

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Union	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 4 1975	

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Battle of Musgrove's Mill Historic Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: south from Cross Anchor for approximately 2.5 miles  
on S. C. Route 56 (until Enoree River Bridge is visible).

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 045      COUNTY: Union      CODE: 087

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1205 Pendleton Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia

STATE:  
South Carolina

CODE:  
045

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Union

STATE:  
South Carolina

CODE:  
045

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973       Federal     State     County     Local

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

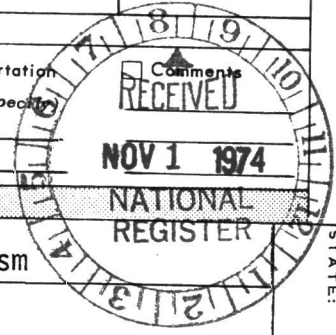
STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia

STATE:  
South Carolina

CODE:  
045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:  
COUNTY:  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

17312 ATAO

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The battle of Musgrove's Mill occurred on the rising ground north of the Enoree River, at Musgrove's Ford, near the present day Spartanburg County line, and immediately east of Cedar Shoals Creek. Early 19th Century maps indicate that Musgrove's Ford was between the mouth of Cedar Shoals Creek and a large bend in the Enoree River. The old 18th Century road running northwards from the ford is in approximately the same location as present-day Highway 56. The temporary fortifications built by Colonels Shelby and Clarke were about 1/2 mile north of the ford along the highway.

Edward Musgrove's house and mill, where the British garrison was located, was on the south side of the ford, opposite the battlefield. No above-the-surface evidence of this structure remains.

The nominated property includes the land north of the Enoree River ford, from Cedar Shoals Creek and an improved county road (S-10) east across Highway 56 to a small creek running parallel to the highway. Several houses lie along US Route 56 north of the river. Most of this land is heavily wooded with pines and hardwoods, and it slopes steadily down towards the Enoree River. The floodplains that run parallel to the river are sparsely vegetated except for large hardwood trees on the river's edge. There are evidences of an old roadbed, crossing Cedar Shoals Creek about 700 feet from the Enoree River, but this road is not the same road that crossed the river at Musgrove's Ford. The ford was possibly used by American scouts in crossing the creek and river to spy on the British camp.

The nominated property also includes a triangular portion of land south of the Enoree River, opposite the mouth of Cedar Shoals Creek, where Musgrove's Plantation house was standing until it burned in 1971. A dirt road leads from S.C. Route 56 north to the house site, in a cleared area adjacent to a man-made pond. This is the area where the British and Tories were encamped at the time of the battle.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1780**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The battle of Musgrove's Mill, fought on August 18, 1780, was an early American victory in the South during the Revolution. American troops routed a combined detachment of British and Tories at a ford on the Enoree River but were forced to retreat to the mountains of North Carolina when Loyalist forces converged on the area after the American defeat at Camden. The American militiamen used their superior marksmanship and knowledge of the terrain to surprise the British. This indicated a weakness in the British hold on the back-country.

In 1780 the British established a fortified post at Musgrove's Mill, home of Major Edward Musgrove, on the south side of the Enoree River. A regular garrison of 200 men under a Major Fraser was stationed there. By August 17 the garrison had been reinforced by Abraham de Peyster of the King's American Regiment, David Fanning and his North Carolina Tories, and Colonel Daniel Clary with his Tories from upper South Carolina. A detachment commanded by Lt. Colonel Innes had a company of the New Jersey Volunteers, and a captain's command of De Lancey's New York Royalists. Colonel Patrick Ferguson, leader of the Tories in South Carolina, had sent wounded to the post, bringing the total detachment to about 500 men. In addition some 100 Tories of the South Carolina Regiment were camping nearby.

The American Colonel Charles McDowell of North Carolina, had established a camp at Cherokee Ford, just across the South Carolina line. Believing that the British post at Musgrove's Mill was vulnerable, McDowell decided to attack. His forces included troops led by Colonels Isaac Shelby and Elijah Clarke, from North Carolina and Georgia, and the remnants of the old Ninety-Six Brigade under Colonel James Williams of South Carolina.

The American officers formed a joint command and set out just before sundown on August 17 with about 200 men. They rode cross-country for 26 miles from Smith's Ford to Brandon's settlement in Fairforest and then 12 to 14 miles to within a mile of the British camp across the Enoree River. Knowing the countryside through which they passed, the Americans managed to avoid the Tory posts.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bolick, Julian Stevenson. A Laurens County Sketchbook. Mrs. Julian S. Bolick, 1973.  
 Draper, Lyman C. King's Mountain and Its Heroes. Baltimore: Geneological Publishing Company, 1967.  
 Salley, A. S., Jr, ed. Col. William Hill's Memoirs of the Revolution. Columbia, S. C.: The State Printing Company, 1921.  
 McCrady, Edward. The History of South Carolina in the Revolution 1775-1780. New York: Russell & Russell, 1969.  
 See continuation sheet.

