

Further Reading

To learn more about Revolutionary-era Camden, the Battles of Camden and Hobkirk's Hill, and the American Revolution in the South, see the books listed below.

Robert D. Bass, *Niney Six: The Struggle for the South Carolina Back Country* (Sandlapper, 1978)

John Buchanan, *The Road to Guilford Courthouse: The American Revolution in the Carolinas* (John Wiley, 1997)

Walter Edgar, *Partisans and Redcoats: The Southern Conflict that Turned the Tide of the American Revolution* (Morrow, 2001)

Thomas J. Kirkland and Robert M. Kennedy, *Historic Camden, Part One, Colonial and Revolutionary* (The State Company, 1905)

Robert Stansbury Lambert, *South Carolina Loyalists in the American Revolution* (University of South Carolina Press, 1987)

H. L. Landers, *The Battle of Camden South Carolina, August 16, 1780* (US Government Printing Office, 1929)

John Pancake, *This Destructive War: The British Campaign in the Carolinas, 1780-1782* (University of Alabama Press, 1985)

Jim Picuch, *The Battle of Camden: A Documentary History* (History Press, 2006)

Jim Picuch, *Three Peoples, One King: Loyalists, Indians, and Slaves in the Revolutionary South* (University of South Carolina Press, 2008)

Jim Picuch and John H. Beakes, *"Cool, Deliberate Courage": John Eager Howard in the American Revolution* (Nautical & Aviation Publishing, 2009)

Steven Smith, James Legg, and Tamara Wilson, *The Archaeology of the Camden Battlefield: History, Private Collections, and Field Investigations*

