

HISTORIC BRATTONSVILLE INTERPETIVE PLAN

**Culture and Heritage Museums
York County, South Carolina**

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Historic Brattonsville Mission Statement

The mission of Historic Brattonsville is to preserve and present the history of the Carolina Piedmont and this Revolutionary War site as portrayed through the structures, landscapes and stories of the Brattonsville community.

Introduction

Historic Brattonsville¹ is a historic site in York County, South Carolina that is open to the public year-round. At the heart of the 800-acre property is the Brattonsville Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places that features fourteen original buildings dating from the 1760's to the 1880's. Although the current Brattonsville Historic District is limited to the nine acres encompassing the cluster of original buildings, the site contains approximately eight hundred acres of surrounding wooded and agricultural land. The buildings and cultural landscape reflect the lives of four generations of the Bratton family and the inhabitants of the community that surrounded them. The Bratton's were among the first white settlers in the area in the 1760's. They amassed wealth through cotton and its accompanying plantation agriculture to rise to be among the economic elite of the Carolina Piedmont². The Brattonsville Community extended beyond the Bratton's to include the enslaved inhabitants (later Freedmen), yeoman farmers and their families, and a small group of educators, merchants, and specialized laborers. The site was first opened to the public as a heritage tourism destination in 1977.

In addition to its power to represent the daily lives of the local population, the interpretive chronology of the site opens and closes with nationally-significant stories of stands taken for civil liberties. In 1780 the Patriot Militia under the leadership of Colonel William Bratton and others challenged the perceived tyranny of the British government and defeated British Regulars on what is today the Historic Brattonsville property in the Battle of Huck's Defeat. Less than one hundred years later, in the turbulent Reconstruction years following the civil war, an African-American militia Captain and former Bratton slave named Jim Williams was lynched in the Brattonsville community for defending the right of freed slaves to have a voice in local government. Following the murder, the violence in York and eight surrounding counties drew the attention of the Nation with the suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus and an infamous series of Ku Klux Klan trials.

Under the new master plan, Historic Brattonsville will tell the story of the interrelationship between people, community, and land over the course of more than one hundred years in the Carolina Piedmont. Using the experiences of the Bratton family, the African American community, neighbors, and tenants as an example, Historic Brattonsville will show how a rural southern community evolved from a cluster of family farms along a creek in the 1780s to a significant cotton plantation by the 1850s. In addition, the site will explore the impact of the Civil War and the cultural upheaval left in its wake.

¹ Historic Brattonsville is a component of the Culture and Heritage Museums, a family of four museums governed by the Culture and Heritage Commission of York County, South Carolina. The overall mission of the Culture and Heritage Museums is to communicate and preserve the natural and cultural histories of the Carolina Piedmont, inspiring a lifetime of learning.

² The Carolina Piedmont is a geographic area in North and South Carolina between the eastern edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the fall line of the river systems of the two states.

Time Periods

The Historic Brattonsville Interpretive Plan focuses on three distinct time periods in American History that are easily comprehended, recognized and differentiated by most visitors. These periods also contain important milestones in the agricultural and social history of Brattonsville and the Carolina Piedmont. The time periods represented in this plan include the following:

- The Revolution Era (1775-1783)
- The Antebellum Era (1839-1860)
- The Reconstruction Era (1865-1877)

Goals of the Historic Brattonsville Interpretive Plan

- To preserve the historical integrity of the original structures (1760-1885), historic landscape, and surviving archaeological features while sharing the stories that they convey.
- To provide authentic educational and memorable experience that will challenge visitors to reflect on the past and apply its lessons to a better understanding of the importance of people and place in their own lives.
- To present an engaging, coherent, and teachable storyline of the Bratton community and the Carolina Piedmont's cultural history during three distinct and important time periods in the history of the American South.

A Vision for the Site and its Interpretation

It is envisioned that within the next five to seven years Historic Brattonsville will grow into being one of the most significant open-air museums in the Southeast by providing visitors with an engaging and interpretive presentation of the cultural and environmental evolution of the Carolina Piedmont. The site will be widely recognized for its authentic portrayals of the past, memorable visitor experiences, and commitment to historic preservation.

Historic Brattonsville preserves the legacy of four generations of the Bratton family and the surrounding community dating back to the 1760s. As such, Brattonsville will provide the public an excellent starting point from which to understand the much broader history of the American South and the integral role played by people and events in the Carolina Piedmont.

This interpretive plan envisions the presentation of this essential element of the history of the rural South through a combination of chronological and thematic interpretive methods. At the core of the presentation will be the stories of the inhabitants of the Brattonsville community. These stories are unique and compelling narratives in their own right as well as anecdotal keys to a fuller understanding of the Carolina Piedmont in the late Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. Through a succession of discrete restored and recreated environments visitors will experience three periods important to the history of Brattonsville and the region: The Revolution Era (1775-1783), The Antebellum Era (1839-1860) and The Reconstruction Era (1865-1877). Linking the individual areas together into a coherent storyline about the history of the Carolina Piedmont will be three overarching interpretive themes. These themes will

investigate the experiences of *people, the communities they created, and their relationship to the land.*

Five distinct Interpretive Areas defined by time, events or socio-economic status will be featured to tell the story of Historic Brattonsville and its relevance to the themes of People, Community, and Land. Other components of the daily visitor experience will provide opportunities for orientation, special programming, group assembly, recreation, reflection, and visitor amenities. In addition, the implementation of the plan will require necessary support facilities to enable staff to meet the needs of the visitors.

Aside from the power and visual impact of the historical structures and restored landscape, the primary means by which visitors will experience the Brattonsville story is through interaction with costumed interpreters. The learning experience will also be supported through printed materials, trailside interpretive signs, exhibits, videos, and other means of communication.

Further supporting the chronological and thematic presentation of the site, all-weather interpretive panels or “waysides” will be installed along the trails connecting the interpretive areas. These displays will introduce visitors to events, people, and natural and cultural processes occurring before, during and after the time periods at each interpretive area. Wayside panels might feature such topics as relations with local American Indians, environmental changes, the invention of the cotton gin and the impact of the Civil War on the region.

Audio visual presentation and exhibitions in the visitor center and some of the interpretive areas will provide yet another layer to the interpretive storyline. This multi-level interpretive approach combining restored buildings, printed guides, handheld electronic devices, waysides and thematic presentations, exhibits inside buildings, and living history programming will provide the visitor with a variety of learning opportunities as well as exciting venues to gain a fuller understanding of the region’s history.

Although the vision of the site’s interpretation is based predominantly upon the presentation of the historical storyline and supporting themes, it also takes into consideration aesthetic principals, visitor needs, the care and security of historic structures and other significant objects, archaeological and environmental impact, and operational necessities.

Preservation and Guiding Principles

Historic Brattonsville was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 as a historic district. At that time, the district was limited to the area of the named original structures with boundaries encompassing approximately nine acres that were not well-defined. Since that time, additional eligible features have been identified outside the early boundaries including identification of the original site of the Battle of Huck's Defeat. As a prelude to the implementation of the physical attributes of this Interpretive Plan, the National Register nomination will be revised to extend the boundaries significantly to encompass all known contiguous eligible cultural features.

Since opening to the public in 1977, various historic structures threatened with destruction have been relocated to Historic Brattonsville. While saving the structures from an immediate threat to their survival, the relocation to the site has resulted in a contrived physical organization that misrepresents the true historic landscape. The proposed plan calls for the removal of most of the non-original structures³ from the core of the site. The removal of these "non-contributing structures" will restore the historical integrity of the cultural landscape. The non-original structures, however, will continue to serve important roles in communicating the story of rural communities of the Carolina Piedmont as they are relocated to new interpretive and programming areas beyond the proposed revised boundaries of the historic district. In their new locations, they will either represent components of the community that are no longer extant or provide programming opportunities that do not require the full re-creation of a historic setting. Visitors will be made aware of the boundaries of the historic district and a clear distinction will be made between the original and non-original areas.

Archaeology will play a significant role in the preservation of resources and future understanding of the site. No new construction will take place within the historic district boundaries including all of the area within the revised boundaries⁴. Even beyond those extended boundaries, all activity (construction, farming, utility installation, etc.) with potential to disturb National Register-eligible features will be preceded by an archaeological evaluation of the activity area to determine if such features are present. Activities that involve excavation of undisturbed soil will additionally be monitored for the presence of cultural features or artifacts during the activity. In addition to being used as a means to protect undiscovered features, archaeological investigation will serve as a research tool. When justified by a likelihood of resolving significant questions, excavations may be implemented under the guidance of professional archaeologists to identify building locations, activity areas, living conditions of the enslaved population, and agricultural practices.

The vision for Historic Brattonsville embodied in this Interpretive Plan is based upon fifteen guiding principles that will continue to provide direction throughout the master planning and implementation process.

³ "Original structures" as used in this plan refers specifically to the fourteen structures within the historic district that remain in their historic locations. While many of the structures that have been relocated to the site for their protection and interpretation have a level of historic importance, they do not qualify as original structures.

⁴ An exception to this limitation may be made if, and only if, sufficient evidence is found through archaeological and documentary research to execute a reconstruction of one or more historic structures in its exact location in full compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Reconstruction.

Guiding Principles

1. The preservation of the site's original structures, archeological features, and cultural landscapes takes priority over all other concerns.
2. Furnishings and artifacts accessioned as part of the permanent collections of the Culture and Heritage Commission can only be displayed in secure and environmentally suitable locations.
3. An extension of the boundaries of the Brattonsville Historic District that encompasses all known contiguous cultural features will be prepared for nomination. No new construction will be proposed within those extended boundaries with the potential exception of reconstruction of former structures in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's preservation standards.
4. When possible, non-original structures will be removed from the current, as well as the proposed, expanded Brattonsville Historic District.
5. Relocation or new construction should only take place in areas that have been properly deemed to be free of features that are potentially eligible for the National Register.
6. The physical implementation of the Interpretive Plan and Master Site Plan should have no more than a modest impact upon the natural environment.
7. All educational and interpretive activities must support the mission of Historic Brattonsville and the overall mission of the Culture and Heritage Museums.
8. The optimal route of the walking tour should be chronological.
9. The recreated environment of each interpretive area should be distinct enough to provide a variety of experiences to visitors.
10. The time to walk between each interpretive area should be no more than five minutes.
11. When visitors are within an interpretive area they should not easily see other areas.
12. When possible, view sheds within and around the Antebellum interpretive areas should be restored to their mid-nineteenth-century agricultural appearance.
13. The history related in each interpretive area is connected thematically to other areas.
14. Each interpretive area is readily accessible to allow for maintenance, security, and emergency needs.
15. The physical manifestation of each interpretive area will be based on a model that takes into consideration the provenance, age and condition of buildings.

