occurred between 1979 and 1980. Originally, the structure was conceived as three units surrounding a courtyard that would be the location of the relocated 1930 monument. The three units were to be an interpretive/administrative center, a group of restrooms, and a 7,000-square foot auditorium. The cost of construction was estimated at one million dollars, and this, plus increasing awareness of energy conservation, caused the design to be disapproved by the Regional Director.

A revised set of plans was submitted that entailed construction of a structure of 5,000 square feet. Construction costs of the center totaled \$457,855--less than half of the amount projected for the original design. The construction was contracted to Christman and Parsons, Inc., of Spartanburg, South Carolina, and the structure was completed in September 1980. On November 4 the park staff moved into the new visitor center.³⁵

The third development phase involved the construction of a picnic area and a utility building, and treatment

³⁵Superintendent's Annual Report, 27 March 1980, file A2621, KIMO; Superintendent's Annual Report, 11 February 1981, file H2621, KIMO; "Statement for Management, Cowpens National Battlefield," 19 July 1979, pp. 3-5.

of the park's entrance road. In November 1980, utility lines belonging to Duke Power Company and Chesnee Telephone Company of Chesnee, South Carolina, were removed and relocated outside the park. These lines had been an intrusion as they crossed through the battlefield. The park's visitor facilities were to receive power from underground lines.³⁶

As these developments were taking place, the land acquisition process was being completed. By October 1, 1979, all of the land needed to bring Cowpens' holdings to 847 acres had been acquired, with the exception of a 2.10-acre tract owned by New Pleasant Baptist Church. The church repeatedly refused to sell or exchange the land. Acquisition of this property had been deemed necessary as protection for the foundation and chimney of the Richard Scruggs House. This structure was built about 1811, and had burned down in the early 1950s, leaving only the stone foundation and rock chimney standing. After further study, it was decided that the historic site was adequately protected, and the Church property was not needed. Superintendent Loveless recommended that

³⁶Superintendent's Annual Report, 11 February 1981, file H2621, KIMO; "Statement for Management, Cowpens National Battlefield," 12 July 1978, p. 11, file D18, KIMO.

the land be declared an inholding with an unscheduled acquisition date.³⁷

Cowpens was developed in time for the celebration of the battle's bicentennial in January 1981. Cowpens was now considered to be a mature and developed park that could function on its own. As a result, Cowpens National Battlefield was separated from Kings Mountain on March 22, 1981. Patricia M. Stanek, who had served as unit manager for three years, now became the first superintendent of the independent Cowpens.³⁸

Cowpens' expansion to a national park was a result of the persistence of local supporters. Ben Moomaw effectively brought public sentiment to the Park Service's attention, while Mike Loveless brought the development process to its successful culmination. Cowpens was further aided by the celebration of the Revolutionary War Bicentennial, which increased the chances of securing an enlarged park. The Battle of Cowpens finally had the commemoration it deserved.

³⁷Andrew M. Loveless, Memorandum to Associate Regional Director, Planning and Assistance, Southeast Region, 3 October 1979, file L1415, KIMO; Andrew M. Loveless, Memorandum to Associate Regional Director, Planning and Assistance, Southeast Region, 12 October 1979, file L1415, KIMO.

³⁸Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 16 October 1985; Guse and Whitt, Officials of Southeast Region, p. 10.

CHAPTER V

THE HOWSER HOUSE

The history of the Henry Howser House under National Park Service administration can be viewed as a symbol of the historic preservation movement. The Park Service's attitude toward the Howser House has ranged from appreciation of its historic and architectural significance to antipathy and desires that it not be on park lands at all.

The Howser House: 1803-1934

The Howser House was built by a German immigrant, Henry Howser, in 1803. Howser was a stone mason who had moved south from Pennsylvania. His impressive stone house, real estate holdings, and ownership of three slaves--there were only six other slaveholders in the area--gave Howser considerable prestige in the eyes of his peers.

The house stayed in the Howser family's possession until 1884. Many of the family, including Henry Howser and his wife, Jane Dixon, are buried in a cemetery adjacent to the house. The gravestones, although deteriorated, still stand, and the inscriptions on some are legible.

The ownership of the house passed from the Howsers to Lawson Howell, a grandson of Henry Howser, II, in 1884,

and stayed in his family's control until 1918, when it was sold to J. F. Jenkins. The house remained under Jenkins' absentee ownership until it was obtained by the Merchant & Planters Bank of Gaffney, South Carolina, during the 1920s. The bank still owned the 401 acres of land in 1934, when the federal government acquired an option on it.¹ It took the United States government four years to obtain title to the optioned land, this being completed on January 20, 1938.²

Early Park Service Attitudes

During Junior Historian Rogers W. Young's brief tenure at the park in 1935-1936, he visited the house and described it as "unique" due to "the fact that it was the sole building of its type in the entire King's Mountain region, but also due to its unusual construction features."³

When Oswald E. Camp began his duties as Kings Mountain's first superintendent in December 1937, one of his first actions was to inspect the Howser House. Camp's attitude

¹Edwin C. Bearss and Michael Adlerstein, Historic Structure Report, Howser House, Historical and Architectural Data, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina (Denver: Denver Service Center, 1974), pp. 28, 42-45. Hereinafter cited as Bearss and Adlerstein, Howser House. This 1974 report was the basis of the later preservation work done on the Howser House. Bearss gives a more complete overview of the house's history before the Park Service, and of the Service's attitudes toward the structure after it became part of Kings Mountain National Military Park, than that contained in this chapter.

²Ibid., p. 48.

³Ibid., p. 45.

toward the house was ambiguous at best, a characteristic assumed by succeeding superintendents, as opposed to Ben Moomaw's outright opposition to the structure's preservation.

Camp and Project Superintendent George Fore inspected the Howser House on December 6, and the new superintendent submitted a report of his observations to Coordinating Superintendent B. Floyd Flickinger. Camp observed that the house was in "bad condition, nearly ready to collapse." He requested that a Park Service engineer inspect the Howser House before plans were made to preserve it. Camp believed that the structure might require "a complete reconstruction" to save it.⁴

Flickinger forwarded Camp's report to Region One Director Dr. Carl Russell, and in an additional letter he "urged immediate action to preserve the Howser House." Dr. Russell concurred with this opinion, and he decided that the Howser House would be repaired.⁵

The Hawthorn House Interlude

For a time the Howser House had to compete with the Hawthorn House in the Kings Mountain preservation plans.

⁴Ibid., p. 49.

⁵Ibid., pp. 49-50.

The Hawthorn House was a frame and log structure that supposedly had belonged to Colonel James Hawthorn, who was one of the patriots who fought at Kings Mountain. Duke Power Company's construction of the Lake Wylie dam on the Catawba River was going to destroy the structure, and the York, South Carolina, Daughters of the American Revolution chapter attempted to save it. Duke Power Company agreed to donate the Hawthorn House if the DAR would relocate it. Kings Mountain National Military Park seemed like a logical site for the Hawthorn House's relocation.⁶

Superintendent Camp supported the relocation plan and incorporated it into his idea of a "restored colonial village." In a letter to Coordinating Superintendent Flickinger on December 16, 1937, Camp outlined his plan. The Hawthorn House, the Howser House, a house near Sharon that Cornwallis had supposedly used as a headquarters, and any acquirable houses of historic significance should be located on the lines of a "colonial village." The houses would be furnished with "originals and reproductions" of "period material." Camp had no definite site for the village in mind, but proposed "that it should be within easy walking distance of the monument area, but screened

⁶Ibid., p. 51.

therefrom."⁷

Acting Director A. E. Demaray disapproved the acceptance of the Hawthorn House. Demaray based his decision on the Park Service's policy of "not demolishing historic structures and re-erecting them on other sites."

Flickinger disagreed and felt that the Hawthorn House should be considered separately from that policy as the Duke Power Company's dam would necessitate its demolition. Flickinger wrote, "In this case we have an opportunity to preserve a building which would otherwise be lost." Because of Kings Mountain's size, it was possible to locate the structure so it would not intrude on the battlefield. Flickinger suggested that the Hawthorn House be relocated near the Howser House, so the park's visitors could see "an eighteenth century pioneer's house and a more substantial stone house which was built after that country became more secure and prosperous." He added that the Howser House was totally separate from the story of the Battle of Kings Mountain.⁸

Meanwhile, Flickinger informed Oswald E. Camp of the situation regarding the Howser House and the proposed

⁷Oswald E. Camp to B. Floyd Flickinger, 16 December 1937, National Park Service, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, D.C. Hereinafter cited as NARC.

⁸B. Floyd Flickinger to the Director, 23 December 1937, NARC.

"colonial village" in a letter on January 14, 1938. The Park Service, due to reductions in technical personnel, had not assigned anyone to study the house. The coordinating superintendent concurred with Camp's recommendations to dismantle and rebuild the structure. Flickinger had brought the idea of the "colonial village" to the attention of the regional and Washington offices and was "positive that the general idea will be disapproved." He added that outside of the Hawthorn and Howser Houses, "I do not think it at all wise to inject any other buildings in the area, except those needed for the actual operation of the Park."⁹

Camp had already made the mistake of publicly announcing his ideas. His speech to the York Chapter of the DAR was recorded in the Yorkville Enquirer. The newspaper mentioned that Camp planned on "making a restored colonial village." Acting Director Demaray was dismayed at Camp's violation of the Park Service's "policies of reconstruction and public contacts." The recommendations for the "colonial village" should go to the Washington office, "and no announcement should be made regarding them until action has been taken here." Demaray told Flickinger to instruct Camp in the policies he had violated.¹⁰

⁹B. Floyd Flickinger to Oswald E. Camp, 14 January 1938, NARC.

¹⁰A. E. Demaray to B. Floyd Flickinger, 18 January 1938, NARC.

Flickinger followed Demaray's instructions and sent Camp a sharp rebuke for his talk to the DAR. He wrote:

In view of the present uncertain state of developments at Kings Mountain, I deem it wise to make practically no reference to any future construction. You should spend at least six months studying the local situation, both problems involved within the Park as well as public relations and contacts outside of the Park . . . I cannot emphasize too strongly the necessity for exercising extreme caution in any statement made concerning the Park.¹¹

A chastened Camp made no further mention of his "colonial village" idea.

Further support for the Hawthorn House proposals came from Regional Director Russell. In his letter to the Director of the Park Service on January 4, 1938, Russell proposed that the authenticity of the Hawthorn House should be determined and if the structure were original, it should be moved to Kings Mountain.¹²

In response to Russell's proposal, Assistant Historian Dr. Charles W. Porter studied the Hawthorn House and submitted a report. Porter favored moving the house to Kings Mountain because it was "inherently probable" that Colonel Hawthorn had lived in the structure. This conclusion was

¹¹B. Floyd Flickinger to Oswald E. Camp, 25 January 1938, NARC.