Information is also available online at www.southerncampaign.org

The Battle of Camden Hiking Trail

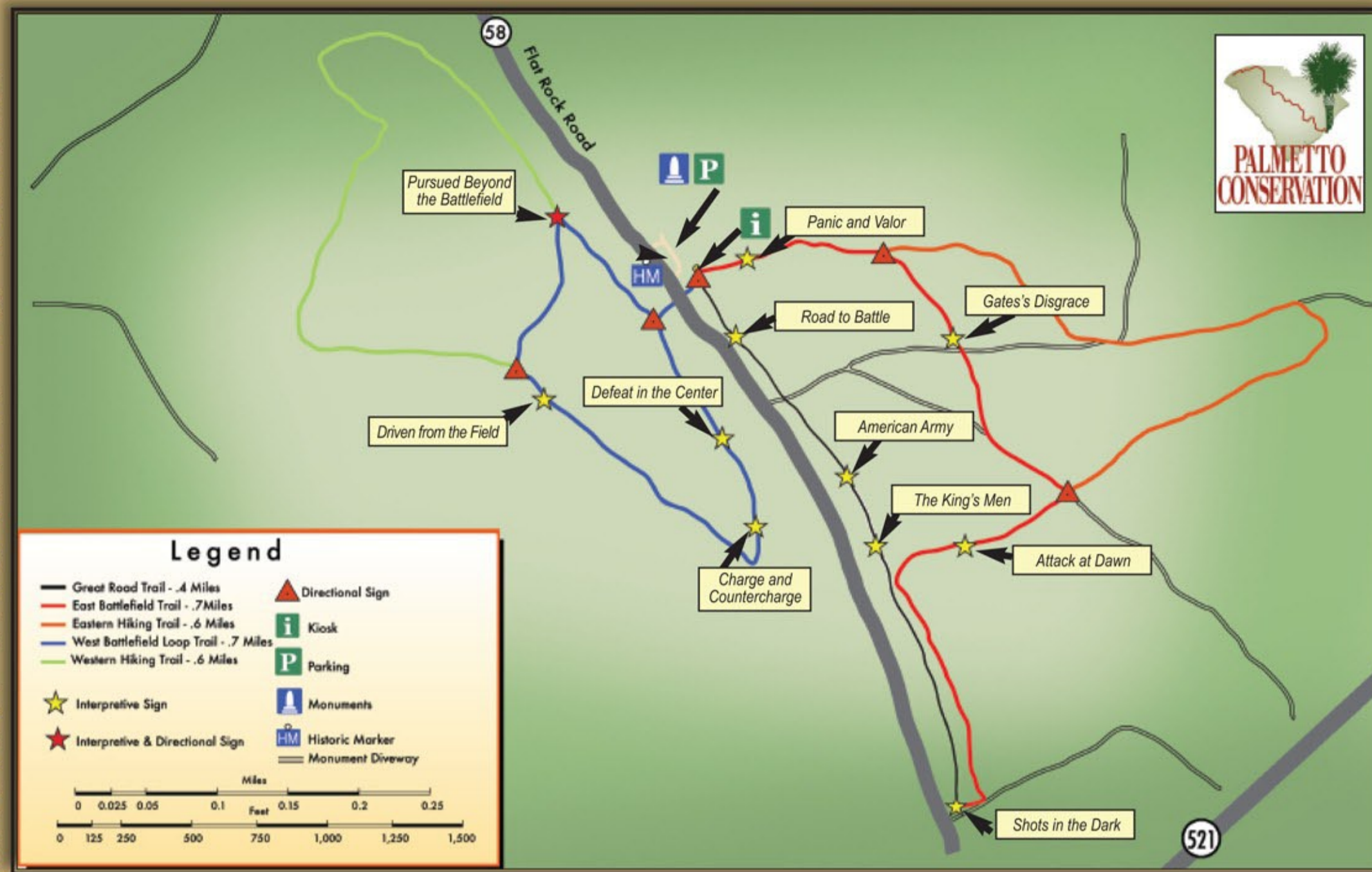
The Battle of Camden

The battle fought on this site on August 16, 1780, was one of the largest and most important battles of the Revolutionary War. More than 4,000 American soldiers faced 2,200 British and Loyalist troops in an hour-long struggle during which nearly one-fourth of the participants were killed, wounded, or captured.

To download and listen to a podcast that dramatizes key events of the battle, go to www.palmettoconservation.org.

Begin your walking tour at the kiosk, where you will find information on the battle and leaders. From here, continue your walking tour along the old bed of the Great Wagon Road, the route that brought the armies to battle that fateful August. As you proceed, you will learn about the American army at Camden, the British army, and the night battle that resulted when the two armies encountered each other on the road.

The next phase of your tour traces the fighting east of the Great Wagon Road. You will explore the ground where the Americans made their opening attack and were met by a British counterattack. You can see where the American militia fled from the charging British, sweeping General



The Camden District Revolutionary War Trails

Horatio Gates and other officers along with them in their rush for safety. The next signs describe the efforts of the Continental soldiers to repair their line and the British attack that finally overwhelmed them.

The trail will take you back to the kiosk, and you will cross Flat Rock Road to tour the rest of the battlefield.

On the west side of the road, you will see where Baron De Kalb led his Maryland and Delaware Continentals in a series of attacks that nearly defeated Lord Rawdon's Loyalist troops. Moving farther along the trail, you will learn how the British nearly surrounded and finally drove off the Americans who made a "last stand" near here. The final sign describes how the British cavalry pursued the defeated Americans more than twenty miles from the field of battle.

The Battle of Camden ended in a costly American defeat, and coming just three months after the British capture of Charleston, seemed to cement British control of South Carolina and Georgia. However, determined American patriots continued to resist, and they applied the lessons learned here to recover and eventually triumph in the long and decisive Southern Campaign.

Learn more at:
www.battleofcamden.org
www.palmettoconservation.org



Historic Camden

Welcome to Historic Camden and Camden's Revolutionary War Battlefields.

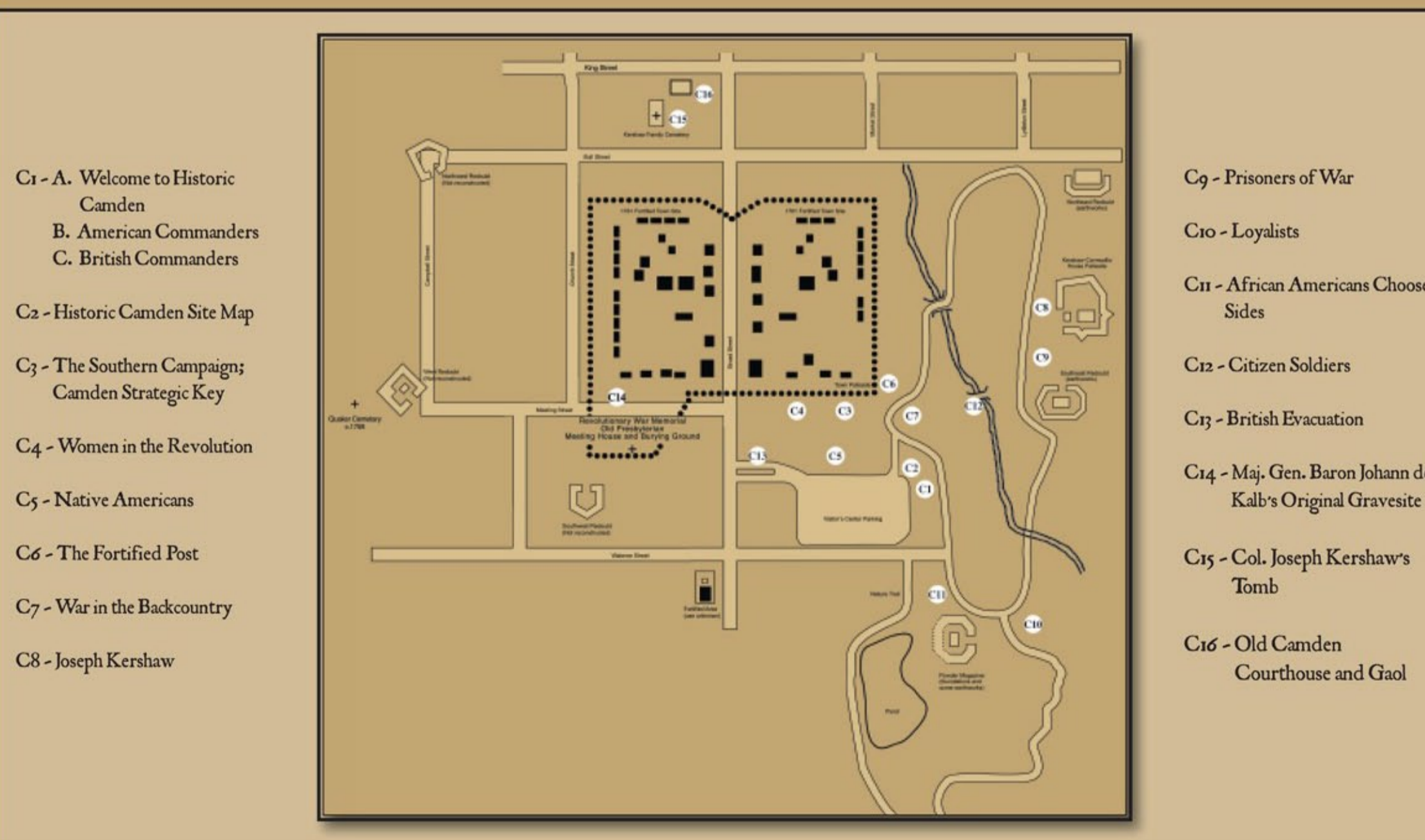
Camden was at the center of some of the hardest fighting between the Americans and British in the struggle for independence.