Historic Brattonsville Themes

Three overarching themes from which subthemes will be created articulate the storyline: ***people, community, and land***. Although each theme could stand alone, it is the interaction between people and place in the creation of communities over time that best illustrates the historic dynamics occurring at Brattonsville. The universality of the themes will encourage visitors to relate their own experiences to those illustrated by the site. Limiting the themes and supporting subthemes to only those that are physically represented on site will also help insure a visitor experience that is readily perceived. Individual area subthemes will further ground the three overarching themes to local experiences. Throughout the site, multiple perspectives will be shown through the experiences of the Bratton family, enslaved and free African Americans, tenants, employees, and neighbors.

People: People interacted with one another in attempts to create livable places for themselves and their families.

This theme incorporates the stories of individuals and families. The inhabitants of the Carolina Piedmont interacted with one another to establish and maintain livable, physical, and social places. The desire to create livable places sometimes included enslaving others. Resistance to change, distrust of outsiders and attempts to maintain hegemony were strong cultural forces. At many levels southerners, black and white, enslaved and free, wealthy and poor, attempted to preserve distinct identities. Despite a racially segregated society and one that was further structured along gender, economic, religious and parochial lines, Southerners interacted considerably with one another in their effort to create livable places. In doing so they exchanged, modified and created countless shared cultural traditions.

Community: People worked to form communities that provided members with an identity and mutual support.

The “Community” theme incorporates the interaction of individuals and families with other individuals and families who share the same geographic space. Tight-knit communities formed once people settled in a place for an extended period of time. The Scotch-Irish⁵ immigrants who settled the region during the 1700s often came and settled in extended family groups and congregations. These communities were held together through kinship, common background and experiences, economic and social exchange, and religious beliefs.

Due to a variety of factors, inland southern communities were frequently dispersed and lacked a concentrated core of residences, community buildings and commercial enterprises. Initially, the residents living along this section of the Catawba River tributary known as Fishing Creek probably identified themselves in association with the creek’s name or by their association with Bethesda Presbyterian Church. By 1820, however, Brattonsville had become an identified “place” on the map.

⁵ The term “Scotch-Irish” was coined by the English during the 1500s to denote Scottish or “Scotch” tribesmen whose ancestors had migrated from the northern part of Ireland to northern Britain during the early Middle Ages. In the seventeenth century, the term was used to describe the Protestant lowland Scots and northern English border clans whom King James I resettled on the Ulster Plantation in the north of Ireland. This historic usage has been chosen to denote the group in this interpretive plan.

The extended Bratton family formed the core of the community at Brattonsville. But around them lived hundreds of others who shared, to varying degrees, a similar sense of community. This sense of a larger community was maintained through the bonds of kinship, church affiliation, shared values, the identification with a common place, and a shared economy. Codes of behavior and interaction were also enforced by the same forces and institutions. That sense of community, however, did not necessarily translate into civic or cultural homogeneity. Within the larger community, there were multiple sub-communities of people who actively or reactively maintained discretely different values, histories and aspirations. These efforts were not always self-determining, but included strategies of survival and adaptation. The enslaved African American community, for example, was forcibly created by the Brattons; its members had to adapt and create a sense of community. Later, emancipated African American residents were part of the community, but hardly equal members as opposing forces sought to define freedom and a new economic system.

Although often depicted as being fossilized, slow to change or even resistant to change, Southern rural communities rarely remained completely static. Change was often in response to outside influences and actions which were common to a geographical region. The story of the Brattonsville Community provides an important case study of the rise and decline of a Southern community in the Carolina Piedmont.

Land: For over one hundred years most people living in the Carolina Piedmont worked the land to make a living.

The theme of “Land” incorporates the use of place, available natural resources, and the physical environment as tools for survival, exploitation, and interaction. During the period from the 1760s to the 1880s most residents of the Carolina Piedmont exploited the resources of the land to provide for their basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter, as well as a source of income. The importance of land as a source of living, the quest to own it, and the ability to change it has been a driving factor in history.

Working the land was more than a material means of survival. Farmers, both black and white, possessed an environmental knowledge that directed not only their work but their day-to-day lives. It also shaped their view of the wider world. Knowing their environment through manual labor and through the process of changing nature, they developed an understanding of their surroundings. While this folk understanding did not necessarily protect the land from abuse, by working the land, the people of the southern Carolina Piedmont figured out how the land worked. Working the land, living on it, fighting over its control, and burying family members in it gave many farmers a deep connection to the land.

THE INTERPRETIVE AREAS

The 1780 Farmstead (Revolutionary Era)

The Huck's Defeat Battlefield (Revolutionary Era)

The Bratton Plantation (Antebellum Era)

The Yeoman Farm (Antebellum Era)

The Brick House (Reconstruction Era)

1780 Farmstead Interpretive Area

Time Period: The Revolution Era (1775-1783)

Target Interpretive Year: 1780

Subthemes

People: Scotch-Irish immigrants, often in extended family groups, largely settled the Southern Piedmont. They brought with them specific cultural ways that influenced the manner in which they interacted with one another and with outsiders.

People: Scotch-Irish settlers had a historic mistrust of British government due to a long history of past abuses.

Community: Early settlers quickly established a sense of community through the bonds of kinship, church attendance and social gatherings.

Land: Settlers in the Carolina Piedmont exploited a variety of natural resources to make a living.

Historical significance/storyline:

Most of the initial settlers to the Carolina Piedmont were Scotch-Irish immigrants. Also called “Scots-Irish” or “Ulster-Scots”, over 250,000 of these hardy, mostly Presbyterian settlers migrated to North America during the eighteenth century to escape exorbitant rents and religious persecution in Ireland. Their mistreatment at the hands of the English crown and the Church of England put them at the forefront of the revolutionary movement in the colonies of Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia during the American Revolution.

Initially settling in Pennsylvania, many Scotch-Irish immigrants worked their way southward into the Carolina Piedmont following the Great Wagon Road. A majority making this journey were second generation Americans though some came directly from Ulster, Ireland. These early settlers preferred frontier areas where land was inexpensive, interference from government was minimal, and they could establish their own communities to maintain cherished traditions. In the Carolina Piedmont, the Scotch-Irish formed the backbone of the Whig or Patriot militia, and they defeated British and Loyalist forces in a number of pivotal battles, including Williamson’s Plantation (Huck’s Defeat), Musgrove’s Mill, Kings Mountain, Blackstock’s Plantation, and Cowpens.

The late eighteenth-century farmstead represents the settlement model present in the backcountry at the time of the American Revolution which featured small farmsteads (often of related families) that were engaged in mixed agricultural activities and situated at spring heads along a creek system.

Most immigrants who settled in the area established farms where they raised a variety of crops including corn, wheat, oats, and rye along with small patches of flax, tobacco and cotton. Farmers also established orchards of peaches, apples and other fruit. Like ranchers, most farmers allowed their livestock—cattle, hogs and sheep to roam the surrounding forests. Thus, the farmer erected high and tight fencing around their fields to keep out livestock and wild animals. The recreated late eighteenth-century farmstead will feature a log house, a barn/stable, and a corncrib. A garden and representative crop beds will be maintained within the fenced yard while a hog lot will be maintained outside of one section of the fence line to visually represent the practice of fencing livestock out of the yard.

Description of interpretive services:

To provide a positive first impression for visitors during their visit, it is optimal that the farm be staffed full-time with costumed living history interpreters. Interpreters will principally demonstrate early agrarian and domestic activities. Activities such as cultivating, harvesting and processing corn, processing flax, gardening, and domestic activities will be demonstrated at this location. The site will also interpret the impact of the American Revolution on farm families, the economy, women, slaves and others. The annual reenactment of the Battle of Huck's Defeat will take place in this interpretive area.

Description of structures (physical description and dimensions):

The farm site will be inspired by the nearby farm of the Williamson family as it existed in 1780 when it became the site of the Battle of Huck's Defeat.⁶ Although the exact specifications of structures on the Williamson Plantation are unknown, the orientation of the building, reconstructed lane, and fencing will mimic the layout of the actual Williamson farm as much as possible. By 1780, the Williamsons and Brattons had been on their home site for fourteen years. Thus the recreated farm will have the appearance of a settled but not fully mature farm.

- 1. Log house.** The principal feature of this interpretive area will be a single pen log house based on the known specifications of the original portion of the Col. Bratton house – one of the fourteen original buildings on the property with an early section built in the 1760's. It will be a fully functional reproduction constructed outside of the proposed expanded boundaries of the historic district with a working fireplace and chimney.
- 2. Corncrib.** A reproduction corn crib/storage building will be located within thirty feet of the Log House in line and parallel to it. An existing corncrib may be used as an alternative to reproduction if its specifications are consistent with the

⁶ The "Williamson Plantation" was a late eighteenth-century farmstead that served as the backdrop for the Revolutionary War battle popularly known as the *Huck's Defeat* but also called the *Battle of Williamson's Plantation* in various contemporary documents. The Williamson's lived about one quarter of a mile from the Bratton family at the time of the battle and their home site was later sold to the Bratton's. Today it is part of the Historic Brattonsville property. Since the actual site of the Williamson Plantation is also the site of the battle and available evidence is not sufficient to justify an attempt at a reconstruction as defined by the Secretary of the Interior, the 1780 Farm interpretive Area will be a more generic representation of a 1780 Carolina Piedmont farm that will not intrude on the battle site. It will be built at another location outside of the proposed expanded boundaries of the Brattonsville Historic District and will be clearly defined as a reproduction. The interpretive area, however, will be informed by known information related to both the Williamson Plantation and the still-extant original portion of the Colonel Bratton house (built c. 1766).

historical requirements. The year's harvest of corn and other grains will be stored inside the corncrib along with food stuff and other provisions hung from the rafters.

- 3. Stable/Barn.** Next to the corn crib will be a simple two-pen structure. This building may be either a reproduction or a relocated existing building with appropriate specifications. The farm's meager supply of tools and equipment, tack, and other supplies will be stored in one pen. The farm's horse will be kept in the other.

Description of landscape features (physical description, special needs):

The log house, outbuildings and yard will be encircled by split rail, worm fences. Separate fenced in corn, wheat and/or flax demonstration fields will also be needed. Enclosed areas should feature bare earth with tree stumps, a simple garden, some young fruit trees and irregularly shaped corn, wheat and flax patches. Several trees will be left standing to provide a small amount of shade. Within the yard there will be a work area for corn processing, deer hide processing, cooking, wood splitting and other activities.

Outside the fenced area will be a partially cleared forest. Early settlers did not corral or fence their livestock; instead they fenced in their crops and yard. To replicate this practice, a woodland pasture area will be enclosed with concealed modern fencing. Undergrowth will be kept to a minimum due to the grazing of hogs and cattle. Trees could be girdled to show the process of expanding cleared land.

Required supporting services:

This site will need to be provided with basic electrical and water utilities in order to properly maintain the buildings, and care for livestock and to support programming. Any outlets and spigots must be concealed from public view and should be located at the edge of the programming area.