¹²Carl P. Russell to the Director, 4 January 1938, NARC.

based on the fact that the structure was on land known to have been owned by Hawthorn between 1785 and 1794, and the house's "unpretentious character" was consistent with the colonel's "economic and social standing" at the time.¹³ Still, there was no concrete evidence that Hawthorn had built or lived in the house; only speculation and tradition could justify the structure's removal to Kings Mountain.

Matters were further complicated with the entry of a third house into the preservation debate. The McElwee House, which was situated in the Recreational Demonstration Area, became the focus of preservation efforts. Restoration of the structure was supported by "at least three congressmen." A joint meeting was to be held at Kings Mountain on February 14, 1939, to discuss the park's planning and administration: including proposed sites for the administration-museum building, the superintendent's residence, employee housing and a utility building. Director Arno B. Cammerer instructed the regional technicians who were at the meeting to include the potential use of the McElwee, Howser, and Hawthorn houses in their agenda. Cammerer asked that the costs of restoring the structures

¹³Dr. Charles W. Porter, "Report on The Hawthorn House, Kings Mountain National Military Park, S.C.," 15 February 1938, Historians Office, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. Hereinafter cited as WASO-HIST.

be discussed.¹⁴

One of the technicians slated to attend the conference, Assistant Research Technician Ralston B. Lattimore, had already given his opinion in a memorandum to the regional director on January 23. Lattimore did not view the Howser House as having historic or architectural significance. Instead, he recommended the site as a future location of a ranger's residence. He described the Howser House as being "in a dangerous state of dilapidation." The house's woodwork could be salvaged and used to construct the proposed superintendent's residence.¹⁵

After the February 14 conference, Regional Architect O. M. Bullock and Landscape Architect Kenneth B. Simmons submitted reports of their conclusions. Regional Architect Bullock had made an earlier survey of the Hawthorn House that coincided with Dr. Porter's historical report and was therefore qualified to comment on the significance of the structure. Bullock confined his report mostly to the Howser House and dismissed the Hawthorn and McElwee Houses as unworthy of preservation because of their lack of "architectural character." The Howser House deserved

¹⁴Arno B. Cammerer, Memorandum for Regional Director, Region I, 3 February 1939, NARC.

¹⁵Ralston B. Lattimore, Memorandum for the Regional Director, Region One, 23 January 1939, NARC.

preservation, in Bullock's opinion, due to "its unusually good architectural character and its well-preserved present condition." Bullock noted that the Historic American Building Survey had considered the structure worthy of recording in its lists. He estimated that \$6,500 would be required to restore the house as an employee residence and \$3,000 to preserve it as a historic structure. In the meantime, "minimum repairs should be undertaken at once involving bracing and holding the walls, replacing the windows or bettening the openings, to prevent further deterioration."¹⁶

Landscape Architect Simmons agreed with Lattimore on the idea of locating a ranger's residence in the Howser House area, but he differed on Lattimore's statement that the house "is said not to be of historic significance and is not of architectural importance." Simmons wrote that the structure "has distinct architectural, pictorial and cultural merit and, by all means, should not be left to disintegrate." He recommended its preservation "for park use, perhaps as a ranger's residence." Simmons concurred with Bullock on the McElwee House and questioned its architectural or historical significance. Project Manager G.

¹⁶O. M. Bullock, Memorandum for Regional Landscape Architect, 2 March 1939, NARC.

H. Earp had told him that it was not even the original McElwee House. The McElwee House, Simmons thought, could be used by the Boy and Girl Scouts in their activities.¹⁷

With these recommendations in hand, Regional Landscape Architect V. R. Ludgate requested that the regional office make the following suggestions to the director: restore the Howser House according to Bullock's estimates; drop the Hawthorn House relocation idea; and make further studies of the McElwee House before a final decision on it was reached.¹⁸

Oswald E. Camp did not agree with the expert technician's recommendations for the Howser House. In his March 20 memorandum to the Regional Director, Camp dissented from opinions that the house's stonework was in good condition. He wrote:

The stone is laid up in mud. The fact that it has stood for about 140 years is no guarantee it will continue to stand. In the opinion of the writer, often expressed, this house should be torn down and rebuilt with cement plaster joints, or razed completely. In its present condition it is regarded as the source of great danger, should it collapse with visitors in it.¹⁹

While no action was taken toward restoring the Howser

¹⁷Kenneth B. Simmons, Memorandum for the Regional Landscape Architect, 20 February 1939, NARC.

¹⁸V. R. Ludgate, Memorandum for the Regional Director, 23 March 1939, NARC.

¹⁹Oswald E. Camp, Memorandum for the Regional Director, Region One, 20 March 1939, NARC.

House according to recommendations, sentiments favoring the preservation of the Hawthorn House were still heard. Congressman J. P. Richards lobbied for the cabin's removal to Kings Mountain. Acting Regional Director H. K. Roberts believed it was time for a definite administrative decision concerning the disposition of the Hawthorn House. In his memorandum to Director Newton B. Drury on January 27, 1941, Roberts recommended that the Park Service accept the house's donation, and relocate it near the Howser House or the park's amphitheater with the help of CCC labor. Director Drury sympathized with local interest in the Hawthorn House, but felt that its uncertain historical significance did not warrant its relocation to Kings Mountain. Instead the Howser House would be stabilized and CCC labor used on "the many pressing problems of conservation within the park area."²⁰ This ended the possibility of relocating the Hawthorn House to Kings Mountain.

"Let it Meld"

Unfortunately, during all the debate on preservation, no measures were taken to protect the Howser House from

²⁰H. K. Roberts, Memorandum for the Director, 27 January 1941, NARC; Newton B. Drury to J. P. Richards, 3 June 1941, NARC.

vandalism. As a result, considerable damage had been done to the house's interior, some of it by vandals searching for gold rumored to have been hidden by Henry Howser. Responsibility for this rests on Project Superintendent George Fore and Superintendent Camp, who neglected to protect the house from vandals. Camp had increasingly lost interest in the Howser House after his "colonial village" idea was turned down. The superintendent reversed himself, however, as it became apparent that the preservation focus would be on the Howser House, and he requested funds to board up the windows and doors of the structure. This expenditure was approved by the regional office, and the boarding up was accomplished by June 1941. The action was seven years too late.²¹

Ralston B. Lattimore visited the site on June 25, 1941, to inspect the house and the measures taken for its protection. Lattimore noticed that "the house at the present time is not marked with a notice of Government ownership, and the grounds surrounding it have grown up in weeds, giving it an abandoned atmosphere." This condition could be corrected by having the property inspected daily by the park staff, and with the posting of ownership. Lattimore also suggested that the grounds be mowed once a month

²¹Bearss and Adlerstein, Howser House, pp. 48, 62-63.

during the summer.²²

Superintendent Camp later requested that the park's janitor be allowed to move into the Howser House temporarily to make minor repairs. Regional Director Thomas J. Allen reminded Camp that the house had been included in the Historic American Buildings Survey and "to permit repairs by an unqualified agent might result in serious damage to its architectural character." Allen closed with the following reference to Camp's prior neglect of the structure:

The house should, however, be provided with such maintenance and supervision as is necessary for its preservation; lack of supervision has already resulted in the loss through vandalism of many of the principal items of architectural interest.²³

With the advent of World War II, funding for the Park Service projects was cut to a minimum, and the Howser House lay dormant, as did any chance for its restoration. James B. Felton replaced Camp as superintendent, and during his tenure at Kings Mountain the Howser House was relegated to minor status while the park faced a decreasing budget. Felton had the park's maintenance staff tear down the log barns opposite the Howser House in March 1949. Oswald Camp had requested that the barns be razed in 1941, but

²²Ralston B. Lattimore, Report for the Acting Regional Director, 8 July 1941, NARC.

²³Thomas J. Allen, Memorandum for Superintendent Camp, 13 December 1941, NARC.

it had taken eight years to conclude the project.²⁴

From 1944 to 1956 the Howser House was embroiled in the debate over altering the park's boundary. This subject has been covered previously, but the house's role should be restated (see Chapter 2, Settling the Park's Boundary).

The early boundary proposals by the Regional Office utilized Regional Landscape Architect Ralph W. Emerson's recommendations and Rogers W. Young's report on Patriot positions at the battle. The Richmond Office favored removing a large portion of land from Kings Mountain. The Howser tract was part of the area to be disposed. Superintendent Felton's March 14, 1947, Boundary Status Report favored retention of the Howser land because the park's sand and gravel pit was located on the property. Felton, however, hinted that he might be disposed toward selling the tract. He wrote "If the State would accept the property our problem concerning either the restoration or removal of the Stone House would be solved."²⁵

Felton's successor, Ben F. Moomaw, proposed a compromise that entailed trading two tracts of park land for two private ones. One of the tracts to be disposed contained

²⁴Bearss and Adlerstein, Howser House, pp. 65-67.

²⁵Boundary Status Report, Kings Mountain National Military Park, 14 March 1947, file 602, Kings Mountain National Military Park Library. Hereinafter cited as KIMO.

the Howser House. Moomaw cited the excessive cost of restoring and repairing the house as an extra reason for disposing of the tract.²⁶

The Howser House was retained within the park only because a South Carolina State Road, Route No. P-11-86, was constructed, and it ran alongside the Howser tract. This made the property's disposal impossible as it would create "an inholding."²⁷

When Moomaw mentioned the excessive cost of restoring the structure, he was referring to a 1953 attempt to stabilize the house. In 1953, \$2,000 was appropriated for stabilization--twelve years after the Park Service had first decided such measures were necessary. Region One Director Elbert Cox visited the park on April 14 and 15, 1952, and included an inspection of the Howser House in his itinerary. Cox immediately saw that the funds provided for stabilization amounted to only ten percent of the total needed. Since obtaining more funds was doubtful, Cox instructed Moomaw to "Let it meld," and the money for stabilization was withdrawn. As Edwin C. Bearss writes in his history of the Howser House, "Director Cox thus

²⁶ Ben F. Moomaw, Jr., Memorandum to Regional Director, Region One, 16 January 1953, file 602, KIMO.

²⁷ Ben F. Moomaw, Jr., Memorandum to Regional Director, Region One, 18 September 1956, file L-1417, KIMO.

gave substance to a policy the Park Service had been, in effect, following since it had acquired the house as part of the Merchants & Planters Bank Tract 17 in January 1938."²⁸

During the Mission 66 planning process, the Howser House was originally included in the program for preservation of historic structures. It was removed, however, at the insistence of Chief Historian Herbert E. Kahler and Superintendent Moomaw. Kahler admitted that the house had "slight interest" as a typical stone house, but the structure had "no relationship to the significant Revolutionary War events associated with this area as it was built in 1803."²⁹

An interesting correspondence occurred in July 1957 between Acting Director Hillory A. Tolson and Representative Robert W. Hemphill. One of Hemphill's constituents had expressed an interest in acquiring the house, restoring it, and making the structure available for summer public visitation. Tolson told Hemphill that

Research indicates the structure possesses no historic significance or claim to fame other than what accrues simply by virtue of old age. It has been found rehabilitation would be expensive, and the building does not possess values which would justify either that expense or our involvement in the

²⁸Bearss and Adlerstein, Howser House, p. 68.