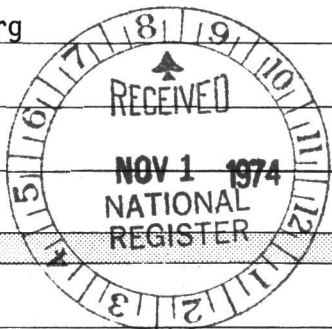
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	34 ° 36 ' 59 "	81 ° 51 ' 27 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	34 ° 36 ' 59 "	81 ° 50 ' 36 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	34 ° 35 ' 14 "	81 ° 50 ' 36 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	34 ° 35 ' 14 "	81 ° 51 ' 27 "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **approximately 380 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
		Spartanburg	083
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**John W. Califf, III**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1430 Senate Street**

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

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Charles E. Lee  
 Title State Historic Preservation Officer  
 Date Oct 30, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

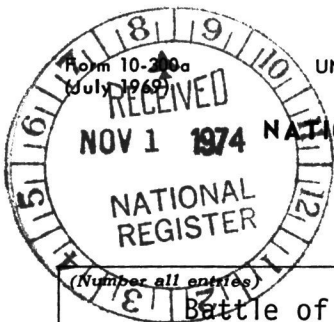
Arthur Worsham  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/4/75

ATTEST:  
Charles E. Lee  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 2-25-75

NW 17/421350  
 SE 17/422640/3827400  
 SW 17/421350/3827410  
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
 NW 17/422680/3830630



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE	South Carolina	
COUNTY	Union	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		MAR 4 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

8. Significance (continued) a

After establishing camp the Americans sent out scouts to spy upon the British. They came upon a Tory patrol, and a skirmish occurred. As a result the Americans moved their camp onto a timbered ridge above the ford about 1/2 mile from the river.

Because of information from local sympathizers concerning the strength of the British post, the Americans decided not to attack, but instead to set a trap for the British that would draw them across the river and into a fortified line of fire.

The fortifications consisted of a breastwork of logs and brushwood, in a semi-circle along a wooded ridge. Shelby's troops occupied the right portion of the breastworks, Williams' the center, and Clarke's the left. Twenty horsemen were concealed behind each flank of the breastworks, and 40 men were held in the rear as a reserve.

At the Loyalist camp across the river, Major Innes's arguments for attack prevailed, even though a 100-man patrol had not returned. Leaving 100 men in camp as a reserve, 300 British troops and Tory militia prepared to cross the river.

Meanwhile, on the American side, Captain Shadrack Inman was sent forward with about 25 mounted men to provoke the Tories and draw them across the river into the line of fire from the American breastworks. The plan worked; the British, believing they were driving Inman's men back, saw the American fortifications, formed into a battle line, and advanced. The Americans waited to fire until the British were within 70 yards; as a result, they inflicted many casualties. The British and Tories charged again, driving some of the Americans from the left wing of the breastworks, but the American reserve force stopped their advance. Innes, the British commander, was badly wounded. Shelby's Americans drove the British and Tories back from their defenses, and the British retreat became a rout. When the Tory patrol finally returned to the post, the Americans had already left with their prisoners.

The British and Tories remaining at the post decided to retreat to the fort at Ninety-Six, 30 miles to the southwest. They received word, however, that the main American force at Camden had been badly defeated and that British reinforcements would be arriving shortly. The Americans received the same news, and hastily set out through the woods with their prisoners, moving in a northwesterly direction. The Americans continued their retreat through the night and into the next morning, traveling sixty miles from Musgrove's Mill and into the mountains of North Carolina.

(see continuation sheet)

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Union	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
44AR 4	1975

(Number all entries)

Battle of Musgrove's Mill Historic Site  
8. Significance (continued) b

In this battle, British losses included 60 killed, 90 wounded, and 70 taken prisoner. Four Americans were killed and nine wounded. This American victory has been attributed to American fortifications and knowledge of the terrain, the underestimation of American strength by the British, and the superior marksmanship of the American frontiersmen. Occurring at the same time as the American defeat at Camden, this victory gave the American cause a badly needed boost in morale.



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Union	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 4 1975

(Number all entries)

Battle of Musgrove's Mill Historic Site

9. Major Bibliographical References

Landrum, Dr. J. B. O. Colonial and Revolutionary History of Upper South Carolina. Greenville, S. C.: Shannon & Co., 1897.



PROPERTY Battle of Musgrove's Mill Historic Site STATE S.C.