To support the small number of livestock located at this interpretive area, historic fencing will be needed. In open areas, the fencing should be constructed to create the illusion of keeping the livestock "out" rather than "in" while in wooded areas, modern wire fencing can be hidden by the vegetation. The enclosure will need to be about a half an acre to support pigs and maybe two cows. Water and electrical service will need to be provided to this enclosure to operate an automatic livestock watering system.

Required visitor service amenities:

A wayside exhibit panel will be positioned at the entrance of the interpretive area to introduce visitors to the significant themes, subthemes, and topics of the site. Next to it will be located a large visually appropriate bench for the visitors' comfort. If possible the existing bathroom will continue to be used but be disguised as a historic structure, or hidden from view. This use will only be possible if it does not compromise the interpretive appearance of the farm site.

Anticipated visitor use:

Year-round, visitors will be able to experience demonstration-based interpretation provided by interpretive staff in a reproduced historic setting. Live interpretation will be supplemented by the use of the wayside exhibit panel.

Battle of Huck's Defeat Interpretive Area

Time Period: The Revolution Era (1775-1783)

Target Interpretive Year: 1780

Subthemes

People: The Battle of Huck's Defeat was a result of the local population's growing animosity toward British occupation of South Carolina.

Community: The war exposed political, social, ethnic and religious divisions that existed in the Carolina Backcountry.

Community: The war in the backcountry drew women, children, and other noncombatants into harm's way.

Land: Battles in the Carolina Backcountry often took place around homes and farms.

Historical significance/storyline:

By the summer of 1780, Charleston had fallen and South Carolina was considered by the British to be virtually conquered. Still, trouble persisted in the backcountry where rebel activity continued to fester. British and loyalist soldiers were sent into the area to secure oaths of loyalty through intimidation of the local population. On July 10th, a detachment of British provincial cavalry, provincial infantry, and loyalist militia under the command of Captain Christian Huck was sent into the Fishing Creek community in search of rebel leaders active in the area, including Colonel William Bratton. Huck and his men arrived at the Bratton farm late in the afternoon of July 11th, looking for the owner. Bratton's wife Martha dispatched an African-American slave named Watt to warn her husband, who was camped with the Patriot Militia some twenty miles away at the crossing of the Catawba River known as Nation Ford. After harassing the Bratton family, Huck moved to the nearby farm of James Williamson approximately one quarter of a mile away to camp for the evening.

The Patriot militia led by Bratton, Captain John McClure, Colonel Edward Lacey, and Colonel Andrew Neel, rode through the night and were in position to attack Huck by dawn. Although the numbers were similar, the Patriots took the British forces by surprise and the battle was a complete rout, with over thirty British and loyalist troops killed or captured but only one Patriot casualty. During the battle, the much-despised Captain Huck was shot in the back of the head while trying to escape. Although numerically small, the battle was significant as the first time that Patriot militia in the backcountry had defeated British regulars. The incident sparked increased resistance and the British were forced to accept that South Carolina was not subdued. The British army in the South under General Charles, Earl Cornwallis had no choice but to commit critical manpower to their left flank as they prepared to move into North Carolina and Virginia. Although the American forces in the area suffered a few setbacks after the battle, "Huck's Defeat" was followed by the major Patriot victory at Kings Mountain in October and the successful engagement at Cowpens in January, while the weakened Cornwallis met his ultimate defeat at Yorktown a little over a year later.

Although it has long been known that the battle took place in the vicinity of the Bratton Plantation, the exact location of the Williamson Plantation and the site of the battle were not rediscovered until 2006 when CHM Historian Michael Scoggins pieced together documentary evidence of the location that was corroborated through the presence of related archaeological material.

Description of interpretive services:

The story of the battle is interpreted primarily through all-weather exhibit panels placed along a walking trail to correspond with components of the engagement that was added in 2014. The panels, which feature commissioned artwork, also interpret the location of the Williamson buildings, various aspects leading up to the battle, and the aftermath of the conflict. A documentary video, an electronic battlefield tour, and small interpretive exhibits augment the experience. A permanent stone marker commemorating the battle may be erected in the future.

Description of structures (physical description and dimensions):

The battlefield trail utilizes interpretive waysides, life size soldier silhouettes, and a ghost frame representing the Williamson house. The video and interpretive exhibits are currently located in the auxiliary room of the visitor center.

Description of landscape features (physical description, special needs):

The area of the plantation and battlefield are cleared of underbrush with some trees removed to create a contemplative memorial setting; however, the original open landscape of the battlefield will not be restored due to the threat of erosion.

Bratton Plantation Interpretive Area

Time Period: The Antebellum Era (1839-1860)

Target Interpretive Year: 1855

Subthemes

People: Plantation owners like the Brattons were a small minority of the population but represented the social “elite” of the antebellum South

People: The continuation of slavery based on race necessitated a legally proscribed hierarchical interaction between whites and blacks enforced by law, custom and force.

People: Despite enslavement, African Americans were able to develop new unique traditions geared to surviving under adverse conditions.

People: Kinship and common values linked the Brattons to other planters throughout the region. These connections contributed to the perpetuation of a distinct planter class and culture.

People: The female seminary operated by the Bratton family helped maintain the social and gender hierarchy of the southern plantation system.

People: Harriet Bratton and Catherine Ladd are strong examples of how women took on leadership roles in plantation society.

Community: The Bratton plantation was the heart of the Brattonsville community. It provided the local neighborhood with tangible benefits—a store, post office, and a school.

Community: Located on the Bratton plantation was another community—the enslaved African American population. They maintained a separate sense of community from that of their enslavers.

Community: Attendance at the seminary helped perpetuate values common to the local plantation community.

Land: By the antebellum period a significant portion of the region’s prime cropland was devoted to the production of cotton.

Historical significance/storyline:

During the cotton boom of the 1790s and early 1800s some influential farmers were able to take advantage of the rapid increase in the demand for the commodity and enlarged their farms into staple or cash crop plantations. Colonel William Bratton appears to have been one of those men. One of Colonel Bratton’s sons, John S. Bratton, parlayed his inheritance and significantly enlarged his father’s holdings. John S. Bratton was a physician, planter, merchant and entrepreneur who accumulated through his business acumen some 8,000 acres, a significant home, debtors, and lots in Yorkville. If slave ownership is used as an indicator of plantation size, Dr. Bratton was a large planter. Bratton owned 139 slaves when he died in 1843. Using the 1860 census as a comparison, less than 450 other men in South Carolina

owned more than 100 slaves at that time, and only 2,368 in the entire South owned that many. By his untimely death, Dr. Bratton was certainly one of the most successful men in the region. His wife Harriet outlived her husband by many years. She never remarried and successfully managed the plantation until 1874.

While this interpretive area preserves the accomplishments and interests of the Bratton family, it is also a testament to the lives and labor of the hundreds of enslaved African Americans who built and worked on the Bratton plantations. Enslaved workers toiled in the cotton fields, tended the houses and kitchens and skillfully made bricks, charcoal, wrought iron, and other plantation necessities. Their hard work made the Brattons wealthy.

The impact of cotton on the region cannot be overstated. Much of the land of the Carolina Piedmont was ideally suited for cotton cultivation and worldwide demand made it attractive as a source of income. Cotton was the fuel that kept the economic engine moving, and it provided the capital and means for families like the Brattons to accumulate wealth and land. It ushered large numbers of African Americans into a region that had a relatively small black population prior to 1800. In addition, it caused large tracts of land to be cultivated and eventually ruined by over use and poor management practices. The interpretation of the Bratton plantation will represent those plantations in the South Carolina upstate that raised significant amounts of cotton and enslaved large numbers of African Americans. It will also represent the wealth and lifestyle attainable by the cultivation of cotton. Education was an important benefit of this economic success. Dr. Bratton established an academy in his father's former house for his daughters and other local children.

The antebellum interpretive area will focus on the mid-1850s. In the decade leading up to the Civil War, the role of the Bratton family as plantation owners in the Carolina Piedmont was at its height. While much about the Bratton Plantation in the 1850s is typical of Carolina Planters, its leadership under Harriet Bratton throughout the decade also provides an opportunity to explore the influential role of matriarchs in the Antebellum South.

By the late 1850s all of the original structures that still stand in the Historic District had evolved into their current forms. In later days, a few cosmetic and even fewer functional changes were made, however the basic shape and mass of the buildings had been established. It should be noted, however, that significant events did occur in other years within each house and this interpretation does not preclude the telling of those stories in a manner consistent with the current form of the house. One such exception is the Female Seminary which was housed in the portion of the Colonel Bratton House added for that purpose in 1839. Education is a vital part of our story, Strong documentation of the school in its formative years provides an opportunity to interpret this window into the past that would be difficult for later years. Since the changes in 1839 mark the last change to the Colonel Bratton House, the 1840 story of the seminary is not incompatible with the appearance of the house throughout the 1850s.

Description of interpretive services:

Multiple levels of interpretation on the Bratton Plantation interpretive area will engage visitors. At the entrance to the area, an interpretive wayside will introduce visitors to the Bratton family and their plantation. During the peak visitation season, several interpreters will be stationed in this interpretive area; likely in the Homestead, Colonel Bratton House, and slave quarters.

Depending upon their location, these staff members will act as house guide/monitors or living history demonstrators. At special events additional staff and/or volunteers would be available to interpret and operate the plantation cotton gin and other activities common to plantations. To provide additional contextual information and to feature artifacts recovered from excavations, exhibits will be located in several locales throughout the site. An interpretive video highlighting the experiences of the enslaved community at Brattonville may eventually be featured in one of these places.

Description of structures (physical description and dimensions):

The Bratton Plantation interpretive area will feature the original buildings at Historic Brattonville. The interpretive area will be restored and interpreted to the late 1850s. The Brick House, which is in the southern portion of the historic district, is currently being restored to its appearance following a rear addition in the 1850s; however, due to its significant connection to events of the Reconstruction Era, its interpretation will focus on the early 1870's. Still, the appearance of the house from the 1850s to the 1880s did not change and this manifestation is consistent with the landscape of the 1850s.

Original Bratton Plantation Structures, Ruins, and Features

- 1. Homestead House*.** The centerpiece of the interpretive area is the restored Dr. John and Harriet Bratton House - or the Homestead as it is popularly known. Although the house was originally completed in 1826, its present exterior configuration best represents the years after 1853. Most of the house will feature recreated period room settings. A historic structures report including a set of current status drawings and structural analysis will be required for this building. Any recent modifications that are inconsistent with documentation of the historic characteristics of the house should be reversed.
- 2. Assembly/Dining hall*.** The large brick structure connected to the rear of the house was likely built sometime between 1828 and 1840. The open hall or room was used for formal dinners, dances and concerts. The hall will be restored and furnished to the late antebellum period to showcase its intended use.
- 3. Assembly/Dining hall basement*.** Below the Assembly Hall main floor is a space likely used for storage and workspace. The kitchen items and modern brick floor currently in the area will be removed to reflect the historic appearance and use of the space. The concrete slab below the brick floor also will be removed or covered with a material that mimics the original dirt floor.
- 4. Detached kitchen**.** Next to the Bratton house is the reconstructed brick kitchen. It will continue to serve as the location for interpreters to demonstrate domestic chores common to the plantation era—cooking, laundry, soap making, etc. This building will also serve as one of the central locations from which to discuss the interaction between the Brattons and their enslaved workforce. The fireplace will remain functional for programming.