²⁹Herbert E. Kahler to Harry Langley, 3 May 1956, WASO-HIST.

protection and maintenance problem. . . .
Therefore we must hold the property and will
keep the house in the best state of preservation
that circumstances will permit.³⁰

Tolson's letter summarizes the Park Service's attitude toward the Howser House. The Park Service allowed the structure to deteriorate despite the fact that outsiders could see its interpretive potential.

Preservation Triumphs

The Howser House existed in this state until March 1971, when Archeologist John Cotter of the Eastern Service Center visited Kings Mountain and was shown the structure by Ranger George West and Historian Gene Cox. West and Cox saw the Howser House's potential and favored its preservation; their efforts provided the impetus for the events that followed. Cotter was impressed by the structure and wrote "it is to be regretted that this house, which was relatively intact in the 1930's when the Park Service took over, is now a complete ruin inside. Ideally, it should be refurbished and used for interpretation. Barring this, the exterior should at least be conserved and made safe for the present."³¹

³⁰Hillory A. Tolson to Robert W. Hemphill, 8 July 1957, WASO-HIST.

³¹Bearss and Adlerstein, Howser House, pp. 69-70.

In June 1971, a team began working on Kings Mountain's new master plan. As part of this team, Historian Edwin C. Bearss visited the Howser House. Bearss noted that the staff at Kings Mountain was not in agreement on the house's future. Superintendent Moomaw was continuing to follow Regional Director Cox's 1952 decision to "let it meld." while West and Cox hoped to restore and preserve the structure. Everyone agreed that an historic structure report was needed before an intelligent management decision could be made; especially since the Howser House and cemetery were part of the park's Environmental Study Area. Bearss submitted a Resource Study Proposal for the Historic Structure Report, a report that he and Historical Architect Michael Adlerstein subsequently prepared.³²

In spite of the renewed interest in the Howser House, the structure continued to deteriorate. Historical Architect John Garner, from the Southeast Region office, visited the site on February 12-13, 1973, and saw that the "upper story windows were uncovered and the roof leaked." Also, vandals had again gained access to the interior and had caused considerable damage. Garner recognized the house's

³²Edwin C. Bearss, Memorandum to Chief, Office of History and Historic Architecture, ESC, 14 June 1971, file H2215, WASO-HIST; Edwin C. Bearss, "Resource Study Proposal: Historic Structure Report, Howser House," 14 June 1971, file H2215, WASO-HIST.

significance, even with the damage, and was aware that the structure was to be the subject of an historic structure report. Therefore, he emphasized to the Regional Office the importance of repairing the roof and closing the windows and doors to avoid additional damage and deterioration.³³

Since the Park Service might spend considerable funds on Howser House restoration, Superintendent Moomaw was instructed to follow Garner's recommendations and effect the necessary repairs. Moomaw maintained traditional opposition to preserving the house and balked at these instructions. He relented under pressure from Regional Director David Thompson, and on April 25, 1973, he reported that the repairs were finished.³⁴

During the review of Bearss and Adlerstein's Historic Structure Report, Acting Assistant Director of Park Historic Preservation Harry W. Pfanz concurred with a decision not to utilize the Howser House area as a "living farm." In his memorandum to the manager of the Denver Service Center, Pfanz wrote:

Kings Mountain NMP was established to commemorate a battle of the Revolutionary War. The Howser House happens to be within the park, but postdates the battle and is wholly unrelated to it. Because of its

³³Bearss and Adlerstein, Howser House, pp. 71-72.

³⁴Ibid., pp. 73-74.

architectural value, it deserves preservation. But it should not be elevated to a role of such visibility that it detracts the average visitor from what should remain the interpretive focus of the park. The fact that the house is the only significant historic structure adds to the danger of such a possibility.³⁵

This statement is especially significant as it indicates a policy toward the Howser House that has been an impediment to its interpretation. The excuse for not fully utilizing the house as an historic resource has been the fear, expressed above by Pfanz, that it would supersede the battle in the eyes of the visitor.

Historian Bearss and Architect Adlerstein completed the Historic Structure Report by June 1974. They recommended that the house's exterior be restored to its 1803 appearance. The interior of the first floor would be restored and furnished to reproduce its 1825 appearance, while the second floor was to be adapted as a "quarters for park personnel."³⁶

Because of delays in funding, restoration of the Howser House did not begin until the fall of 1976. The allocation for restoration totaled \$75,000, and by the end of that year "extensive interior reconstruction had been

³⁵Harry W. Pfanz, Memorandum to Manager, Denver Service Center, 27 December 1973, file H30, WASO-HIST.

³⁶Bearss and Adlerstein, Howser House, p. 1.

performed."³⁷ Eventually the exterior and interior rehabilitation was completed, and the Howser House was restored to its original state.

Current Use (or Lack of Use)

Ben F. Moomaw's successor as superintendent, Andrew M. Loveless, was given the task of utilizing the restored structure. Although the house has been maintained and kept in good condition, the interpretive program has fallen short. Beginning in 1978, the Howser House was opened on a limited basis to the public. By 1980 plans were made to open the house on summer weekends for guided tours. This became the park's policy: the Howser House was opened on Saturdays and Sundays during the summer and on a request basis through the rest of the year.

On February 28, 1980, Mike Loveless recommended in a memorandum to the Regional Director that the "interior rehabilitation . . . be completed" and that a study be conducted to prepare for refurnishing the bottom floor with reproductions. Loveless was influenced by the input received at a public meeting that had discussed the future use of the Howser House. He noted that almost all of the people who responded to a questionnaire given at the meeting

³⁷ Superintendent's Annual History Report, 21 January 1977, file A2621, KIMO.

avored public use of the structure.³⁸

Regional Director Joe Brown suggested that "a proposal for development and interpretation of the Howser House be prepared by the Park staff with assistance from Regional staff." Brown did not support refurnishing of the structure, "beyond a few reproduction pieces that can be utilized by the visitor: chairs, benches, tables, etc." Furnishings would be simple since it was unwise to spend large amounts of money until it was "determined that frequency of use justifies the investment." At present, Brown felt the Howser House could be used for small group meetings, while in the future it could "serve the community as a meeting place, headquarters of a local historical society, location of a small library on the American Revolution, or a combination of those and other uses."³⁹

The subsequent "Interpretive and Development Proposal for the Henry Howser House" concurred with Brown's ideas. The report proposed that the area be restored to its appearance in the early 19th century. The path to the cemetery would be stabilized so visitors could walk it. If visitation became heavy, the road leading to the

³⁸ Andrew M. Loveless, Memorandum to Regional Director, Southeast Region, 28 February 1980, file H32, KIMO.

³⁹ Joe Brown, Memorandum to Andrew M. Loveless, 31 March 1980, file H3015, KIMO.

house could be "graveled, graded, and restabilized at modest cost with allowance for a turnaround and 'uphill parking' on the right hand side as traffic comes out of the House area." A fire and burglar alarm system was recommended, and later installed, but running water, heat, and electricity were not deemed necessary.⁴⁰

These proposals look good on paper, but have never been implemented. Present park plans call for rehabilitation of the Howser Cemetery and surrounding it with a fence for protection.⁴¹ Currently, visitors are taken to the house only on request. Due to a lack of visitor interest, the weekend summer program was discontinued. The park staff's efforts to ensure that the Howser House not detract from the battle continue.⁴² Superintendent Loveless still sees the refurnishing of the first floor with replicas as a possibility. He feels that the house is significant on a regional instead of a national level, and that visitation in the past was not sufficient to warrant expanded use of the structure.⁴³

At present, the interpretive potential of the Howser House is not being utilized.

⁴⁰James J. Anderson, Memorandum to Regional Director, Southeast Region, 5 May 1980, file H3015, KIMO.

⁴¹Andrew M. Loveless to Frances Stowers, 14 March 1985, file H30, KIMO.

⁴²Interview with Jim Anderson, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 15 October 1985.

⁴³Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 16 October 1985.

CHAPTER VI

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

The administration of a national park is a complicated process involving many facets. This chapter will examine different topics relating to the administrative and interpretive aspects of Kings Mountain.

Interpretive Facilities

Kings Mountain National Military Park commemorates and interprets an historic event for visitors; therefore, the park's museum assumes a major role in the interpretive process. The museum's importance was sensed by Region One historian Roy Appleman during the park's early development. Appleman thought that the battle's historic significance could be related only "through the museum medium." In 1937, he proposed a complex interpretive program that included tracing the origins of the Scotch-Irish participants in the battle, their culture, and their distribution throughout the United States after the war. The museum would examine the Revolutionary War in the South, the reasons Americans became either Patriots or Loyalists, and the importance of the Battle of Kings Mountain. Appleman felt the museum needed to be larger than the

one proposed in the park's development plans. He stated that "one or two rooms in an administration building will not serve the purpose."¹

Appleman's ideas were not implemented, however, and the park's administrative and museum facilities were combined in one building. The museum consisted of the building's lobby and an adjoining room. (See Chapter 3, The Administration-Museum Building.)

Kings Mountain received its first museum exhibits from the Park Service's Eastern Museum Laboratories in June 1941. These exhibits included a 1775 Kincaid Bible, a "Kentucky Rifle," and an original "Ferguson Rifle."²

The exhibits were not installed because the administration-museum building was without electric power. In May 1942, Ned J. Burns, the Chief of the Museum Division, warned that this problem required an immediate solution. The Museum Division had money appropriated to send a staff member to install the exhibits, but those funds would not be available after June. If that deadline were not met, the installation probably would be delayed until

¹Roy E. Appleman to Regional Director, 15 October 1937, National Park Service, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, D.C. Hereinafter cited as NARC.

²In May 1967, the museum's "Ferguson Rifle" was stolen. The burglars were never apprehended. At present, the park has a "Ferguson Rifle" replica with a wooden barrel.

the end of the war. By June, the park had installed the electric current, and the exhibits were set up.

On June 25 the museum was shown to members of the local DAR chapters and other park supporters. In addition to artifacts, there was a three-dimensional topographic map of the battlefield and a diorama. The diorama was to be the focal point of visitor interest in later years. The museum received positive reactions from the public.³

In the ensuing years more maps and exhibits were added, and additional artifacts were donated. In October 1947 a sword that Frederick Hambright supposedly carried during the battle was donated to the park. The sword was the object of considerable visitor interest, since it was the only exhibit that could be linked to the battle. An illustrated map, entitled "The Mountain Men and Where They Came From," was added in 1949, along with an electrical map that traced the Patriots' route of march to the battle.⁴

One interpretive problem was the lack of an exhibit explaining the Revolutionary War in the South. The museum's

³Ralph H. Lewis, Memorandum for the Superintendent, Kings Mountain National Military Park, 2 July 1941, NARC; Ned J. Burns, Memorandum for the Regional Director, Region One, 27 May 1942, NARC; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 6 July 1942, Kings Mountain National Military Park Library. Hereinafter cited as KIMO.

