

Touring the Battlefield

The best way to see the park is by taking the following self-guiding auto/bicycle tour traced on the map below. From the visitor center walk to Stop 1, then take the 2¼-mile driving road around the park. Allow about an hour for the tour, depending on your interests. Foot trails at the stops lead to many features you would otherwise miss. Include Tannenbaum Historic Park, part of the battle's first line action, in your visit.

For Safety's Sake: Use caution driving the tour road. Watch for bicycles and cross carefully at intersections of Old Battleground Road. Do not climb on cannons or monuments. Pets must be leashed and attended at all times.

1. American First Line On both sides of New Garden Road, about 150 yards away, were more than 1,000 North Carolina militiamen divided into two brigades. They held a position behind a rail fence overlooking three muddy farm fields. Though Greene knew these untested citizen-soldiers were no match for veteran redcoats, he hoped they would get off a few shots each and at least slow the British attack. But when the British rushed forward after taking the first American fire, part of Eaton's brigade on the right of the road fled, beginning a panic that quickly spread down the line.

2. Fragmented Attack As the rest of the first line dissolved into the woods behind, some of the North Carolinians in Butler's brigade on the American left joined with the forces of "Light-horse Harry" Lee and William Campbell. These units withdrew to the southeast taking two of Cornwallis's regiments with them.



This monument marks the graves of William Hooper and John Penn, two of the state's signers of the Declaration. Hooper headed North Carolina's delegation to the Continental Congress from 1774-77. Penn served in Congress from 1775-1780 and later on North Carolina's Board of War, which helped supply the state's militia.

3. Sustained Firefight Two brigades of Virginia militia waited in the deep forest behind the first line. Gen. Edward Stevens, south of the road, and Gen. Robert Lawson, holding the line north of the road, kept up a long fight in the woods until the British finally broke through to the third line. A foot trail leads to the Greene Monument along the line that Stevens's Virginians defended.

4. Expanding Battle The monument to Maj. Joseph Winston honors those Surry County riflemen who fought stubbornly under Lee and Campbell on the American left. As Tarleton's cavalry ended this separate fight far to the southeast, one of Winston's men, Richard Taliaferro, was shot; he may have been the last American

soldier killed in the battle. Winston and a fellow soldier, Jesse Franklin, are buried nearby.

5. Battlefield Preservation The preservation of the Guilford Courthouse battlefield began in 1887 by David Schenck and the Guilford Battle Ground Company. Using information then available, they erected memorials and marked battlefield locations. Since then, extensive research and technology, providing a wealth of new information, have been used to correct battlefield locations and enhance historical interpretation. The 1909 monument to the American cavalry specifically honors the service of the legendary Peter Francisco, William Washington, and the Marquis de Bregigny, a French volunteer fighting for American independence.



In battle, drums conveyed orders and signals to the infantry. This drum, donated by the local DAR, was carried by Luther W. Clark in the battle. It is part of the park's collection and, along with other artifacts of the battle and the war, is on exhibit at the park. Photograph courtesy of NPS Museum Management Program



The Turner Monument pays tribute to Kerrenhappuch Norman Turner. One of her sons was badly wounded in the battle, and she is said to have ridden on horseback from her home in Maryland to Guilford Courthouse to nurse him back to health. The statue shows her holding a cup and towel, her tools of healing.

6. Guilford Courthouse and the Third Line The battle took its name from the first county courthouse built in 1775 on the brow of a hill near the "Great Salisbury Wagon Road" (New Garden Road). President George Washington visited here in 1791. The community began its decline in 1808 when the decision was made to move the county seat six miles south. Nothing remains of either the small wooden building standing here in 1781 or the town that was later named "Martinville."

The trail leads to the hillside position held by the southern flank of Greene's Continentals. British units, farther to the north, were the first to assault this line. In the low ground in front of this position, part of connected fields that half-cir-

led this area in 1781, British Guards and grenadiers clashed with the veteran 1st Maryland and William Washington's cavalry. On the opposite side, Cornwallis's order to his artillery to fire into the American horsemen stopped them but inflicted casualties on his own Guards.

7. The British Soldier at Guilford Courthouse Frequent firefights in the woods and gullies slowed the British army as it fought its way toward the American Third Line. Trails take you to several monuments, including one honoring a British officer killed in the third line fighting. Other trails lead to the historic New Garden Road and the American Third Line.

8. Greene Monument The trail at this stop leads to the Greene Monument, the most impressive one in the park. The historic New Garden Road, the axis of the battle, divided the Virginia militia that held the woods on the American Second Line. On this side of the road British Gen. James Webster's infantry struck Gen. Robert Lawson's brigade, breaking through after turning its northern flank.

Tannenbaum Historic Park This Greensboro Parks and Recreation site on New Garden Road preserves a portion of Joseph Hoskins's farmstead, where Cornwallis's troops formed for battle. Ironically, Hoskins had left Pennsylvania after his farm suffered damages during the Philadelphia campaign. Exhibits in the Colonial Heritage Center and historic buildings depict life before, during, and after the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

About Your Visit Guilford Courthouse National Military Park is six miles north of downtown Greensboro, N.C., off U.S. 220 on New Garden Road. The visitor center, near the American First Line, has information, exhibits, a half-hour film on the battle, an animated battle map program, and a Revolutionary War bookstore. Ask about special activities and seasonal programs; groups should contact the park in advance. Follow the signs for self-guiding tours by car, bicycle, or on foot. A narrated auto tour of the battlefield is also available for sale in the bookstore. West of the park, Tannenbaum Historic Park has historic buildings and exhibits on civilian life at the time of the battle.