5. **Reconstructed slave dwelling**.** The present reconstructed brick slave dwelling will continue to serve as a place for staff and volunteers to recreate enslaved domestic life on the plantation. Because the house is a reconstruction, the fireplace will remain functional for interpretive activities.
6. **Slave dwelling ruins*.** Located next to the reconstructed brick slave dwelling, are the ruins of one of the site's original slave dwellings. Consideration will be given to "Reconstruction" of this structure as an acceptable treatment option under the Secretary of the Interior's preservation standards. Minimally, the ruins will be stabilized and an all-weather unobtrusive interpretive panel will explain the findings of excavations that occurred there in the 1990s.
7. **Original slave dwelling*.** The only surviving brick slave dwelling will be restored to a degree that insures that the highest level of original fabric remains visible. The space will be used to interpret the lives of the enslaved community at Brattonsville. The building may remain unfurnished to allow visitors to connect emotionally with its original use.
8. **Dairy*.** For many years the original brick building south of the Homestead was referred to as the "Doctor's office." Oral tradition supported this use, although no solid documentary evidence has been found to substantiate this claim. Estate records do mention a "Lot medicine shop, furniture & instruments" suggesting a separate, free-standing "shop" on the premises. In 2000 the Doctor's shop contents were removed and placed inside the house. Although the use of the upper level is unknown it is believed that the basement level functioned as the Bratton's dairy due to various architectural features. If supported by additional research, it is recommended that the medical interpretation should be reconsidered for the upper level and that the basement space should be restored and furnished as a dairy. The original earth floor of the basement should be restored if a more modern concrete floor laid in the basement can be removed without destabilizing the structure. A safety code review will need to be conducted to determine if the basement is safe to allow public access.
9. **Reconstructed brick dependency**.** The small reconstructed brick dependency next to the dairy is currently used to demonstrate weaving. Due to the lack of evidence that the Brattons did much, if any, weaving during the antebellum period, the weaving equipment will be relocated to the 1780 Farm or Yeoman farm. The interpretive use of this building will need to be determined although it should match its historic use as closely as possible.
10. **Slave dwelling ruins*.** These ruins are located behind the surviving original slave dwelling. As with the slave dwelling ruins across the yard, consideration should be given to "Reconstruction" of this structure as an acceptable treatment option under the Secretary of the Interior's preservation standards. Minimally, the ruins should be stabilized and interpreted via an unobtrusive wayside display.

- 11. Cotton press pit*.** The remnant of the Bratton Plantation press pit is located behind the relocated gin house on the western side of Brattonsville Road. This archaeological feature will be preserved as is and interpreted through wayside signage.
- 12. Slave Row*.** Evidence of what appears to be slave dwellings is present west-south-west of the plantation yard and in the woods above the rear pasture. There are at least two possible house sites in this location that align with the southern row of brick cabins. Archeological investigations will need to be undertaken to confirm this hypotheses. The Brattonsville Historic District boundaries should be expanded to encompass these ruins. Eventually, these dwelling sites will be made accessible to visitors and interpreted through wayside panels and other means. It is unlikely that sufficient evidence will be found to complete a formal reconstruction of the structures that meets the Secretary of the Interior’s preservation standards.
- 13. Colonel William Bratton House*.** Originally built circa 1766, the Colonel William Bratton House⁷ on the eastern side of Brattonsville Road was significantly remodeled and enlarged in 1839 to function as the first Brattonsville Female Seminary. The house will be furnished and interpreted to represent the seminary’s early years of operation when it was led by Catherine Ladd, and later Reverend Hugh McWhorter, with schoolroom and living quarters for the resident instructors. Other interpretive techniques will be used to call attention to the architectural evolution of the structure and its importance as the home of Colonel Bratton and his family. Visitors will be visually encouraged to compare the structure to the house in the 1780 farmstead. Living history demonstrations and guided tours, although set around 1840, will include “remembrances” of the house’s origins.
- 14. Huck’s Defeat Memorial/Watt and Polly’s Grave Stone.** In the “Oak Grove” on the eastern side of Brattonsville Road, visitors pass by an early twentieth-century marker commemorating the Battle of Huck’s Defeat as well as a reproduction of the grave stone of Watt and Polly – two former Bratton slaves. Although the Huck’s Defeat monument is a significant distance away from the battlefield, it represents an early understanding of the historic importance of the area that predates the establishment of a publicly accessible historic site by more than fifty years. Because of this legacy, the monument should be preserved while new signage should distinguish it as an early roadside marker and not the actual location of the battle. The reproduction gravestone, on the other hand, should be moved to a more appropriate interpretive setting. As soon as appropriate security can be

⁷ The Colonel William Bratton House is sometimes referred to as the “Revolutionary House”. It has also been called the “First Brattonsville Female Academy” or just the “Academy” but should not be confused with the replica 1840 Academy located elsewhere on the site. To avoid confusion, the structure will be referenced as the “Colonel Bratton House” in this document.

*An asterisk indicates that the building, ruin, or feature is original to the Bratton Plantation.

**Two asterisks indicate that the structure was reconstructed on its original location.

provided, the actual original grave stone should be restored to its intended location at the graves of Watt and Polly.

Non-original Structures that could potentially remain in the Bratton Plantation Interpretive Area

- 15. Gin House.** This mid-nineteenth-century historic building was moved to the site in 1992 from north-central York County to approximate the Bratton's original cotton gin. Its current location will likely fall within the expanded boundaries of the historic district. Although it would be classified as a non-contributing structure to the district, it is consistent with known evidence of the original Bratton gin in its current location, approximate size, and regional origin. Although it is believed to have been built around 1870, it represents a style that would have continued from the pre-war period. Despite its non-original status, it could be an effective interpretive tool to assist the public in understanding a significant part of plantation life in the Carolina Piedmont. If left in place the current building would be restored in its entirety including a wheel and gearing with a functioning antebellum gin stand on the second floor. Operated seasonally at special events and school programs, the gin will be one of only a handful of fully operational gins in the entire South, making it a significant tourist and educational attraction. Interpretive signage would clearly define it as not original to the Bratton property and explain its own history including its original location.
- 16. Log McGill barn.** This large log structure is believed to have been built around 1820. In 1989 it was relocated to Historic Brattonsville from the McGill Plantation in Smyrna, South Carolina in western York County. The barn is located behind the Homestead and Dining Hall. As a non-original structure prominently within the boundaries of the historic district, the Log McGill barn is problematic. Aside from the presence of a barn-like structure in the same location in aerial photographs from 1938 and 1949, little is known about the original Bratton barn which was no longer extant when preservation of the site began in the 1970s. On the other hand the McGill barn was also built in York County in the early to mid-nineteenth century. Its size is compatible with plantation usage in the area. Because of its size, relocation to the Yeoman Farm Interpretive Area would create an inaccurate portrayal of small rural farms in the time period. Consideration should be given to keeping the barn in its current location as a non-contributing structure to the historic district. In this location, it could represent the type of barn that would have stood on the property while serving as a support facility for the Bratton Plantation Interpretive Area. Horses and/or mules could be stabled in this building. This option would require the removal of modern additions. Interpretive signage would share the building's own history as well as the fact that it was not an actual part of the Bratton plantation. As an alternative, the building could be moved to the Educational Programming Area to function as a support facility. The condition of the building, however, may not be conducive to such a move. Whether kept in

place or moved, the structure has significant physical challenges and would need extensive repair.

**Non-original structures to be removed from the Bratton Plantation
with their new location yet to be determined**

- 17. Drive-Through Corn Crib.** This structure estimated to date from the 1840s was relocated from the McGill Plantation in western York County in 1983 to the backyard of the Homestead. It is consistent in age and size with the type of corn crib that would have been used on a York County plantation in the mid-1800s. It could be considered for use as a non-contributing structure for interpretive purposes however, the location, size and form of the actual Bratton corn crib from the period is unknown – rendering the interpretation conjectural and potentially misleading. The size of the structure would be historically inaccurate for relocation to the Yeoman Farm. An alternative option for this structure could be relocation to the Educational Programming Area for use as a place to provide farm demonstrations and to shelter farm equipment.
- 18. Corn Crib on Eastern Side of Brattonsville Road.** This structure believed to have been built sometime between 1820 and 1840 was relocated to the backyard of the Colonel William Bratton House in 1987 from a rural area of York County between York and Brattonsville. It is typical of the corn cribs in use in York County in the mid-nineteenth century. While it could be considered as a representative structure of agricultural practices connected to the Bratton farming operations, like the Drive-through corn crib, the location, size, and exact form is conjectural in interpreting the Bratton Plantation. During the Master Planning process, discussions should continue with the National Park Service, State Historic Preservation Office, and other preservation experts to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of using representative structures for interpretive purposes on historic sites and the criteria that should be applied in making these decisions. If leaving the structure in place as a non-contributing feature is not desirable, a new location in which the building can be preserved and used to teach will need to be identified. The Yeoman Farm Interpretive Area is not an option as a different structure is a better representative of the corn crib function there. This structure could be moved to the Educational Programming Area but consideration should be given to available space.
- 19. Woodworking shop.** The woodworking shop was relocated to the backyard of the Bratton Plantation in 1998. Oral history indicates this apparent mid-nineteenth-century structure once stood in a different part of the Bratton plantation, which is now a part of the Draper Wildlife Management Area. Even though, not original to its current location, as a possible original Bratton building, it is imperative that the structure be preserved. If possible the building should be moved back to its original location. If not, it could be considered for use as a support facility in an unobtrusive area near the Yeoman Farm.