⁴Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 5 November 1947, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 5 August 1949, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 7 April 1950, KIMO.

three maps dealt only with Kings Mountain, and visitors were left wondering why the battle was fought and what occurred afterward. The park staff decided that a map depicting British and Patriot movements during the Southern campaign would eliminate the problem. Superintendent Ben F. Moomaw's request for the new map received approval from the Regional office, but was not supported by Ned Burns and Ralph Lewis of the Museum Branch. Burns asked for additional justification for the map, since the museum already had an introductory exhibit that illustrated the Southern campaign. He thought the exhibits should be limited to the events surrounding the Battle of Kings Mountain.⁵

Ben Moomaw replied that the map was needed because the Southern campaign exhibit that Burns had mentioned was "not noticed by one visitor in twenty." This was due to the distraction caused by the diorama, which was placed in a location that caused it to be noticed by every visitor. Moomaw disagreed with Burns' contention that interpretation should be restricted to the "immediate events." According to Moomaw, the electric map of the

⁵Ben F. Moomaw, Memorandum to Regional Director, 10 March 1952, file D6215, Washington National Records Center, Suitland, MD. Hereinafter cited as WNRC; James W. Holland, Memorandum to Regional Director, 14 March 1952, file D6215, WNRC; Ned J. Burns, Memorandum to Regional Director, Region One, 3 October 1952, file D6215, WNRC.

Patriots' route of march raised questions in visitors minds as to why these events took place. Moomaw felt that the Museum Division was far removed from the park and unsympathetic to its interpretive needs. He wrote:

It would be desirable to have, and I whole heartedly invite, Mr. Burns or Mr. Lewis, spend an average Spring or Autumn Sunday and observe how this small, but nice Museum handles from 900-2,100 visitors, between 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM.⁶

Moomaw's persistence won out, and the Regional office approved the map. Because of the Museum Branch's heavy workload, the map was made in Richmond, under the supervision of the Region One History Division. The map of "The British Invasion of the South" was mounted in the park's museum on April 24, 1954, and received favorable comments from visitors.⁷

A lasting problem was the inordinate amount of visitor interest in the diorama. This caused the other exhibits to be neglected or not to be seen at all by visitors. The diorama was situated so it was visible from the building's entrance. The park staff and the Museum Branch decided that an interpretive panel could be placed where it would conceal the diorama from visitors entering the museum.

⁶Ben F. Moomaw, Memorandum to Regional Director, Region One, 29 October 1953, file D6215, WNRC.

⁷Dennis J. Tobin to the Director, 9 April 1953, file D6215, WNRC; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 10 May 1954, KIMO.

This would improve visitor circulation and insure that the other exhibits would be viewed.⁸

Kings Mountain's interpretive program was supplemented by the addition of a slide projector and tape recorder in 1956. Superintendent Moomaw and other staff members followed the "over-mountain" men's route of march and took photographs for inclusion in the audio-visual presentations. The other Southern Revolutionary War battlefields were visited to gather material for the program. The presentations were helpful in handling school and tour groups. In May 1956, seventy-three lectures were given to 2,800 visitors. Because of the space shortage in the administration-museum building, the presentations were held in the structure's basement.⁹

The construction of the new visitor center in 1975 resulted in the revamping of the museum program. An interpretive prospectus was prepared, and offered the following assessment of the interpretive facilities at Kings Mountain:

The present introduction to the Revolutionary War story is conducted in a visitor facility that is badly located and poorly designed for the functions it is asked to perform. Too much is mini-sized. Everything seems to meld

⁸Ralph H. Lewis, Memorandum to Regional Director, Region One, 15 July 1955, file D6215, WNRC; J. C. Harrington, Memorandum to Ben F. Moomaw, 23 February 1956, file D6215, WNRC.

⁹Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 12 March 1956, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 11 June 1956, KIMO.

together; there is no clear delineation between lobby, museum, offices and restrooms. The audiovisual program is presented in makeshift space in the basement. The museum exhibits are dated and not terribly effective.¹⁰

The park received a new museum exhibit with the new visitor center. Some of the old exhibits--like the diorama and the electric map of the Patriots' route of march--were moved to the new facility, although the electric map was moved eventually. The new exhibit utilized audio-visual techniques heavily and was complex. The exhibit was designed to depict the life of a frontier family at the time of the battle, and the inner struggle that occurred when people chose between the Loyalist and Patriot sides. Two groups of figures--one representing the Loyalists and the other depicting the Patriots--were placed at opposite ends of the exhibit room. The two groups would taunt each other as part of the audio portion of the exhibit.

Unfortunately, the exhibit did not work. The shouting match between the Loyalists and the Patriots confused visitors. The exhibit's audio system began automatically as visitors walked into the exhibit room. The audio and visual portions of the exhibit were rarely synchronized. One part of the story would be playing on the tape, while

¹⁰Kings Mountain National Military Park and State Park, "Interpretive Prospectus," 1972, p. 7.

the lights would be directed to a different part of the room. Visitors could not comprehend the exhibit.¹¹

There were other problems with the exhibit. In December 1977, Superintendent Mike Loveless wrote that "the framework holding exhibits and protective plexi-glass is inadequate. The framework is pulling apart and bowing. Already one exhibit, the Ferguson Bust, has fallen and the bust sustained slight damage."¹²

In addition, the exhibit room was poorly ventilated, causing problems with dust and humidity. The exhibits were, in some instances, inadequately protected against vandalism. This resulted in some exhibits being removed for protection.¹³

Although there were consistent complaints from the park, no steps were taken to alleviate the problem until 1984. On January 17, 1984, Superintendent Loveless wrote:

Since the Kings Mountain exhibits were installed in 1976, we have had several continuing problems which, we feel, can be completely solved only with an overall rehabilitation.

¹¹Interview with Jim Anderson, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 15 October 1985.

¹²Andrew M. Loveless, Memorandum to Chief, Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services, Southeast Region, 12 December 1977, file D6215, KIMO.

¹³Andrew M. Loveless, Memorandum to Associate Regional Director, Park Operations, SERO, 6 February 1979, file D6215, KIMO; Andrew M. Loveless to Regional Director, Southeast Region, 24 May 1979, file D6215, KIMO.

Artifacts on exhibit are improperly mounted and damage is occurring. Exhibit design and technique are creating severe stress to artifacts exhibited.

Also, with the present method of exhibit and interpretation, the visitor simply does not "get the message."

. . . our suggestion would be to scrap the audiovisual part of the program which, even when it is working properly, is not understood. Additionally, exhibits should be properly mounted (in cases when possible) so they are not exposed to present hazards (dust, damage, theft).¹⁴

Loveless' letter achieved the desired result: the exhibits would be rehabilitated. At the time of this writing, the museum rehabilitation program is under way. The exhibits depicting a frontier cabin, a tavern, and a frontier home belonging to a prosperous family will be retained. A cabin has been donated by the town of Grover, South Carolina, and portions of it will be included in the exhibit.

Along with these scenes of frontier life, there will be exhibits depicting a Loyalist camp scene, and a group of "over-mountain men" marching to Kings Mountain. Background music is the only audio projected for the new exhibit.

The hallway leading to the exhibit will display

¹⁴Andrew M. Loveless, Memorandum to Manager, Harpers Ferry Center, 17 January 1984, file D62, KIMO.

two maps: one explaining the war in the South and the other showing the route the Patriots took to the battle. Another exhibit will be placed in the lobby and will show recreational facilities offered nearby. This display will publicize the state park and national parks that are close to Kings Mountain.¹⁵

Hopefully, the museum rehabilitation, when completed, will fulfill the park's interpretive needs.

Living History Program/Outdoor Plays

Two interpretive efforts outside the museum have been the park's living history program and outdoor plays. The living history program has offered demonstrations of eighteenth-century camp life. Two men and a woman in period dress would set up camp at a tent, and cooking would be included. On Friday and Saturday evenings during the summer, slide presentations, films, and lectures have been offered. Occasionally, a candlelight tour of the battlefield with a Loyalist and a Patriot survivor of the battle has been offered. The most popular portion of the program is the firing of a "Brown Bess" musket.

¹⁵ Interview with Jim Anderson, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 15 October 1985; Andrew M. Loveless, Memorandum to Deputy Manager, Harpers Ferry Center, 21 March 1984, file D6215, KIMO.

The living history program was not presented in the summer of 1985 because of staff shortages.¹⁶

In the fall of 1951, the Kings Mountain Little Theatre, Inc., of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, presented six performances of Roger B. Osborne's play, "Then Conquer We Must," at the park's amphitheater. The play dealt with the Battle of Kings Mountain and the events leading to it. The performances drew 8,500 people and netted a profit of approximately \$1,900.¹⁷

The following year, the theater group presented Flourette Henri's "Sword of Gideon," which was an adaptation of her historical novel, Kings Mountain. Superintendent Moomaw reported that the play was generating favorable publicity for the park. He wrote that "it is a great adjunct to our interpretive program, as approximately ten percent of our total travel for the past two years can be directly attributed to this drama."¹⁸

¹⁶Interview with Jim Anderson, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 15 October 1985; Superintendent's Annual History Report, 7 April 1978, file A2621, KIMO.

¹⁷Ben F. Moomaw, Memorandum to Regional Director, Region One, 1 October 1951, file no. 901, KIMO.

¹⁸Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 9 May 1952, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 6 September 1952, KIMO.

Eventually, the play was discontinued as the volunteer theater organization "simply wore out." Visitor interest had never equalled that shown in 1951. A non-profit theater group, North South, Ltd., was organized in 1975 to present "Then Conquer We Must" for the nation's bicentennial. The group signed a contract with the government, allowing the production, but financial problems prevented the play from opening. Limestone College, of Gaffney, South Carolina, presented the play in connection with the battle's bicentennial, but this effort did not attract sufficient visitor interest and was discontinued.¹⁹

Visitor Fees

Currently, no admission fees are charged at Kings Mountain. When the museum was finished in July 1941, Superintendent Oswald E. Camp assumed that an admission fee would be charged. This would necessitate the installation of a turnstile to regulate visitor entry. Acting Regional Director Fred T. Johnston replied that "in comparison with the public conception of a museum, the Kings Mountain Museum is relatively insignificant." Therefore no admission fees would be charged.²⁰

¹⁹Interview with Jim Anderson, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 15 October 1985; Superintendent's Annual History Report, 21 January 1977, file A2621, KIMO.

²⁰Oswald E. Camp, Memorandum for the Regional Director, Region One, 21 July 1941, NARC; Fred T. Johnston, Memorandum for the Director, 25 August 1941, NARC.

Superintendent Mike Loveless considers charging fees a possibility in the future. Existing budget limitations will cause staff shortages at Kings Mountain eventually. Loveless states that the park is looking at the possibility of supplementing the budget by charging fees. Admission fees have been discussed, but the traffic on the main park drive would make this difficult. In fact, the costs of assigning personnel to collect the fees would exceed the revenue obtained. Moreover, parks that are not charging fees at present are prevented by law from doing so.²¹ As a result, it is not likely that Kings Mountain will charge fees in the near future.