Your tour begins at Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site, where the original town was located. After its occupation by the British in 1780, Camden became their most important base in the South Carolina interior and was the intended starting point for the British invasion of North Carolina.

Because of Camden's strategic importance, American forces tried twice to regain control of the town. These efforts resulted in two of the Revolution's most important battles, the Battle of Camden in August 1780 and the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill in April 1781.



www.historic-camden.net



When the American Revolution began, Camden was the most important town in the South Carolina interior. The kiosk next to the parking lot (C1, C2) provides information about Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site and the famous American and British commanders associated with the town. Be sure to visit the Historic Camden Exchange and gift shop for guided tours and additional information.

Your exploration of Historic Camden continues at the kiosk (C3) describing the Southern Campaign, the most crucial phase of the Revolution that almost ended in a British victory. Here you will learn why Camden was such a crucial strategic location in that struggle. A 16-minute orientation film about early Camden and the Revolutionary War years can be viewed in the "Dog Trot" building. The Drakeford and Bradley houses contain exhibits and nearby signs describe the roles of women (C4) and the Catawba Indians (C5) in the Revolution. Sign C6 explains the extensive fortifications that the British built to protect Camden from American attack.

As you continue to location C7, you will learn about the fighting in the backcountry around Camden. You can also see a partial reconstruction of the Northeast Redoubt, part of the British fortifications. The reconstructed Kershaw-Cornwallis house was originally the home of Camden's principal founder, Joseph Kershaw (C8). During the British occupation it served as the headquarters of Lord Cornwallis and Lord Rawdon. The reconstructed Southeast Redoubt is close to the house.

Signs tell the story of the Patriot and Loyalist militia, citizen-soldiers who fought in and around Camden (C9), the prisoners of war held at Camden (C9), South Carolina's African Americans who participated in the Revolution in hope of gaining their freedom (C11), and the local Loyalists who supported King George III (C10).

The foundation of the town's powder magazine, built by Joseph Kershaw to store military supplies for the state, was fortified during the Revolution as a defense against Loyalist attack; the British later enlarged the fortifications. As you conclude your tour of Historic Camden, sign C11 explains the

British evacuation of Camden in May 1781.

When you leave Historic Camden, turn right on Broad Street and left on Bull Street (the next corner), where you will find the Kershaw family gravesite (C15). Continue west on Bull Street and turn left onto Campbell Street. The old Quaker Cemetery (c. 1758) will be on your right. Turn left on Meeting Street to visit the Revolutionary War Memorial, which honors Patriots from Kershaw County as well as Delaware and Maryland. On the opposite side of the street is the original burial site of the heroic general, Baron Johann de Kalb (C14).

Continue your tour by turning left on Broad Street. At the corner of King Street, you can view the location of the original Camden courthouse, now occupied by the Robert Mills Courthouse, built in 1825. Camden's original jail was located across the street (C16).

Continue north on Broad Street to visit and turn right on Dekalb Street to see the grave of Baron de Kalb. Then return to Broad Street and turn right to begin the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill tour.