- 20. Blacksmith Shed.** The blacksmith shed is a reproduction structure built for interpretive purposes currently located on the eastern side of Brattonsville Road. While this activity would have been typical on a Carolina Piedmont Plantation of the period, the historic location of the Blacksmithing operations on the Bratton plantation is currently unknown.⁸ As a non-original structure the Blacksmith Shed should be removed from the historic district. Consideration should be given to moving the activity to the Yeoman farm; if additional research indicates blacksmithing was present on such farms. Alternatively, blacksmithing may be demonstrated in the Educational Programming Area.
- 21. Log McGill Plantation Building.** Currently located in the field across from the Col. Bratton House, this single-pen log structure built sometime before 1840 was moved to Historic Brattonsville in the 1989 from the McGill Plantation. A painting by Martha Bratton from the 1840s shows a similarly-sized structure in this same vicinity but unfortunately the details of the painting are inconclusive. The log building is currently interpreted as a nineteenth-century slave dwelling. Depending on where the boundary of the expanded historic district lies and using the location of the Slave Row as a model, the McGill Cabin could be moved to a similarly-situated area that is off of the expanded historic district footprint and free of features potentially-eligible for the National Register. In this context, the structure would be used to present the contrast in living conditions between those slaves housed in the brick houses and those who likely labored in the fields.
- 22. McGill Store.** The McGill store is a mid-nineteenth-century log structure that was moved to Historic Brattonsville from the McGill Plantation in 1989. It is currently located between the parking area and the visitor center and is within the projected revised boundaries of the historic district. Since the Brick House served as the store for the Brattonsville community, this building would not have existed anywhere on the Bratton property and should be removed from the historic district. Still, it could be considered for interpretive, programmatic, or other uses outside of the historic district boundaries. During the Master Planning process consideration should be given to using it as a rest area along the route between the Yeoman farm and the Brick House. Care should be taken, however, to avoid giving the false impression that the Brattonsville community had a store in the mid-nineteenth century other than the one kept in the Brick House.
- 23. Poultry barn.** The poultry barn is a reproduction building on the western side of Brattonsville Road near the road to the gin house. It was built by staff and volunteers in 1995 to replicate a historic outbuilding. As a non-original

⁸ There have been reports of archaeological evidence suggestive of Blacksmithing in the yard just north of the 1940's structure known as the Neely House but additional investigation would be needed to validate the information. However, even if this location is corroborated, modern demonstrations could distort the archaeological record of the original activity area.

structure, it should be removed from the historic district. Its future use still needs to be determined.

24. Storage Shed (western side of Brattonsville Road). This storage shed dating from the mid-1800s was relocated to Historic Brattonsville from the York area in 1988. Its current use and location near the Reconstructed Detached Kitchen is completely conjectural and it should not remain in the historic district. The building is in poor condition. Its authenticity as a historic structure was previously compromised after damage related to Hurricane Hugo. Because of its condition and loss of historical integrity the building is not a viable candidate for relocation. Instead, it should be dismantled with usable material salvaged for potential reuse in other more stable structures.

25. Backwoods Cabin. The Backwoods Cabin was constructed by staff and volunteers in 1987-88 to represent initial white settlement in the area in the eighteenth century. It is located in a lightly wooded area on the eastern side of Brattonsville Road and would fall within the revised boundaries of the national Historic District. The cabin is currently in poor condition. As a reproduction of a temporary structure, it has survived its useful life and should be demolished rather than relocated.

Non-original buildings within the footprint of the Brattonsville Historic District that will be relocated to the Yeoman Farm include the McConnells' Cabin, the Milk Barn, the Smoke House, the Corn Crib (near the Woodworking Barn), the Tool Shed, and the Chicken Coop. These buildings are consistent with use on a more modest farm in the 1850s and will be discussed in more detail in the section on the Yeoman farm below. The Smith House and the Woodshed will be relocated to the Educational Programming Area as discussed in that section.

Description of landscape features (physical description, special needs):

The obvious impression of this antebellum interpretive area will be its large size and open spaces. Using the c. 1840 Martha Bratton painting and period maps as guides combined with additional historical and archaeological research, the landscape will be divided by split rail worm fencing with intermittent large trees.

Anticipated visitor use:

In the Bratton Plantation Interpretive Area visitors will experience a variety of interpretive formats including living history demonstrations, self-guided experiences, guided house tours, multi-media presentations, and traditional exhibits. This interpretive area will also host a variety of special events related to life on the plantation.

Yeoman Farm Interpretive Area

Time Period: The Antebellum Era (1839-1860)

Target Interpretive Year: 1855

Subthemes

People: Many yeoman farmers relied on an extended network of family and kin to satisfy their demand for farm labor.

People: Like planters, yeomen relied on local kinship relationships for support and socialization.

People: While not to the scale of large planters, yeoman farmers sometimes used slave labor.

Community: Yeoman farmers represented the largest part of the rural antebellum community in the Carolina Piedmont.

Community: Often socializing separately from planters, yeomen established a separate sense of community through common activities, kinship, church affiliation and work.

Land: Although Yeomen were conservative in commercial endeavors, cotton agriculture was not exclusive to the Planter class.

Historical significance/storyline:

Owning a large plantation set the Brattons apart from most of their neighbors. Many of the Bratton's neighbors, like the McConnell family, owned just a few slaves or none at all. By 1850, the South Carolina Upcountry produced over 56% of the state's cotton crop, even though it contained only 36% percent of the state's enslaved population. Most agricultural operations in the upper Piedmont of South Carolina were not plantations⁹ but small and middling sized farms. Most farmers in the region were considered "yeomen," that is farmers who owned fewer than six slaves or none at all. Yeoman farmers operated 55% of all farms in the region.

Yeoman farmers in the piedmont generally lived on modest farms of 100 to 300 acres. Slaveholding yeomen generally had slightly larger farms than those who did not own slaves, and it was not uncommon for non-slave owning yeomen to live on farms of less than 100 acres. Despite their small size, the majority of yeoman farmers did engage in cotton agriculture. In 1850 over 75% of yeoman farmers produced at least one bale of cotton with the average closer to three bales.

Although many yeomen engaged in the cotton economy they generally did so in a conservative manner. Most continued to emphasize self-sufficiency over profit and thus engaged in a pattern of mixed agriculture raising livestock, maintaining orchards and gardens, growing food crops such as corn and small grains, and fiber crops such as flax. Excesses of any of these commodities, including domestic manufactures such as textiles, butter, honey, and goose feathers were sold or traded within the immediate community for income and/or credit.

⁹ Plantations are defined here as staple crop farms utilizing twenty or more slaves.

Today, historians disagree as to whether yeoman farmers aspired to, but ultimately failed to be planters or chose to limit their engagement in the market driven cotton economy. Whichever is the case, many seemed to have engaged in only limited cotton production and instead focused on making sure they did not go into irrevocable debt or starve. Yeoman farmers were more likely to continue traditional agricultural practices and eschewed progressive methods or “book farming”; thus their connection to the land and its rhythms was intimate.

Description of interpretive services:

The primary avenue of interpreting the Yeoman Farm’s subthemes will be through on-going third-person living history activities. These activities will coincide with the operation of the farm and will include farming three or more acres of mixed crops, maintaining a garden and orchard, keeping livestock such as sheep, hogs, cows and draft horses and performing a wide variety of domestic and farmyard chores. Because the site will be a small functioning farm, optimally the area will be staffed by two to three people to meet both labor and interpretive demands.

Description of structures (physical description and dimensions)

- 1. The McConnell House:** The McConnell House, relocated to Historic Brattonsville from the nearby town of McConnells in 1983, will be the principal structure in the Yeoman Farm interpretive area. Originally built in the 1810s or 1820s, it would have been typical in age, style, and form of a Yeoman farmhouse still in use in the 1850s Carolina Piedmont. This building is currently located within the historic district on the eastern side of Brattonsville Road near the Colonel Bratton House and will need to be relocated to the area designated for the Yeoman Farm. The house may be expanded by the addition of a front and rear porch with half the rear porch being enclosed for a pantry. Based on architectural evidence and oral history, this configuration approximates how the house would likely have appeared in the mid-nineteenth century.
- 2. Detached kitchen.** A small reproduction kitchen will be built behind and at a right angle to the McConnell house. The single story log structure, situated on stone piers with a stick and mud or brick exterior end chimney, will be oriented with its front door facing east creating a work yard behind the McConnell house. It should be placed no more than ten yards off the back right corner of the McConnell house.
- 3. Smoke house.** The log smoke house (currently located to the south of the Col. Bratton House on the eastern side of Brattonsville Road) is a historic building with an estimated construction date between 1820 and 1840. It was relocated to Brattonsville from the King’s Creek Community in Cherokee County, South Carolina in 1980. In the Yeoman Farm Interpretive Area it will be placed in line with the kitchen facing in toward the work yard. The smoke house should be placed no farther than 20’ from the chimney end of the kitchen building.
- 4. Milk barn.** The milk barn is a historic building dating from the early nineteenth century relocated to Brattonsville. It was moved to the property from the McGill Plantation in western York County in 1989. It is currently on the eastern side of Brattonsville Road north of the McConnells Cabin. It will be relocated to the perimeter of the Yeoman Farm yard adjacent to the pasture. Ideally, the barn

should be oriented with its front facing northward toward the pasture. The single stall in this barn will provide modest stable space to smaller animals. The farm's draft stock and tack will be housed in the open pen. The structure will be enlarged by adding sheds to the sides that will accommodate the farm's agricultural equipment and vehicles.

5. **Corn crib.** The large single pen log corncrib currently located beside the woodworking barn on the western side of Brattonsville Road is believed to have been relocated to Historic Brattonsville in the late 1980s. Its original construction date is estimated to be between 1820 and 1840. It will be placed near the milk barn on the Yeoman Farm.
6. **Chicken coop.** The small reproduction log chicken coop behind the Homestead was built in 1993. It will be relocated to the Yeoman Farm Interpretive Area where it will be placed along the fence delineating the back perimeter of the yard.
7. **Tool Shed** (eastern Side of Brattonsville Road). This structure, believed to date from around 1890, was moved to Historic Brattonsville from Rock Hill, South Carolina in 1985. Its current location between the Colonel Bratton House and the McConnell House will fall within the expanded boundaries of the historic district. It will be moved to the Yeoman Farm Interpretive Area to be used as a support facility for programming and care of livestock. The location of this building within the interpretive area will be determined during the master planning process. Since it will be used for support rather than interpretation and it likely post-dates the represented time period, the new location will need to be outside the fenced yard and hidden from public view by vegetation. This structure will be serviced with full utilities. Modern support services—a freezer/refrigerator, utility sink, office desk, telephone, and storage cabinets will provide support to staff assigned to this location. The Woodworking Shop discussed earlier may be better suited to this function if it cannot be returned to its original location on the Draper property.

Description of landscape features (physical description, special needs)

The house and its six supporting structures will occupy approximately three acres outside of the existing boundaries of the historic district. The chosen area must be evaluated to determine that there are no archaeological features that would make it eligible for inclusion in the Brattonsville Historic District. The area will be enclosed by wooden split rail fencing. Within the yard will be a garden enclosed within a paling fence, a work yard between the house and kitchen, a pole shed or "shade" under which to store firewood and to do odd jobs. A false "well" should be constructed to illustrate this family's water source and an orchard of approximately six fruit trees should be set somewhere on the grounds. An occasional tree will be left in the yard to provide some shade.

The open fields adjacent to the house will be converted into pasture and crop fields. Three enclosed fields will rotate annually. Fenced pasture will be connected to the milk barn and livestock barn; it will also be contiguous to the modern livestock facility to the north. Livestock kept here will include a small number of sheep, cows, hogs, and a team of horses. Period rail fencing will enclose the visible portions of the pasture. Areas out of public sight can be enclosed

with modern wire fencing. Each enclosure will have a period-appropriate livestock shelter within view of the public.