Concessions

Although Kings Mountain does not operate concessions, the adjacent state park provides recreational activities and a store. The military park has an agency of the Eastern National Park and Monument Association. The association's involvement with Kings Mountain began in 1953, when postcards were put on sale. In the first month the cards were on sale, 4,809 were sold.²²

The ENP&MA provides postcards and Revolutionary War-related publications for sale to visitors. The association's goal is to furnish quality interpretive material

²¹Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 16 October 1985; Telephone Interview with Barry Mackintosh, 2 January 1986.

²²Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 11 August 1953, KIMO.

to park visitors, as opposed to souvenir items. Kings Mountain has a committee that reviews and approves items for sale. After ENP&MA pays its expenses from the profits, a percentage of the remaining funds is distributed to cooperating parks. Kings Mountain has received monies for period costumes for its living history program and funds for designing museum exhibits. The cabin that was obtained for the current museum rehabilitation was fumigated with the aid of ENP&MA funds.²³

The Overmountain Victory Trail

In 1975, Rip Collins and Borden Mace of Boone, North Carolina, contacted Superintendent Ben Moomaw about a possible reenactment of the Patriots' two-week march from Sycamore Shoals, Tennessee, to Kings Mountain. They proposed to march on the exact anniversaries of the days when the Patriots marched and to spend each night in the vicinity of the original encampment. That year's march was the start of an annual event.²⁴

After the success of the 1975 march, the Over Mountain Victory Trail Association was formed. The association

²³Andrew M. Loveless, Memorandum to Associate Regional Director, Operations, Southeast Region, 2 January 1985, file K1817, KIMO; James J. Anderson, Memorandum to Executive Secretary, Eastern National Park and Monument Association, 19 November 1973, file A42, KIMO; Interview with Jim Anderson, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 15 October 1985.

²⁴Ben F. Moomaw, Memorandum to Files, 13 March 1975, file A82, KIMO.

began lobbying for the trail's inclusion in the National Trails System. In June 1977, Congressman James Broyhill of North Carolina introduced H.R. 8132 to provide for a study of the trail, to determine if it were feasible to include it in the National Trails System. This bill was included in the Park Service's omnibus bill, which was signed into law on November 19, 1978.

The Park Service conducted the feasibility study and published its findings in December 1979. The report supported the addition of the trail to the National Trails System. On April 24, 1980, Broyhill introduced H.R. 7155 to designate the Overmountain Victory Trail as a National Historic Trail. This bill, like the preceding one, was included in the Park Service's omnibus legislation (H.R. 3). The Senate Parks Service bill (S. 2680) was amended to include some of the provisions--including the Overmountain Victory Trail proposal--of H.R. 3. S. 2680 passed the Senate and was signed into law on September 8, 1980.²⁵

The Overmountain Victory Trail is approximately 292 miles long and extends through four states: Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina. At present,

²⁵ Congressman Jim Broyhill, "News Release," KIMO; Joe Brown, Memorandum to Superintendents, Blue Ridge and Kings Mountain, 13 March 1981, file D18, KIMO.

the national historic trail is in the developmental stage; the trail is being mapped, and identifying markers are being placed on the route.²⁶ The trail will be marched every year to commemorate the "over-mountain men's" heroic march to meet Major Ferguson at Kings Mountain.

Relations with Kings Mountain State Park

Kings Mountain National Military Park's relationship with Kings Mountain State Park has been a good one. The two parks share a sixteen-mile-long hiking trail that was designated a National Recreation Trail in June 1981. A cooperative fire agreement requires each park to lend assistance to the other in the event of a fire. Each park sends visitors to its neighbor. In fact, most of the attendance to the military park's summer evening programs has come from the state park.²⁷

Since the 6,000-acre Recreational Demonstration Area was deeded to South Carolina, the federal government has had the right to approve or disapprove any proposed changes to the area. An example of this is the attempt to widen Love Valley Road in the state park.

Love Valley Road is an unpaved road in York County

²⁶ Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 16 October 1985.

²⁷ Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 16 October 1985; James G. Watt to Mike Loveless, 8 June 1981, file D30, KIMO.

that extends about 1,320 feet into Kings Mountain State Park. A residential area was to be developed between the state park and the North Carolina state line. The development would increase traffic in the area, so the developers petitioned the county for permission to widen the section of Love Valley Road in the state park from fourteen to thirty-five feet. Superintendent Loveless studied the road's historic background and found that it had been in use since 1808 and was unchanged from that time. The Park Service disapproved the widening of Love Valley Road because of the road's historical significance.²⁸

Kings Mountain's 1974 master plan was a joint effort that coordinated the development activities of both parks. The military park's purpose was to create an awareness of the battle's significance, while the state park would provide outdoor recreation activities. Kings Mountain State Park has fulfilled its recreational purpose. The state park's recreational, camping and picnicking facilities relieve Kings Mountain National Military Park of having to provide such services.²⁹

²⁸Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 16 October 1985; W. Thomas Brown to Ray Sisk, 18 December 1984, file L3027, KIMO; J. E. Klugh to Strom Thurmond, 24 May 1985, file L3429, KIMO; W. Thomas Brown to Ray Sisk, 29 April 1985, file L3429, KIMO.

²⁹Kings Mountain National Military Park and State Park, "Master Plan," 1974, p. 1.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement challenges have changed since Kings Mountain achieved national park status. During the park's early years, moonshining was a problem that required constant attention. In January 1942, Superintendent James Felton reported that moonshine stills, which had not been in the area since the Park Service had acquired the land, were appearing again. Two stills were discovered and destroyed.³⁰

During World War II the manufacture of illegal whiskey flourished in the Kings Mountain region. York and Cherokee County Police and Federal Alcohol Tax Unit investigators cooperated with the park in stopping the moonshiners. The search resulted in the authorities locating a 1,000-gallon still in late 1945.

Efforts to apprehend the culprits were complicated by the moonshining operation's effective organization. The local moonshiners had a "prowl car" that was equipped with a musical horn. When law enforcement authorities were spotted, the car was driven to an area of high elevation, and the driver would "play a tune that can be heard for miles, thus alerting the whole organization." Eventually,

³⁰ Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 5 February 1942, KIMO.

the "prowl car" was used against the moonshiners, as it inadvertently led police to two 500-gallon stills that were located close to the park's boundary.³¹ By the end of the 1940s these activities had abated and were no longer a major concern to the park's staff.

One of the first outside intrusions into the park was caused by fox hunters. Fox hunters would begin running the foxes outside of Kings Mountain, but eventually the chase would cross the park's boundary. Superintendent Camp told the hunters to stop entering the park, and he threatened to impound any foxhounds that were caught. Foxhunting had been popular in the area for years, and the foxhunters were able to obtain the support of Congressman J. P. Richards and Senator Ellison D. Smith in their attempt to have hunting allowed on park lands.

The politicians pressured the Park Service to permit foxhunting at Kings Mountain. Director Newton B. Drury sympathized with the hunters, but he wanted to know if foxhunting would harm the park lands. Assistant Regional Director Fred T. Johnston told Drury that it would be

³¹ Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 10 October 1945, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 8 December 1945, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 11 February 1946, KIMO; Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 11 March 1946, KIMO.

impossible to prevent the hounds from crossing the park's boundary. He advised Drury not to let the hunters use park lands. Johnston felt that the hunters should immediately remove their dogs if they crossed the park's boundary.

The controversy was submitted to the Interior Department's solicitor for a decision. The solicitor ruled that the Secretary of the Interior could not permit fox hunting at Kings Mountain. The decision was based on the act of March 3, 1897 (29 stat. 621; U.S.C., Title 16, section 414), that prohibited hunting on national military parks. The act set a penalty "by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not less than five days or more than thirty days, or by both fine and imprisonment."³²

This decision did not end foxhunting on park lands. Superintendent Felton reported the capture of three hounds in February 1942. Felton wrote that "in all cases the dogs appeared tired and had undoubtedly been running all night." The problem lessened as foxhunting died out gradually as a sport. Superintendent Mike Loveless had noticed a considerable decrease in foxhunting during

³²E. E. Smith to Newton B. Drury, 31 March 1941, NARC; Newton B. Drury to Ellison D. Smith, 7 April 1941, NARC; Fred T. Johnston, Memorandum for the Director, 10 June 1941, NARC; John J. Dempsey to Ellison D. Smith, 25 July 1941, NARC.

his nine years at Kings Mountain.³³

Today's chief law enforcement problem is the administration of the main park drive. The main park drive extends three miles through the park and is an extension of South Carolina Highway 216, which intersects the park. The road is used extensively by motorists travelling on Highway 216. Highway 216 also intersects Interstate 85 about three miles from the park, and this increases traffic. The main park drive is "narrow and curvy," and this reduces speeding violations.³⁴

The Jurisdiction Question

Kings Mountain was under exclusive jurisdiction until 1983, when it changed to concurrent jurisdiction. Under exclusive jurisdiction, the federal government received "all the authority of the State with no reservation made to the State except the right to serve civil and criminal process relating from activities which occurred off the land involved." With concurrent jurisdiction, the "State reserves to itself the right to exercise jointly the powers granted to the federal government."³⁵

³⁴Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 16 October 1985; Interview with Jim Anderson, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 15 October 1985.

³⁵Acting Director, National Park Service, Memorandum to Regional Directors, 19 March 1983, file W30, KIMO.

Superintendent Ben Moomaw attempted to change Kings Mountain's jurisdiction from exclusive to concurrent in 1961. Moomaw told Regional Director Elbert Cox that under exclusive jurisdiction, minor traffic violations had to be handled at the U.S. District Court. This was a time-consuming process. Moomaw cited two advantages of concurrent jurisdiction: "Violations would be handled through the local courts in short order," and "local enforcement officers could be brought to the scene promptly."³⁶

An ongoing jurisdiction problem involved the Piedmont Road. When the park's lands were acquired, York County retained jurisdiction over the portion of the Piedmont Road that was within the park boundary. The park staff, however, still patrolled the road because the South Carolina State Highway Patrol and the York County Sheriff's Department were reluctant to patrol it. On June 19, 1972, York County Supervisor J. Ed Allen transferred jurisdiction over the road to Kings Mountain. Ben Moomaw thought the problem was solved, but the Southeast Region office informed him that the York County Supervisor had no authority to transfer jurisdiction. This nullified the transfer.³⁷

³⁶Ben F. Moomaw, Memorandum to Regional Director, Region One, 18 December 1961, file W30, KIMO.

³⁷Ben F. Moomaw, Memorandum to Director, Southeast Region, 28 July 1972, file L14, KIMO; Leonard T. Hall, Memorandum to Ben F. Moomaw, 27 July 1972, file L14, KIMO.