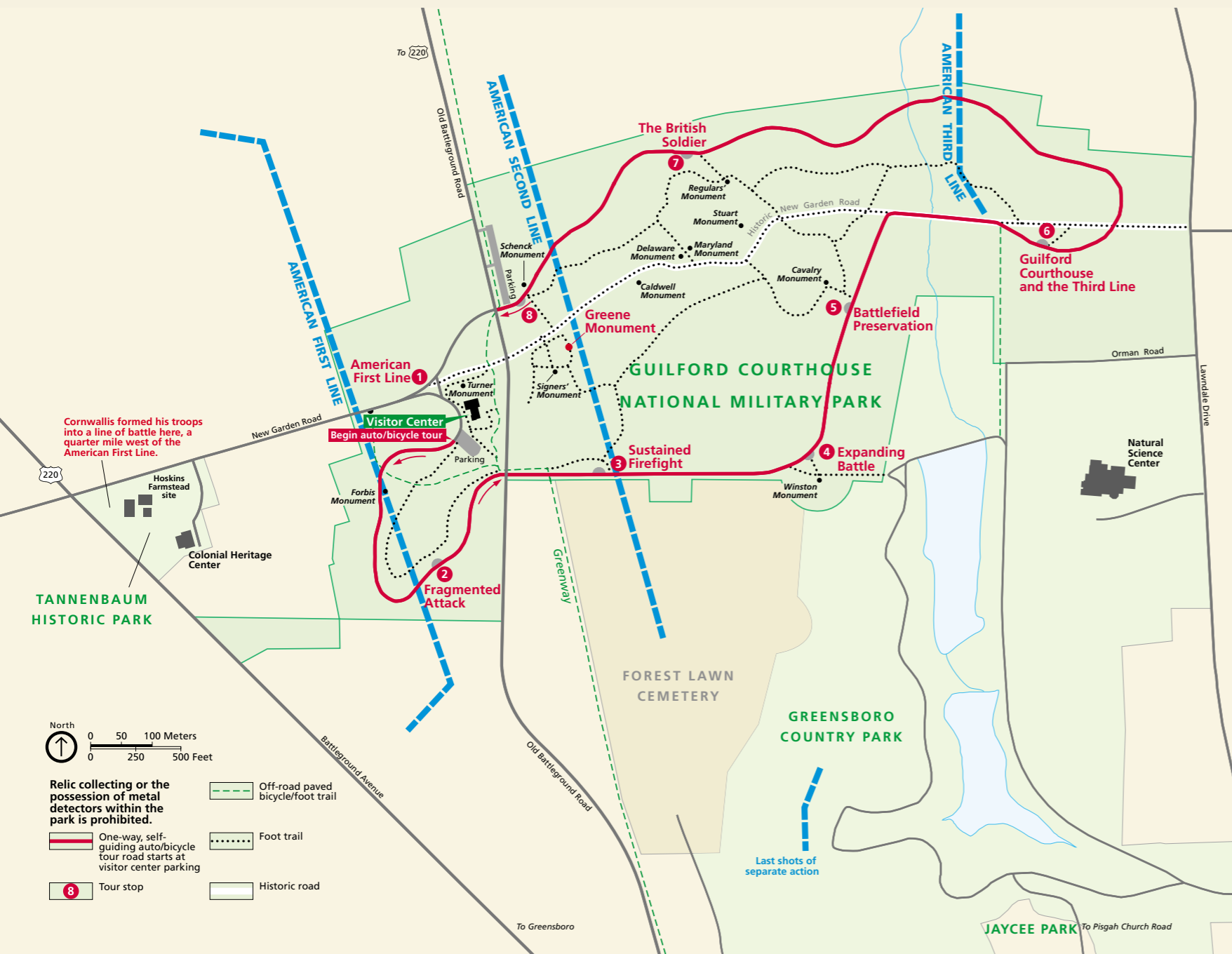
For More Information Guilford Courthouse National Military Park 2332 New Garden Road Greensboro, NC 27410 336-288-1776 www.nps.gov/guco

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park is one of more than 380 parks in the National Park System. The National Park Service cares for these special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. Visit www.nps.gov to learn more about parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities.

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Powder horn used by a Virginia militiaman in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. It is now part of the park collection. Photograph courtesy of NPS Museum Management Program



"The battle was long, obstinate, and bloody. We were obliged to give up the ground and lost our artillery, but the enemy have been so soundly beaten that they dare not move towards us since the action, notwithstanding we lay within ten miles of him for two days. Except the ground and the artillery, they have gained no advantage. On the contrary, they are little short of being ruined."

—Nathanael Greene

The large equestrian statue of Nathanael Greene near tour stop 8 is a fitting monument to the strategist of the Southern Campaign. As early as 1848 local citizens were thinking of raising a monument to Greene's memory. Congress appropriated money for a monument in 1911. The commission went to Francis H. Packer, a student of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the American realist. The monument was unveiled on July 3, 1915. Photograph by Griffin-Lusk Studios