Required visitor service amenities:

A wayside exhibit panel will be positioned at the entrance of the site to introduce visitors to the significant theme and topics of the site. Next to it will be located a water fountain and a large historically appropriate bench for the visitors' comfort. Two to three split-log benches will be scattered around the site to provide seating for visitors.

Anticipated visitor use:

During the peak visitation season visitors will be able to experience demonstration-based interpretation provided by staff. This will be supplemented by the use of the wayside exhibit panel. During off-peak visitation periods less staff will be present but the area will remain open for more passive experiences. It will continue to be managed as a historic farm to be viewed by visitors throughout the year.

The Brick House Interpretive Area

Time Period: The Reconstruction Era: 1865-1877

Target Interpretive Year: 1871

Subthemes

People: Former slaves were intent on expressing their freedoms and newly gained civil rights while the white population was largely determined to continue the pre-war social structure.

Community: Following the Civil War there was a need to redefine labor relationships between former slaves and the surrounding white population

Community: The extreme racial violence in York County and other upstate counties in 1870 and 1871 forced unprecedented intervention in local affairs from the federal government.

Community: Stores provided a connection to the larger world through news and goods.

Community: Rural stores were one of the few places where different ethnicities and social classes regularly intermingled.

Land: Cotton Agriculture remained important in the South after the war

Land: The end of the Civil War saw the widespread adoption of sharecropping throughout the South.

Historical Significance/storyline:

The Brick House served as the public structure in the Brattonville community from its initial construction in the early 1840s until the construction of a stand-alone store in the mid-1880s. Its use as a commercial endeavor made it a crossroads where various social classes including planters and slaves/freedmen interacted – even if not on an equal basis. It was the venue from which news was disseminated and opinions were formed and shared.

On March 6th 1871 the Brick House/Store was the site of a coroner's inquest into the Ku Klux Klan's murder of Captain Jim Williams, a former Bratton slave and the leader of the local unit of the state militia which was comprised entirely of African Americans. The events surrounding Jim Williams' lynching are emblematic of the social and political upheaval that rocked the South during the decade after the Civil War.

The passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution gave the millions of newly freed African Americans a glimmer of hope for greater equality. Despite poverty and a lack of social mobility African Americans gained a modicum of political power in the early years following the Civil War. The ability to vote made it possible to elect African Americans to positions of power. Former slaves were intent on expressing their freedoms while the white population was just as determined to continue the pre-war social structure. To maintain white dominance, the Ku Klux Klan and other vigilante groups resorted to violence, intimidation and murder. York County was at the center of this storm with eleven murders and over six hundred whippings documented from late 1870 and early 1871. The violence that

erupted in the South Carolina Piedmont led to the Federal occupation of nine counties in the state with York as the headquarters. Following the passage of the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 by the Forty-second U.S. Congress in April (also known as the Civil Rights Act of 1871) requirement for a writ of habeas corpus was suspended in the district by President Ulysses S. Grant. The ensuing "Klan Trials" that resulted drew the attention of the Nation.

The lynching of Williams in March, as a duly appointed officer of the pro-reconstruction state government, may have particularly served as a call to action for proponents of federal intervention to address the lawlessness. The raid against Williams was allegedly led by Rufus Bratton a prominent citizen who appeared to be immune to local prosecution. The Klansmen hung Williams near his home which is believed to have been just south of the current Historic Brattonsville boundary. The following morning, his body was brought to the Brick House which at the time served as both the community store and the home of Napoleon Bratton – the brother of Rufus. Within a month of the attack, legislation was written that would become known as the Ku Klux Klan Act. Upon Federal intervention, Rufus Bratton fled the country to avoid trial. While the Klan trials resulted in mostly minor penalties, the show of the Federal government's willingness to oppose such behavior did succeed in greatly curtailing Klan activities throughout the South.

As the political will to continue with the reforms disappeared so too went any real chance for equality for African Americans. By 1877 Southern white resistance and the withdrawal of federal supervision brought about the "redemption" of the South and African Americans were disenfranchised. The redemption measures institutionalized new forms of racial separation.

Even though the conclusion of the Civil War brought an end to the slave-dependent plantation system, it did not bring about an end to a cotton-based agricultural system. Nor did the end of the war alleviate the need for extensive (and inexpensive) hand labor to cultivate cotton. Planters needed their former slaves. Most planters however, had little or no cash to pay African American laborers, and former slaves rightfully expected regular payment for their work. Those planters who tried to engage former slaves in contracts found few willing to work under the often restrictive agreements. After several years of considerable trial and error, the sharecropping and tenant systems fell into place. Although neither party found them satisfactory, they did restore agricultural production in the South.

Description of Interpretive Services:

The central feature of the Reconstruction Interpretive Area is the Brick House. The exterior of the Brick House and its associated outbuildings is consistent with the 1850s interpretation of the Bratton Plantation as no significant new construction took place between the mid-1850s and the mid-1880s. Therefore, the view shed from the historic district is compatible with either time period; however, the historic events that took place in York County during the Reconstruction Era are of National significance and the Brick House's connection to these events provides an opportunity to use the power of place to tell a more specific story within its walls. The primary avenue of interpreting the Brick House will be traditional museum exhibits in historic settings and living history activities. A short documentary film telling the story of York County during reconstruction will be shown in one of the first floor rooms of the frame addition. The store side of the building will be restored to its 1871 appearance, the time of the coroner's inquest of Williams' death. The remainder of the first floor will also serve as

interpretive areas. Use of the second floor will be considered more fully during the master planning process.

Because the area is small, interpretive demands will dictate it to be staffed by only one or two individuals during the interpretive season. At special events staff interpreters will be augmented by volunteers and other staff.

Description of Structures:

- 1. Brick House*.** The Brick House is near the western edge of Brattonsville Road south of the Homestead. It was built between 1841 and 1845 with a wood addition believed to have been added in the 1850's. During its primary periods of significance (Antebellum and Reconstruction), the house served as both a store and private residence. As a store it was the central public structure for the Brattonsville community. It was modified to function more exclusively as a private residence in the mid 1880's. It is currently being restored to its appearance as a mixed use structure as it appeared from the 1850's to the 1880's.
- 2. Frame Structure*.** This frame structure believed to date from the mid-nineteenth century is located behind the Brick House. Its future use has not yet been determined. The building is original to the property. As it becomes better understood, its exterior should be restored to its appearance from the 1850s through the 1880s.
- 3. Smoke house*.** A mid-nineteenth-century frame structure behind the Brick House will likely be used for storage. As the building becomes better understood, its exterior should be restored to its appearance from the 1850s through the 1880s.
- 4. Brattonsville Store Ruins.** The Brattonsville Store was constructed by the Bratton family around 1885 to replace the public function of the Brick House as a store. The store burned in 2004 but the foundation piers and chimney remain. The ruins will be used to conclude the chronological tour of the site. Wayside signage will interpret the changing use of the Brick House, the continuation of commercial endeavors through the new store, and summarizing the later occupation of the site by the Bratton family into the 1910s. Threats to the chimney and associated ruins will need to be addressed.

Description of Landscape features:

The landscape of the Reconstruction Interpretive Area will continue to be compatible with the Bratton Plantation area as there were no dramatic changes to the landscape between the 1850s and 1880s and interpretation will focus on the interior of the Brick House. Should the 1940's era Neely House on the opposite side of Brattonsville Road from the Brick House be retained, vegetation should be planted with sufficient height to minimize detracting from the historic view shed as seen from the front of the Brick House.

Required visitor service amenities:

A wayside exhibit panel will be placed at the approach to the interpretive area to prepare the visitor for entry into a new time period and the experience of the Brick House. Split-log benches

will be placed in the vicinity of the panel to offer another chance for visitors to rest. Benches or other seating will also be placed in the video room.

Other Elements of the Visitor Experience

Visitor Center and Parking

As the first point of contact for our visitors, the visitor center should be welcoming and provide orientation for the visitor experience. Guests will be prepared for their visit through interaction with visitor services staff, displays, orientation films and exhibits.

The current visitor service facility includes visitor reception, gift shop, an orientation theater, administrative offices, and restrooms. Future plans should also strongly consider incorporation of an exhibit gallery space and food service opportunities. The gallery would allow for greater site orientation and presentation of important background and narrative for specific important events not readily presented through the site architecture and living history. Expanded food services would allow visitors to spend more time at Brattonsville. There are few food options in close proximity to the site. As a result people must leave the site and travel some distance to eat. Generally, the distance is prohibitive to their return. Aside from drinks and limited light snacks, concessions are currently provided at special events only.

The current Visitor Center is a modern reproduction of the Ingram-Montgomery house. The interior floor boards, paneling, and, staircase are the only original elements from the historic structure. Because the house is not original to the site, it is a non-contributing structure within the National Historic District. The location and sheer size of the building give a very noticeable false impression of the historic landscape that is problematic to the site's authenticity. To alleviate these concerns the existing building will ultimately need to be removed and the visitor service functions relocated away from the historic area. The reproduction Ingram-Montgomery house could be reused somewhere else on site, donated to another organization, or disassembled with the original architectural elements reused.

Currently, visitor and staff parking are located in a gravel lot behind the current visitor center. A grass covered field adjacent to the Brick House is used as a parking area for large scale events. While adequate for current usage neither area will meet expanded parking needs.

Admission Barn

To the south and west of the brick house is an early twentieth-century frame barn. Although it is apparently original to the site, it does not appear to be from one of the periods of historic significance and would not qualify as a contributing structure to the expanded historic district. It has yet to be determined if it will fall within the expanded boundaries of the district but there is no pressing reason for relocating it either way. Depending on future site layout the barn may continue to be used as a gatehouse for special event admissions.

Hightower Hall

Hightower Hall is a three-story antebellum house built in the mid-1850s as the home of John Bratton, Jr. and his wife Harriet.¹⁰ The structure is at the northern end of the Historic Brattonsville property approximately one mile from the main interpretive areas and is listed as

¹⁰ John Bratton, Jr. who first lived in Hightower Hall was the son of Dr. John and Harriet Bratton of the Homestead and the Grandson of Colonel William Bratton. Like his father, he also married a woman from the Rainey family named Harriet leading to significant confusion of the two John Bratton's.

a distinct property on the National Register of Historic Places. Renovation of Hightower was completed in 2009 with modern lighting and wiring, fire suppression, and mechanical systems. Although some program activities currently take place there, it is primarily used as a rental facility for weddings and other events. As an event center, the size of the rooms and accessibility to the upper floor are somewhat limiting. Two original historic structures are associated with Hightower Hall. A detached Kitchen is in its original location just to the north east of the main house. A second outbuilding is east of main house but its current position is not its original location.

The organization would like to incorporate Hightower Hall, its outbuildings, and grounds into more programmatic alternatives. New options for use of the building should be considered during the master planning process including use of the building for interpretive exhibition, visitor reception and orientation, visitor amenities, and administration. These options should be weighed carefully to assess the challenges of the distance from other portions of the site.