Moomaw was confused further when Assistant United States Attorney Thomas Simpson told him that Kings Mountain was under concurrent jurisdiction. Moomaw had thought that the park was under exclusive jurisdiction. He requested "a definitive statement about the type of jurisdiction we exercise here." Regional Soliciter Raymond C. Coulter decided that the United States had accepted exclusive jurisdiction over lands acquired prior to 1940. The two tracts that were acquired in 1959 were under proprietary jurisdiction, which relegated the park to landowner status in matters concerning those properties. The Regional office suggested that exclusive jurisdiction be accepted until concurrent jurisdiction was obtained.³⁸

The jurisdiction question was resolved in 1983, when South Carolina accepted concurrent jurisdiction over all National Park Service lands within the state.³⁹ This simplified law enforcement at Kings Mountain and allowed greater cooperation with local and state authorities.

³⁸ Ben F. Moomaw, Memorandum to Associate Director, Park System Management, Southeast Region, 23 September 1974, file W30, KIMO; Raymond C. Coulter, Memorandum to Regional Director, SERO, NPS, 25 October 1974, file W30, KIMO; William V. Smith, Memorandum to Ben F. Moomaw, 19 November 1974, file W34, KIMO.

³⁹ Russell E. Dickenson to Governor Richard W. Riley, 19 May 1983, file W30, KIMO.

Wildlife

As the Kings Mountain region's forest was changed to farmland, most of the area wildlife was extirpated. Proposals to restore the park area to its 1780 appearance include the reintroduction of certain native species. These ideas first reached fruition in 1984 with the stocking of nineteen wild turkeys. Kings Mountain National Military Park's and Kings Mountain State Park's combined 10,000 acres fulfilled the South Carolina Wildlife and Resources Department's land requirements. Kings Mountain and the Wildlife Department signed a memorandum of understanding providing for the joint reestablishment of wild turkeys in the area. The birds were tagged for identification and released into the park in February and March 1984. In the summer of that year, three separate broods were spotted, indicating that the wild turkeys had acclimated to their new surroundings and were reproducing.⁴⁰

Resource Management

At present, the emphasis in resource management is on restoring the area to its appearance circa 1780.

⁴⁰Andrew M. Loveless, Memorandum to Regional Director, 28 September 1983, file N1615, KIMO; Andrew M. Loveless, Memorandum to Regional Director, 28 March 1984, file N1615, KIMO; Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 16 October 1985.

This has been the policy since the park was established. The park is reaching this goal by not interfering with natural succession. At the time of the battle, a climax oak-hickory forest covered the area. Today, the hardwood cover is returning gradually, and the number of pine trees is being reduced.

The Southern Pine Beetle has been a participant in this process. The beetle's infestation has not been discouraged. In fact, the ensuing destruction of pine trees is in "conjunction with the historical restoration aims" of the park. The fallen pines leave room for the hardwoods to grow, therefore allowing the climax oak-hickory forest to return.

There are disadvantages to this policy. Many pine trees fall on the edge of roads and on trails. This necessitates the removal of the trees for visitor safety. In 1980, approximately 2,000 pines were killed by the beetle. The pines were located near the visitor center and had to be removed before the battle's bicentennial celebration. The trees were removed by hand to prevent damage to the area.⁴¹

⁴¹ Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 16 October 1985; Andrew M. Loveless, Memorandum to Deputy Regional Director, Operations, SERO, 9 December 1980, file A98, KIMO.

The park's policy toward the Southern Pine Beetle has caused problem with the local pulpwood industry. The pulpwood industry has resented the park's policy of not salvaging and selling the dead trees. The trees are not removed due to the "unsightliness of cutover areas and such related problems as the damage caused by large tractors and the cutting of logging roads." Kings Mountain has been criticized for "being a breeding ground" for the Southern Pine Beetle. The park's staff is sensitive to these criticisms. Superintendent Loveless states that the park would prevent the beetle from spreading to adjoining private lands. Loveless asserts that the Southern Pine Beetle is endemic to the region and can be found outside the park; therefore, the park is not a breeding ground.

Cleveland County, North Carolina, landowners wrote letters to the editor of the Shelby, North Carolina, Daily Star, criticizing Kings Mountain's policy toward the Southern Pine Beetle. The park explained its position and the Daily Star responded with a supportive editorial. Although this ended the controversy, the Pine Beetle "does remain a sensitive issue."⁴²

⁴²Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 16 October 1985; "Revised Resource Management Plan," 1983, file D18, KIMO, p. 23.

Air pollution is a threat to the park's environment. Kings Mountain is three miles from Interstate 85. The hydrocarbons emitted from the exhaust systems of the automobiles travelling on Interstate 85 are a serious threat to the park's natural resources. Some of the park's hardwood trees have died from unknown causes.⁴³ The extent of this threat cannot be measured until further analysis is completed.

⁴³Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 16 October 1985; "Revised Resource Management Plan," 1983, file D18, KIMO, p. 29.

CONCLUSION

This study has examined the administration of Kings Mountain National Military Park from 1931 to the present. Administrative problems that concerned the park's staff in the past have been resolved. The 1959 boundary revision gave the park a boundary that follows natural lines. In the past, the park's principal challenge was handling increasing visitation with inadequate facilities. This problem was alleviated when the new visitor center was constructed in 1975.

At present, the chief challenge facing Kings Mountain is to "continue good stewardship of the property in the face of diminishing monetary support." The economic problems of the United States have resulted in reductions in funding for the National Park Service. Eventually, the scarcity of funds will cause reductions in the staff at Kings Mountain. Superintendent Loveless believes that future increases in the cost of operating the park will come "at the expense of the staff." Loveless feels that the park is "at the break point where we will move from adequacy to inadequacy."¹

The future will tell how Kings Mountain handles this problem. The park has a history of overcoming adversity. It is hoped that this trend will continue.

¹Interview with Mike Loveless, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 16 October 1985; Interview with Jim Anderson, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, 15 October 1985.

APPENDICES
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APPENDIX A

LEGISLATION

9. Kings Mountain National Military Park

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An Act Providing for the erection of a monument on Kings Mountain Battle Ground commemorative of the great victory gained there during the war of the American Revolution on October 7, 1780, by the American forces, approved June 16, 1906 (34 Stat. 286)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of thirty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the erection of a monument and inclosure for the same on Kings Mountain Battle Ground in York County, South Carolina, to commemorate the great victory won there on October seventh, seventeen hundred and eighty, by the American forces, commanded by Colonels William Campbell, John Sevier, Benjamin Cleveland, Isaac Shelby, Charles McDowell, Joseph McDowell, James Williams, and Edward Lacey, and Majors William Candler, Joseph Winston, and William Chronicle: *Provided*, That the money appropriated as aforesaid shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War, and the plans, specifications, and designs for such monument and inclosure for the same, before any money so appropriated is expended, shall be first approved by the Secretary of War: *And provided further*, That no part of the sum hereby appropriated shall be so expended until the Kings Mountain Centennial Association of South Carolina shall secure the title to not more than fifty acres of said battle ground, said title to be approved by the Attorney-General of the United States: *And provided further*, That when said monument is erected the responsibility for the care and keeping of the same shall be and remain with the Kings Mountain Battle Ground Association of South Carolina, it being expressly understood that the United States shall have no responsibility therefor.

Kings Mountain Battle Ground, S.C.
Appropriation for monument on.

Provided, Secretary of War to approve plans, etc.

Title.

Care of monument.

An Act To provide for the inspection of the battle field of Kings Mountain, South Carolina, approved April 9, 1928 (45 Stat. 412)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That to assist in the studies and investigations

Kings Mountain, S.C., battle field.

IV. NATIONAL MILITARY PARKS—KINGS MOUNTAIN

Commission created. Vol. 44, p. 726.	of battle fields in the United States for commemorative purposes, authorized by an Act approved June 11, 1926 (Public Numbered 372, Sixty-ninth Congress), a commission is hereby created, to be composed of the following members, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of War: (1) A commissioned officer of the Corps of Engineers, United States Army; (2) a citizen and resident of York County, State of South Carolina; (3) a citizen and resident of Cleveland County, State of North Carolina; (4) and a citizen of Cherokee County, South Carolina.
Army Engineer officer.	
A citizen of York, Cleveland, and Cherokee Counties.	
Qualifications of commission.	SEC. 2. In appointing the members of the commission created by section 1 of this Act the Secretary of War shall, as far as practicable, select persons familiar with the terrain of the battle field of Kings Mountain, South Carolina, and the historical events associated therewith.
Inspection and report on feasibility of preserving, etc., for historical study, etc.	SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the commission, acting under the direction of the Secretary of War, to inspect the battle field of Kings Mountain, South Carolina, in order to ascertain the feasibility of preserving and marking for historical and professional military study such field. The commission shall submit a report of its findings and an itemized statement of its expenses to the Secretary of War not later than December 1, 1928.
Amount authorized for expenses. Post, p. 929.	SEC. 4. There is authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$1,000, or such part thereof as may be necessary, in order to carry out the provisions of this Act.
	An Act To establish a national military park to commemorate the Battle of Kings Mountain, approved March 3, 1931 (46 Stat. 1508)
Kings Mountain National Military Park, N.C. Establishment of.	<i>Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.</i> That in order to commemorate the Battle of Kings Mountain, which was fought on the 7th day of October, 1780, the Kings Mountain battle ground, in the State of South Carolina, including such adjacent and contiguous lands as may be useful and proper in effectually carrying out the purposes of this Act, is hereby declared to be a national military park, to be known as the Kings Mountain National Military Park, when such land including said battle ground shall become the property of the United States. (16 U.S.C. § 430.)
Purposes declared.	SEC. 2. The Secretary of War shall ascertain on what land the Battle of Kings Mountain was fought and, subject to the provisions of section 355 of the Revised Statutes, shall proceed to acquire title to such land together with such adjacent and contiguous lands as he may deem useful and proper in effectually carrying out the purposes of this Act, either by purchase or gift or by condemnation under the provisions of the Act entitled
Location of battlefield to determine site.	
Acquisition of lands by purchase or condemnation.	
Vol. 25, p. 357.	

IV. NATIONAL MILITARY PARKS—KINGS MOUNTAIN

"An Act to authorize condemnation of land for sites of public buildings, and for other purposes," approved August 1, 1888. (16 U.S.C. § 430a.)

SEC. 3. Such park shall be under the control and direction of the Secretary of War. The Secretary is authorized to prescribe from time to time such regulations for the care and management of such park as he may deem necessary. (16 U.S.C. § 430b.)

Control of Secretary of War. Regulations to be prescribed.

SEC. 4. Upon such terms and conditions as he may prescribe, the Secretary of War is authorized to permit any person occupying any land within the boundaries of such park to continue to occupy such land, but the Secretary may revoke such permit at any time. (16 U.S.C. § 430c.)

Revocable permits to holders of land.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of War shall open or repair such roads in such park as may be necessary, and ascertain and mark with tablets or otherwise, as he may determine, all lines of battle of the American troops and British troops engaged in the Battle of Kings Mountain and other historical points of interest pertaining to the battle which are within the boundaries of the park. The Secretary is authorized to employ such labor and services and to obtain such supplies and materials as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. (16 U.S.C. § 430d.)