WORKING NUMBER 11.1.74.1897

75001708

TECH REVIEW  
PHOTOS 3  
MAPS 1

Union

CONTROL REVIEW

cm  
11.12.  
74

HISTORIAN

OK  
Accept  
W.R. Luce  
12/12/74

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

Accept  
M. Barnes  
16 Dec 74

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept  
Cole  
1/17/75

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Accept  
for Montoye  
2.25.75

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register entry 5-6-75

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered MAR 4 1975







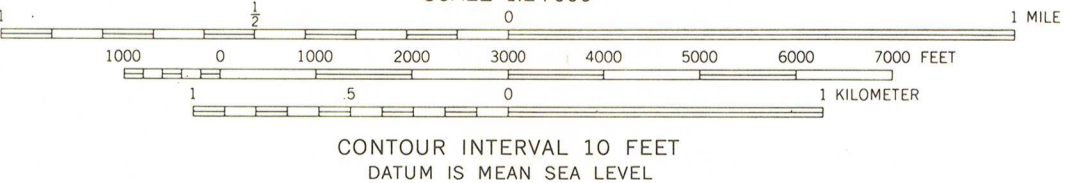
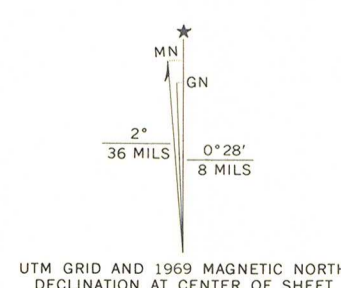
# Battle of Musgrove's Mill Historic Site



NE 1/4 2680  
38 30 630  
SE 1/4 2640  
38 27 400  
SW 1/4 2630  
38 27 410  
NW 1/4 2620  
38 30 640  
CD



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1966. Field checked 1969  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on South Carolina coordinate system, north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 17, shown in blue



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

PHILSON CROSSROADS, S. C.  
N3430-W8145/7.5

1969  
AMS 4653 III SE-SERIES V846

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE SOUTH CAROLINA

Date Entered MAR 4 1975

Name

Location

Battle of Musgrove's Mill Historic Site

Union County

*Change card!*

Also Notified

Hon. Strom Thurmond  
Hon. Ernest F. Hollings  
Hon. Thomas S. Gettys

Regional Director, Southeast  
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Charles Lee  
Director  
State Archives Dept.  
1430 Senate Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

PR MMOTT: p1 3/6/75

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Musgrove's Mill Historic Battle Site

2 OTHER NAMES:

3 date of entry: 5-4-75 4 county code: 087

5 LOCATION street & number: 2.5 mi. S of Cross Anchor on SC 56 city / town: Cross Anchor state: SC county: Union 6 NPS REGION: Southeast

7 OWNER  PRIVATE  STATE  MUNICIPAL  COUNTY  MULTIPLE  FEDERAL (agency name) public/private 8 ADMINISTRATOR:

9 EXISTING SURVEYS  HABS  HAER  NHL 10 FUNDED?  YES  NO 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 12 SOURCE of NOMINATION  STATE  FEDERAL if state who prepared form?

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?  YES, NAME:  NO 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?  YES, NAME:  NO 15 ACREAGE: 380 16 LOCAL  PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

16 CONDITION  deteriorated  Deteriorated  Original site 17 features:  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  
 excellent  ruins  unaltered  moved  
 good  unexposed  reconstructed  unknown  
 fair  unexcavated  excavated  
 INTERIOR  NOT INTACT-0  NOT INTACT-1  
 UNKNOWN-4  UNKNOWN-5  
 NOT APPLICABLE-7  NOT APPLICABLE-8  
 ENVIRON  NOT INTACT-0  
 UNKNOWN-6  
 NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS  YES-Restricted  YES-Unrestricted  No Access  Unknown 19 ADAPTIVE USE  YES  NO 20 SAVED?  YES  NO IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?  yes

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:  ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2  COMMERCE-6  ENGINEERING-11  LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15  POLITICS/GOVT.-21  RECREATION-28  
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1  COMMUNICATIONS-7  ENTERTAINMENT-26  LAW-16  RELIGION-22  SETTLEMENT-29  
 AGRICULTURE-3  CONSERVATION-8  EXPLORATION-12  LITERATURE-17  SCIENCE-23  URBAN PLANNING-31  
 ARCHITECTURE-4  ECONOMICS-9  HEALTH-27  MILITARY-18  SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24  OTHER (SPECIFY)  
 ART-5  EDUCATION-10  INVENTION-14  PHILOSOPHY-20  SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30  
 TRANSPORTATION-25

22 CLAIMS: explain  
 'first'   
 'oldest'   
 'only'

23 functions site of battle of Amer. Revolution 24 dates of initial construction: 1780 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION  
 WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT:  
 CURRENTLY: agriculture, park, transportation  
 major alterations:  
 historic events:

26 architectural style(s): 27 architect: 28 master builder: 29 engineer:

30 landscape architect/garden designer: 31 interior decorator: 32 artist: 33 artisan: 34 builder/contractor:

35 NAMES give role & date  
 PERSONAL: Col. Charles McDowell - commanded American forces @ battle, 1780  
 EVENTS: Revolutionary War  
 INSTITUTIONAL:

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP  
 Site of <sup>Revolutionary War battle</sup> Battle of Musgrove's Mill <sup>that</sup> is an early American victory in the South during the Revolutionary War, August 18, 1780, ~~resulted in a substantial weakening of the~~ British hold on the American back-country ~~and boosted~~ indicated a weakness in the American morale after defeat at Camden.