Educational Programming Area

The Educational Programming Area will create opportunities to use historic structures that are not original to Brattonsville to teach about past lifeways and architecture while preserving them for future generations. It will also provide opportunities for unique group programming, demonstrations, hands-on activities, and special events that could compromise the preservation requirements and/or the interpretive focus of the five interpretive areas. The area will be separated from the daily visitor experience allowing for a greater range of group and specialty activities.

The Educational Programming Area must be outside of the proposed expanded boundaries of the Brattonsville Historic District. Archaeological evaluation of the prospective location is needed to ensure that no cultural features that are potentially eligible for the National Register are present. Available space within the selected area will limit the number of buildings that can be relocated to this area.

Even though outside of the Historic District, it is very important that the Educational Programming Area not be presented to the visitor as an authentic arrangement of historic structures. Signage should clearly distinguish it as a non-historic area. Each structure should include a panel describing its history, original location (if applicable), and when it was built or moved to the site. Minimally, the area will contain the Brattonsville Academy, the Woodshed, the Old Cotton Warehouse, the Smith House, the Gin House Picnic Pavilion, and restrooms. Since the Cotton Warehouse and the Gin House Picnic Pavilion are already off of the projected footprint of the historic district and are in close proximity to each other as well as the overflow parking area, the Educational Programming Area logically would be in the surrounding vicinity. The inclusion of additional non-original historic structures in this area and the use of those structures should be considered during the master planning process.

Description of Structures (Educational Programming Area)

1. **Brattonsville Academy 1840:** The Brattonsville Academy was built on site in 1986 to replicate educational experiences from the 1840s for area schools. It continues to be used extensively for this purpose. According to current planning, this reproduction

building on the eastern side of Brattonsville Road behind the parking area will be moved to the education area to make room for the 1780 Farm. The recreated academy will not be a part of the daily visitor's experience but will continue to be used primarily by school groups in its new location. The academy may also be used for meeting space, training, and special events.

2. **Woodshed:** The log woodshed is a historic structure believed to date from the late nineteenth century that was relocated to Brattonsville from the York area in the late 1980s. It is currently on the western side of Brattonsville Road behind the Homestead. It will be moved to the Educational Programming Area to be used for storage.
3. **Old Cotton Warehouse:** The cotton warehouse is a large (20' x 46') frame building with a 13' wide shed along the length of one side of the building. Originally built around 1924, it was moved to Historic Brattonsville from Clover in northern York County in 2007. The building will serve as a multiple-use facility for special events and other activities that require a large enclosed space. Its current location south of the Brick House is not likely to fall within the expanded historic district so relocation to protect the integrity of the district is not anticipated.
4. **Smith House:** The Smith House is a large (28' x 40') two pen log house that dates from the second quarter of the nineteenth century and was relocated to Historic Brattonsville from Clover in 1993. Since its current location will likely fall within the expanded boundaries of the historic district, it will need to be moved to a new location beyond those boundaries. In its new location, it will serve as a multi-purpose facility where school groups can be provided historic immersion programs on domestic skills such as open hearth cooking, spinning, weaving, etc. During most days the house will not be open for tours unless staffing permits. The log house may also be used for after-hours programming such as historic dining events and for hands-on staff and volunteer training. During special events it can serve as a volunteer support facility. The building will have electrical service, and water. The front of the house features a porch and a framed corner room addition. The back of the house will feature a frame addition that will house a "modern" kitchen and supply storage space. Upstairs will not be accessible to the public and will serve as site support space.
5. **Gin House Picnic Pavilion:** Located at a distance behind the Brick House, the late nineteenth-century gin house which was relocated to Historic Brattonsville from Richburg, South Carolina sometime after the 1960s will be renovated to serve as a picnic pavilion and place where activities can be performed regardless of the weather. Unless new contributing features are discovered, the Gin House is outside the projected historic district boundary and will not require relocation.
6. **Restrooms:** Restrooms will be located within the education area to serve the needs of the area. Its size will be determined during the master planning process.

Slave Cemetery

Located in a wooded area at the corner of Brattonsville and Burkin Roads the cemetery includes approximately fifty graves. Most are believed to be the graves of slaves and former slaves of the Bratton Plantation. There is speculation that some of the Loyalists killed at the Battle of Huck's Defeat may also have been buried in or near the cemetery. With the important

exception of the graves of the aforementioned Watt and Polly, all the graves are marked only with field stones or are completely unmarked. In 2005 the original inscribed grave marker for Watt and Polly was removed to protect it from possible vandalism and theft. The stone's location is marked with a piece of steel rebar. The original stone now resides in the CHM's permanent artifact collection at the McCelvey Center. As mentioned earlier, when appropriate security can be provided, the marker should be returned to its original location. In 2011 a Winthrop University archaeology class lead by Ms. Christina Brooks conducted a preliminary investigation to identify the boundaries of the cemetery and any apparent graves. No excavations were undertaken during the investigation. Currently the cemetery is not open for public tours. CHM staff needs to work with the local community to develop a plan to preserve and interpret the cemetery. Because of its remote location, additional security measures to protect against potential vandalism will need to be in place before the slave cemetery is incorporated into public programming and visitation.

Nature Trails / Recreational Areas

Historic Brattonsville maintains approximately eight miles of trails for pedestrian, cycling, and equine use. The trails wind through approximately eight hundred acres of woods and fields including two ponds. The natural heritage of Historic Brattonsville is a treasure worthy of understanding and preservation and provides an excellent opportunity for passive programming. Over one hundred seventy species of vascular plants have been recorded at Historic Brattonsville. A comprehensive listing has been produced and is available for review. Over sixty species of amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals have been documented. The database of records and voucher specimens also continues to grow. Care should be taken to ensure that trail access does not exceed the staff's ability to provide adequate maintenance, security, and safety. In the future, opportunities for overnight historical experiences including group camping, cabin sites, and a retreat lodge could be considered in recreational areas of the site. A meadow in the northwestern portion of the property would be especially conducive to this use. Such use would require significant expansion of operational capacity, additional security measures, and 24-hour staff presence on the site.

Interpretive Methodology

Living History

Historic Brattonsville will employ a range of interpretive modes to convey the site's storyline, themes, and subthemes including audiovisual presentations, text panels, waysides, three-dimensional exhibitions, interactive stations, and living history activities. Living history interpretation will be used in those areas that are best suited for an active, demonstration-based interpretation.

As an outdoor, open-air museum of rural southern life, the use of living history interpretation will be critical to bringing to life and explaining a past that is, in many ways, foreign to contemporary visitors. Living history interpretation has an advantage over other forms of interpretation (human or otherwise) in that it is evocative, visual and frequently interactive. As a form of interpretation, living history comes in two basic forms: third-person and first-person. The third-person presenter, often costumed and demonstrating a historic skill, acts as an interpreter between a historic site's understanding of the past and the modern visitor. The first-person presenter takes on the persona of a historic character and interacts with the public or other first-person interpreters without deviating from the historic character he/she is representing. In first-person interpretation, the interpreter shows no awareness beyond the depicted time period. Historic Brattonsville will primarily employ a third-person presentation for day-to-day interpretation and use first-person at special events and during scheduled group tours.

The 1780 Farm, Antebellum Yeoman Farm, and Bratton Plantation yard are ideal for living history presences. The size and complexity of the operations of the farms and plantation make it necessary to focus staff resources on these locations. In these areas visitors will see farming activities taking place year round in addition to a myriad of domestic and skill demonstrations from historic farming, blacksmithing and woodworking to butter-making and quilting. At other locations (including the interiors of the Homestead, Colonel Bratton House, and Brick House) living history interpretation will be used more sparingly and mostly in a passive manner.

The implementation of the Interpretive Plan will necessitate increased focus on living history at Historic Brattonsville. Costumed living history demonstrations and activities will be conducted daily at multiple interpretive areas during the peak visitation season. In addition to this enhanced daily experience, living history will continue to be an integral part of school programs and special events such as Huck's Defeat, Children's Day on the Farm, Christmas Candlelight, and By the Sweat of our Brows.

Passive (static) Interpretive Presentations

Passive interpretation is defined as any interpretive or educational service that is not delivered by a person. Passive interpretation includes wayside signage, text panels, audio-visual devices, exhibition components and printed materials. Throughout the site, a variety of these interpretive tools will be integrated in minimally obtrusive ways to compliment the interpreter-based programming and serve as transitional elements between interpretive areas.

- 1. Printed Materials:** A variety of printed materials will accommodate visitor needs. A visitor guidebook will be created that will provide information regarding the structures, furnishings, historical figures, regional history, and broader interpretation of the subthemes presented at the different interpretive areas. Two options (or combination thereof) exist for this guidebook: an inexpensively produced handout provided to visitors to assist them on their journey through the site; and/or, a modestly priced monograph available for purchase at the visitor center designed as a souvenir.

Implementing a design standard for Historic Brattonsville is also integral to promoting and interpreting its historic character. These standards, including parameters for the use of materials, colors, typestyles, graphics and photography, will project a uniform public image for all signage and printed materials.

- 2. Audio/Visual Components and Exhibits:** The principle audio/visual program component at Historic Brattonsville will be located in the Visitor Center. A ten to fifteen minute introductory video will introduce visitors to the site's history and touring options. In addition, visitors will have the option to watch a video related specifically to the Battle of Huck's Defeat. A third video will be shown in the Brick House providing background on the violence in York County that erupted during the Reconstruction Era.

To enhance the visitor's learning experience and to provide a level of humanity to locations not staffed, audio/visual and interactive components have strong potential for interpreting some themes. Other areas, such as the Plantation and the Brick House will have traditional exhibit displays to augment living history and other passive interpretation. Considering the fluctuation of climatic conditions in some of the structures and that many areas are remote and unmanned, any type of electronic or visual display will require weather-resistant components and materials, as well as secure and durable housing. The location, structure and design of these interpretive elements will be fully explored as site expansion evolves.

Hand-held digital devices may also be used as a way to relay information to the visitor. The potentially diverse nature of the audience requires that consideration be given to multilingual formats provided through either printed materials or audio devices. Audio devices should also be considered as a means to engage the visually impaired.