Road construction, etc. Historic markers.

Services and supplies authorized.

SEC. 6. The authorities of any State which had troops engaged in the Battle of Kings Mountain may enter the Kings Mountain National Military Park for the purpose of ascertaining and marking the lines of battle of such troops, but before any such lines are permanently designated the position of the lines and the proposed methods of marking them by monuments, tablets, or otherwise shall be approved by the Secretary of War. Any State organization or individual may, with the approval of the Secretary of War, erect monuments or place tablets within such park. (16 U.S.C. § 430e.)

State cooperation.

Supervision of Secretary of War. Permission extended to individuals, etc.

SEC. 7. There is authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$925,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, in order to carry out the provisions of this Act.

An Act To revise the boundaries of the Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, and to authorize the procurement and exchange of lands, and for other purposes, approved June 23, 1959 (73 Stat. 108)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to consolidate the Federal ownership of lands in, and to facilitate protection and preservation of, Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina, the boundaries are hereby revised as follows:

Kings Mountain National Military Park, S.C. Boundary revision.

(1) Federally owned lands lying west of the easterly right-of-way line of State Route P-11-123, containing

IV. NATIONAL MILITARY PARKS—KINGS MOUNTAIN

approximately two hundred acres, are excluded from the park;

(2) Privately owned lands lying east of the easterly right-of-way line of State Route P-11-123, containing approximately eighty acres, are included in the park; and

(3) Lands of the Mary Morris estate lying south of the southerly right-of-way line of the historic Yorkville-Shelbyville Road, and forming the triangle bounded by the new State Route P-11-56, the historic Yorkville-Shelbyville Road and the present park boundary (Old Houser tract), aggregating approximately sixty acres, are included in the park. (16 U.S.C. § 430a-1 [Supp. II].)

Acquisition of
lands.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire lands and interests in lands within the revised boundary by purchase, donation, with donated funds, or by exchange, utilizing for such exchanges federally owned lands of approximately equal value excluded from the park pursuant to this Act. Federally owned lands so excluded which the Secretary of the Interior determines are not needed for such exchanges shall be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended. (16 U.S.C. § 430a-2 [Supp. II].)

63 Stat. 377,
40 U.S.C. 471
note.

Applicability
of laws, etc.

SEC. 3. Lands and interests therein acquired pursuant to this Act shall thereupon become a part of the Kings Mountain National Military Park and be subject to all the laws and regulations applicable thereto. (16 U.S.C. § 430a-3 [Supp. II].)

APPENDIX

1. Reorganization of Government, excerpts from Executive Order No. 6166 of June 10, 1933 (5 U.S.C. secs. 124-132).

Executive Order

ORGANIZATION OF EXECUTIVE AGENCIES

WHEREAS section 16 of the act of March 3, 1933 (Public, No. 428, 47 Stat. 1517), provides for reorganizations within the executive branch of the Government; requires the President to investigate and determine what reorganizations are necessary to effectuate the purposes of the statute; and authorizes the President to make such reorganizations by Executive order; and

WHEREAS I have investigated the organization of all executive and administrative agencies of the Government and have determined that certain regroupings, consolidations, transfers, and abolitions of executive agencies and functions thereof are necessary to accomplish the purposes of section 16;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the aforesaid authority, I do hereby order that:

* * * * *

SECTION 2.—*National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations*

All functions of administration of public buildings, reservations, national parks, national monuments, and national cemeteries are consolidated in an Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations¹ in the Department of the Interior, at the head of which shall be a Director of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations: except that where deemed desirable there may be excluded from this provision any public building or reservation which is chiefly employed as a facility in the work of a particular agency. This transfer and consolidation of functions shall include, among others, those of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior and the National Cemeteries and Parks of the War Department which are located within the continental limits of the United States. National cemeteries located in foreign countries shall be transferred to the Department of State, and those located in insular possessions under the jurisdiction of the War Department shall be administered by the Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department.

The functions of the following agencies are transferred to the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations of the Department of the Interior, and the agencies are abolished:

Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission
Public Buildings Commission
Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital
National Memorial Commission
Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Commission

¹ "National Park Service" was substituted for "Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations" by Act of March 2, 1934 (48 Stat. 389), see excerpt, page 13.

APPENDIX

Expenditures by the Federal Government for the purposes of the Commission of Fine Arts, the George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission, and the Rushmore National Commission shall be administered by the Department of the Interior.

* * * * *

SECTION 19.—*General Provisions*

Each agency, all the functions of which are transferred to or consolidated with another agency, is abolished.

The records pertaining to an abolished agency or a function disposed of, disposition of which is not elsewhere herein provided for, shall be transferred to the successor. If there be no successor agency, and such abolished agency be within a department, said records shall be disposed of as the head of such department may direct.

The property, facilities, equipment, and supplies employed in the work of an abolished agency or the exercise of a function disposed of, disposition of which is not elsewhere herein provided for, shall, to the extent required, be transferred to the successor agency. Other such property, facilities, equipment, and supplies shall be transferred to the Procurement Division.

All personnel employed in connection with the work of an abolished agency or function disposed of shall be separated from the service of the United States, except that the head of any successor agency, subject to my approval, may, within a period of four months after transfer or consolidation, reappoint any of such personnel required for the work of the successor agency without reexamination or loss of civil-service status.

SECTION 20.—*Appropriations*

Such portions of the unexpended balances of appropriations for any abolished agency or function disposed of shall be transferred to the successor agency as the Director of the Budget shall deem necessary.

Unexpended balances of appropriations for an abolished agency or function disposed of, not so transferred by the Director of the Budget, shall, in accordance with law, be impounded and returned to the Treasury.

SECTION 21.—*Definitions*

As used in this order—

"Agency" means any commission, independent establishment, board, bureau, division, service, or office in the executive branch of the Government.

"Abolished agency" means any agency which is abolished, transferred, or consolidated.

"Successor agency" means any agency to which is transferred some other agency or function, or which results from the consolidation of other agencies or functions.

"Function disposed of" means any function eliminated or transferred.

SECTION 22.—*Effective Date*

In accordance with law, this order shall become effective 61 days from its date; *Provided*, That in case it shall appear to the President that the interests of economy require that any transfer, consolidation, or elimination be delayed beyond the date this order becomes effective, he may, in

APPENDIX

his discretion, fix a later date therefor, and he may for like cause further defer such date from time to time.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

June 10, 1933.

[No. 6166]

2. Reorganization of Government, Executive Order No. 6228 of July 28, 1933, to make more explicit and to interpret Section 2 of Executive Order No. 6166 of June 10, 1933 (5 U.S.C. secs. 124-132)

Executive Order

ORGANIZATION OF EXECUTIVE AGENCIES

WHEREAS executive order No. 6166 dated June 10, 1933, issued pursuant to the authority of Section 16 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (Public No. 428—47 Stat. 1517) provides in Section 2 as follows:

"All functions of administration of public buildings, reservations, national parks, national monuments, and national cemeteries are consolidated in an office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations in the Department of the Interior, at the head of which shall be a Director of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations; except that where deemed desirable there may be excluded from this provision any public building or reservation which is chiefly employed as a facility in the work of a particular agency. This transfer and consolidation of functions shall include, among others, those of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior and the National Cemeteries and Parks of the War Department which are located within the continental limits of the United States. National Cemeteries located in foreign countries shall be transferred to the Department of State, and those located in insular possessions under the jurisdiction of the War Department shall be administered by the Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department."

and;

WHEREAS to facilitate and expedite the transfer and consolidation of certain units and agencies contemplated thereby, it is desirable to make more explicit said Section 2 of the aforesaid executive order of June 10, 1933, insofar as the same relates to the transfer of agencies now administered by the War Department:

NOW, THEREFORE, said executive order No. 6166, dated June 10, 1933, is hereby interpreted as follows:

1. The cemeteries and parks of the War Department transferred to the Interior Department are as follows:

APPENDIX

NATIONAL MILITARY PARKS

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Georgia and Tennessee.
Fort Donelson National Military Park, Tennessee.
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battle Fields Memorial, Virginia.
Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania.
Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, North Carolina.
Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina.
Moores Creek National Military Park, North Carolina.
Petersburg National Military Park, Virginia.
Shiloh National Military Park, Tennessee.
Stones River National Military Park, Tennessee.
Vicksburg National Military Park, Mississippi.

NATIONAL PARKS

Abraham Lincoln National Park, Kentucky.
Fort McHenry National Park, Maryland.

BATTLEFIELD SITES

Antietam Battlefield, Maryland.
Appomattox, Virginia.
Brices Cross Roads, Mississippi.
Chalmette Monument and Grounds, Louisiana.
Cowpens, South Carolina.
Fort Necessity, Wharton County,² Pennsylvania.
Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia.
Monocacy, Maryland.
Tupelo, Mississippi.
White Plains, New York.

NATIONAL MONUMENTS

Big Hole Battlefield, Beaverhead County, Montana.
Cabrillo Monument, Ft. Rosecrans, California.
Castle Pinckney, Charleston, South Carolina.
Father Millet Cross, Fort Niagara, New York.
Fort Marion, St. Augustine, Florida.
Fort Matanzas, Florida.
Fort Pulaski, Georgia.
Meriwether Lewis, Hardin County, Tennessee.
Mound City Group, Chillicothe, Ohio.
Statue of Liberty, Fort Wood, New York.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORIALS

Camp Blount Tablets, Lincoln County, Tennessee.
Kill Devil Hill Monument, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.
New Echota Marker, Georgia.
Lee Mansion, Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

² Wharton Township, Fayette County.

APPENDIX

NATIONAL CEMETERIES

Battleground, District of Columbia.
Antietam, (Sharpsburg) Maryland.
Vicksburg, Mississippi.
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
Chattanooga, Tennessee.
Fort Donelson, (Dover) Tennessee.
Shiloh, (Pittsburg Landing) Tennessee.
Stones River, (Murfreesboro) Tennessee.
Fredericksburg, Virginia.
Poplar Grove, (Petersburg) Virginia.
Yorktown, Virginia.

2. Pursuant to Section 22 of said executive order it is hereby ordered that the transfer from the War Department of national cemeteries other than those named above be, and the same is hereby postponed until further order.

3. Also pursuant to Section 22 of said executive order it is hereby ordered that the transfer of national cemeteries located in foreign countries from the War Department to the Department of State and the transfer of those located in insular possessions under the jurisdiction of the War Department to the Bureau of Insular Affairs of said Department be, and the same are hereby postponed until further order.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE.
July 28, 1933.

[No. 6228]

IV. NATIONAL MILITARY PARKS

I. Kings Mountain National Military Park

Determining the area to be included within the park: Order of July 11, 1940..

ORDER DETERMINING THE AREA TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE KINGS MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MILITARY PARK, SOUTH CAROLINA

[July 11, 1940—5 F. R. 3747]

WHEREAS the act of Congress approved March 3, 1931 (46 Stat. 1508) provides for the establishment of the Kings Mountain National Military Park to commemorate the Battle of Kings Mountain, fought on October 7, 1780, when the battle ground and such adjacent and contiguous lands as may be useful and proper in effectually carrying out the purposes of the said act shall become the property of the United States; and

WHEREAS I have ascertained the location of the land on which the battle of Kings Mountain was fought, and all of the said land including such adjacent and contiguous lands as are useful and proper in effectually carrying out the purposes of the said act are the property of the United States:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, under and by virtue of the authority conferred on the Secretary of War by the said act of March 3, 1931 and transferred to the Secretary of the Interior by Executive Order No. 6166, dated June 10, 1933, as interpreted by Executive Order No. 6228, dated July 28, 1933, do hereby determine that the Kings Mountain National Military Park shall include those certain tracts or parcels of land with the structures thereon, containing approximately 4.012 acres and situated in Cherokee and York Counties, South Carolina, as shown upon the diagram attached hereto and made a part hereof, which area includes the land on which the battle of Kings Mountain was fought and such adjacent and contiguous lands as are useful and proper in effectually carrying out the purposes of the said act of March 3, 1931.

The administration, protection, and development of the Kings Mountain National Military Park shall be exercised under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior by the National Park Service, subject to the provisions of the act of August 25, 1916, entitled "An Act To establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", as amended.

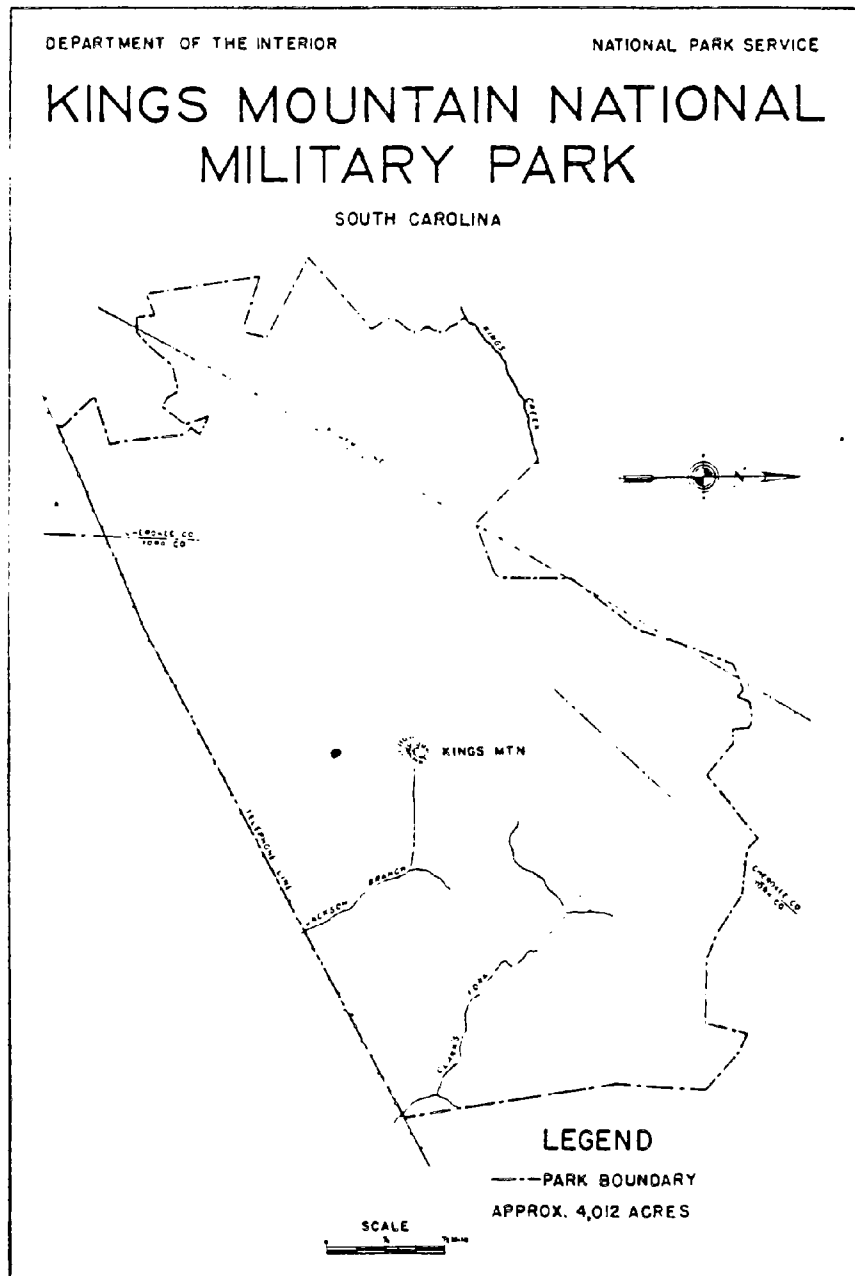
Warning is expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, deface, or remove any feature of this park.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Department of the Interior to be affixed in the City of Washington, this 11th day of July 1940.

[SEAL]

HAROLD L. ICKES,
Secretary of the Interior.

IV. NATIONAL MILITARY PARKS—KINGS MOUNTAIN



APPENDIX B

SUPERINTENDENTS

Oswald E. Camp	- Superintendent	- 12/01/37	- 01/15/42
James B. Felton	- Superintendent	- 01/15/42	- 10/23/42
V. Aubrey Neasham	- Act. Custodian	- 10/23/42	- 04/01/44
Ivan J. Ellsworth	- Act. Custodian	- 04/01/44	- 04/18/46
James B. Felton	- Superintendent	- 04/18/46	- 07/21/51
Benjamin F. Moomaw	- Superintendent	- 07/21/51	- 03/27/76
Andrew M. Loveless	- Superintendent	- 04/11/76	-

APPENDIX C
ANNUAL VISITATION, 1960-1985

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>
1960	242,910
1961	259,214
1962	287,783
1963	335,758
1964	294,706
1965	311,747
1966	351,110
1967	372,723
1968	347,373
1969	501,646
1970	401,825
1971	450,479
1972	461,854
1973	419,101
1974	407,545
1975	564,842
1976	426,741
1977	329,490
1978	433,586
1979	425,753
1980	429,862
1981	447,701
1982	427,260
1983	449,023
1984	464,550
Thru Nov., 1985	408,424

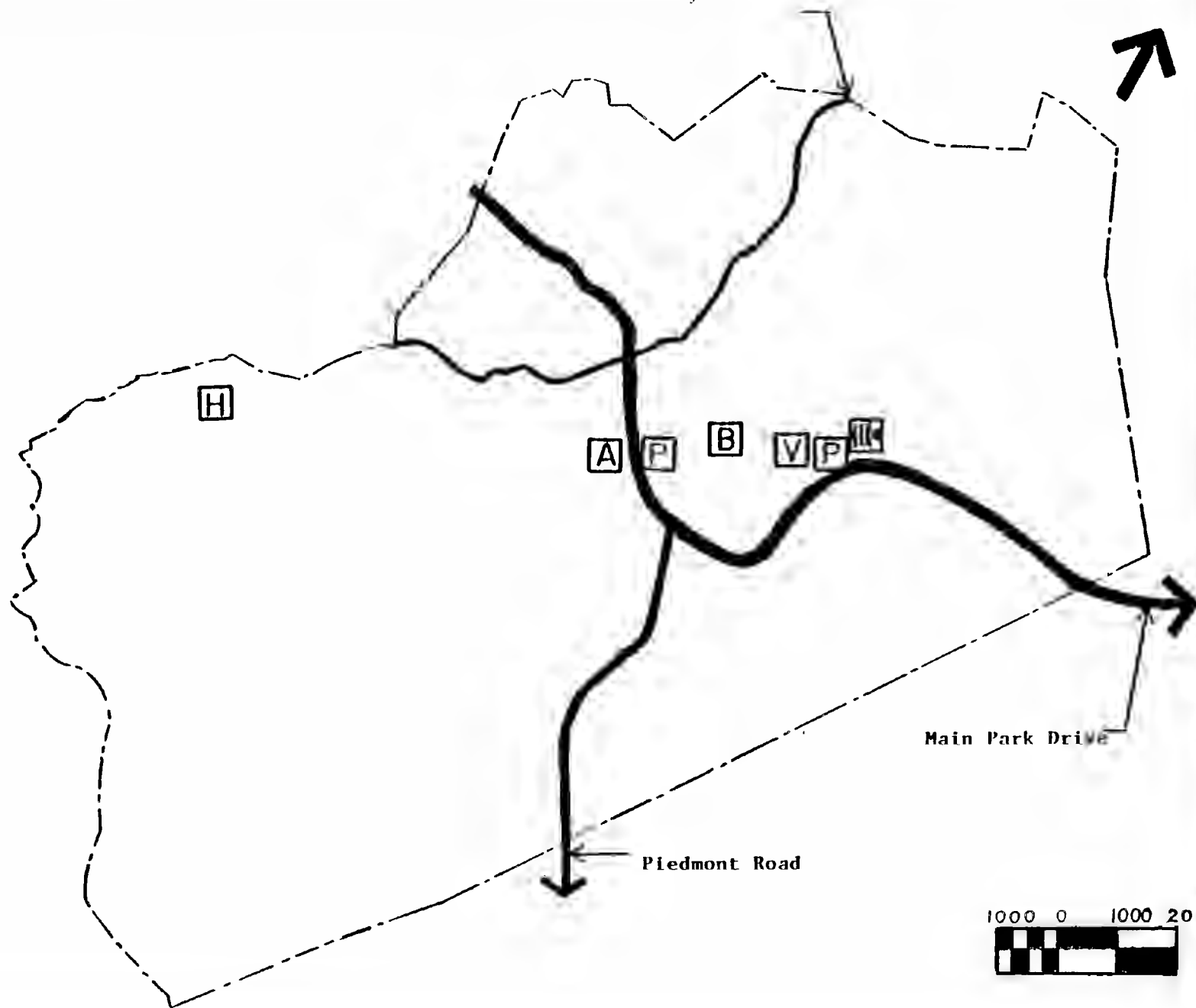
KINGS MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

Yorkville-Shelbyville Road

APPENDIX D

LEGEND

- A Administration
- ⌋ Amphitheater
- B Battleground
- H Howser House
- P Parking
- V Visitor Center



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THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN, OCTOBER 7TH, 1780. SOUTH CAROLINA—CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE BATTLE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN, OCTOBER 7TH, 1880. FROM SKETCHES BY JAS. H. MURKIN—SEE PAGE 120.

ILLUSTRATED



SOUTH CAROLINA—CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE BATTLE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN, OCTOBER 7TH, 1880. FROM SKETCHES BY JAS. H. MURKIN—SEE PAGE 120.

FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER

The United States Monument

A Contact Station operated by
Civilian Conservation Corps personnel



The Park Headquarters. From 1941 to 1975 this structure served as the Administration-Museum Building.

The Howser House



Visitors leaving the new Visitor Center