- 3. Wayside Signage:** A cohesive series of informational signs, or waysides, is a vital part of the educational and interpretive mission of the interpretive plan. Waysides will provide interpretive information that supports the various interpretive subthemes. Signage will also provide visitor orientation and serve to direct visitors along the trail. Two types of waysides – interpretive and orientation – will be integrated at key locations along the trail. The design of the waysides must reflect the standards established for the site and the materials utilized must be weather and damage resistant. Structural elements such as stone, brick, iron and wood will be considered for their durability and historical relevance to the site. Thoughtful placement and design will help to preserve the historic and natural character of the site and ensure that the waysides do not detract from the authentic representation and immersive experience.

i. Interpretive waysides

Interpretive waysides will provide an introduction for each interpretive area – providing important contextual information about the time period, people, landscape, and the social and economic forces that shaped the site they are entering. Additional waysides may be placed between the venues to provide important transitional information and a context for material not strictly specific to a single venue. Examples of topics that could be explored include the interaction between settlers and Indians, development of the cotton gin and its impact, the introduction of slavery, the Civil War, and the boll weevil. All interpretive waysides should directly support the overriding interpretive themes and storyline. The final number and locations of the interpretive waysides will be determined as the master planning process evolves.

ii. Orientation waysides

To fully understand the region’s cultural and natural history, it is important that visitors have the opportunity to experience the site in chronological order. Orientation waysides, including maps and directional text or graphics, will provide a tool to direct visitors along the trail. The number, location and form/function of these waysides will be determined as the trail and venues are further defined. Potentially, some of these orientation waysides can serve as “rest-stops” between the venues – a place with shelter, shade, water, benches, and courtesy phone, as well as orientation and interpretive signage. Considering the length of the trail, and relative isolation of the venues, these resting places will allow visitors to pause and reflect on their experience and enjoy the natural beauty of the site.

Educational Programs

With the implementation of the Interpretive Plan, school group-based educational programming will also undergo a significant change. The majority of school group interpretation will shift from an emphasis on individual programs to station-based interpretation. Groups of students guided by teachers and chaperones will travel along the trail much like general visitors. When the group reaches a staffed area, the students will take part in one or more prearranged ten to twenty-minute thematic interpretive activities based on their tour program focus and curriculum standards. Once they have completed the interpretive activity, the group will continue along the trail until the next site or station is reached. Depending upon the program, the areas visited will vary as will the interpretive storyline and what is presented. This approach to educational programming has several inherent advantages. Since the majority of the interpretive staff will be stationed at designated interpretive areas on a daily basis they can also be specially prepared for utilization in school group programming. This will allow the site to serve both school groups and general visitors simultaneously. Furthermore, using station-based programming will give the site the ability to accommodate larger numbers of students per day than would be possible through individual programs. Significantly, this approach offers students the opportunity to focus on specific curriculum-based information within the context of the site’s overall themes.

While station-based programming will be the primary form of school group interpretation, a select number of special interpretive programs will continue to be offered. In-depth programs such as *Brattonsville Academy* and *Backcountry in Revolt* will continue to be offered as important anchors of the field trip experience.

Site Accessibility

Making the historic site as accessible to visitors as possible is a critical component of our ability to serve the public that should be more fully addressed in the master planning process. Central to this will be the installation of an all-weather, compacted surface trail that will lead visitors around the site. This trail will be graded to be easily walked except when such grading compromises the integrity of the historic district. Ideally, the trail will be less than one mile in length and will be easily traversed via wheel chair or other personal transportation device. Although the optimal visitor experience would include all five interpretive areas, options for shorter routes will be offered that allow the visitor to select alternate routes based on their time, personal interests, and physical comfort level.

For visitors requiring the use of a wheelchair or otherwise unable to climb stairs, major buildings including the Visitor Center, the 1780 Farm House, the Colonel William Bratton House, the Homestead, the McConnells House, the Brick House, the Cotton Warehouse, the Smith House and the Academy will have access ramps to allow for easy entrance and exit. Other structures and applicable code requirements should be considered as the master planning and individual site design processes evolve. Other access aids will be examined as well as providing illustrated guide books on the first floor of some buildings that describe what is on upper levels and special tours.

Administrative and Support Facilities and Services

Administrative and support facilities and services will be a necessary part of implementing the interpretive plan. This section identifies needs, current status and suggested solutions. More precise facility dimensions and locations can be finalized as part of the master planning process.

Farm Operations

Livestock Support Facilities

A livestock support area will be needed to adequately care for the animals used in our programming. A practical location for this facility would be along the gravel road north of the Bratton Plantation. This facility, which should be completely hidden from the view shed of the historic areas, will be connected through fenced pastures to the interpretive areas. The livestock support area should include the following:

- 1. Barn.** A metal pre-fabricated structure (40' x 70') on a concrete pad will serve as the primary facility. Inside the barn will be stalls for animal care and isolation, tool and equipment storage, work space, offices, and a restroom. This facility will need water, electric services and septic. A refrigerator/freezer unit will be needed to store seed, medicines, vaccinations, and other farm perishables.
- 2. Pole barn.** A pole barn will be needed to store rolled hay, tractors, mowers, and farm equipment.
- 3. Livestock-loading chute.** A livestock-loading chute will be needed in this area to enable livestock to be vaccinated, treated, or moved to other locations.

Modern Farm Operation

Historic Brattonsville has long been involved in running a modern farm operation to support the needs of the historic area programming and the historic farm program. Most of the modern farm operation is centered on the production of hay. Several hundred acres are devoted to this activity. The hay is primarily used to feed and bed the site's livestock although it is often utilized as support for programming.

The protection of Historic Brattonsville's hay fields is important. Purchasing hay from a supplier would increase costs of agricultural programming. It is also important for the site to continue to have sufficient pasturage for its livestock. Proper pasture management calls for the rotation of livestock enclosures and annual fertilization. Currently, Historic Brattonsville also manages a modest cattle herd to maintain a historic breed and to provide for occasional income to support programming. In addition, corn and other feed crops are sometimes planted to supplement the historic field yields.

The farm operation also supplies the site with firewood for all its programs. Programs consume upwards of six or more cords of hardwood a year. Preference is given to dead or fallen timber; however, it is very important that natural resource management continue to be a priority as the site and its programming grow.

Maintenance Support and Facilities

The primary purpose of the maintenance facility is to provide office space, an all-weather work area, hay storage and storage for materials and the necessary power equipment to restore and maintain Historic Brattonsville's forty or more historic structures. The current maintenance area is located in and around the mid-twentieth-century barn at Hightower Hall. Open pole barns in the same area provide shelter for equipment and supplies. Equipment and other material currently stored in this area should be assessed and removed from the site as appropriate. The pole barns postdate Hightower Hall's period of significance. Non-historic structures should also be assessed for condition and usefulness. The master planning process should identify the best use, if any, of the barn and pole barns and offer the best location for the site's maintenance facilities based on interpretive goals, access, existing resources, and costs.

Maintenance buildings currently available include:

- 1. Hightower Barn:** Using the barn as part of the maintenance facility will ensure its existence and provide a cost effective structure in which to perform work. The barn will be rehabilitated to make it more practical for storage and maintenance work. The barn will be used as a work area in the on-going preservation of Brattonsville's many historic structures. The large bays make it an ideal space to conduct restoration work on architectural elements. The structure will also house lumber and could function as temporary housing of some architectural elements.
- 2. Pole Barn:** The pole barn presently located along the dirt road at the south end of the Hightower pasture could be relocated to the maintenance area to be used for large timber and building materials storage. Such use would require that it be placed on a concrete pad or gravel bed to help keep items stored under it dry.
- 3. Pole Barns:** Some of the present pole barns and sheds should be dismantled and moved to the farm support facility to provide hay, vehicle and tool storage. If their condition is stable, the remaining pole sheds could be repaired and used as vehicle and hay storage.
- 4. Cottage:** The cottage on the eastern side of Brattonsville Road north of Hightower Hall would serve well as office space for Preservation and other staff.

Interpretive Support

Costuming and Supplies Requirements

To successfully execute a living history program on the scale proposed for the interpretive plan, significant resources will need to be allocated to the acquisition and maintenance of a large period-appropriate history costume collection. In addition, resources must be committed to adequately supplying items used and consumed during living history programming.

Appropriate and accurate costuming is one of the most essential tools for transporting visitors to another time. This plan calls for the recreation of three distinct time periods. Each period has discretely different clothing styles with different materials, silhouettes and general appearance. Currently, Historic Brattonsville has a modest costume collection representing the late colonial period and the 1840s. To accurately present the 1850s, the 1840s costume

collection will need to be upgraded and expanded and an entirely new wardrobe will be needed to represent the 1870s. In addition, the 1780's costumes will need some expansion and refreshing.

Acquiring the costuming is only one part of the management of a working costume collection. A large collection also calls for on-going maintenance, cleaning, and storing as well as areas for changing. Currently, a part-time position maintains the costume collection as part of their other duties.

In addition to the large costume collection needed to operate a living history program, an on-going program of acquiring living history supplies (food, tools, textiles, metal wares, etc.) is needed. Reproduction items wear out, break, get stolen or are eventually found to be inadequate to the task requiring an ongoing replacement plan.

Interpretive Support Building

The 1940s era structure on the eastern side of Brattonsville Road known as the Neely House currently serves as interpretive support and office space. The building barely meets current needs and may not be sufficient to meet the support needs of expanded programming. Although not a contributing feature to the historic district, this house represents the on-going occupation of the site into the twentieth century. In 2006, the house and corner lot were acquired by the CHM and in the spring of 2007 the house was occupied by CHM for use as office space, costume storage and program support areas. The future use of the building still needs to be determined. Currently known options include:

- Demolition to remove an anachronistic structure from the view shed
- Relocation to another part of the site
- Continued use as supplemental office and programs storage space. With this scenario, landscaping alternatives should be considered to hide or camouflage the mid-twentieth-century structure from the mid-nineteenth-century view shed.

The final master site plan should include a new or repurposed structure with fully-functional electricity and mechanical systems to serve as the Interpretive Support Facility. The facility should be easily accessible from the interpretive areas. It should provide for adequate storage for the expanded costume collection and living history props, dedicated changing areas for men and women, showers, lockers for personal storage, work space, and large washers and dryers. It also could be considered as an option for shared office space for interpretive staff.

Programmatic Support for Interpretive Areas

In addition to the general interpretive support building, three of the interpretive areas will require programmatic support space with utility sink, storage cabinets and refrigerator/freezer unit. These support features are needed to store food for extended periods of time and to clean kitchen and other program tools and equipment.

Administrative and General Needs

To accommodate the administrative needs of the site, ample space and services must be planned into the expansion for office space and staff meetings. Consideration should be given for increased phone and internet capacity for offices and strategic locations throughout the property. Planning for the various site components should incorporate both programmatic and support storage needs. Site security will be provided primarily through monitored electronic systems and proposed on-site security. The monitored electronic systems should be upgraded and be made more comprehensive. An on-site residence and additional security duties connected to a maintenance position should be explored. The cottage on the western side of Brattonsville Road across from Hightower Hall could provide housing for this function.

Conclusion

This Interpretive Plan is intended to present an outline for connecting the stories that will be told at Historic Brattonsville. In addition, it identifies historical settings, methodology, and resources that will be needed to tell these stories. While not a comprehensive master site plan, it should be used to guide the master planning process and to direct the physical layout of the site.

Appendix I:

Historic Brattonville Interpretive Plan Associated Capital Projects: Phasing and Costs

Culture and Heritage Museums York County, South Carolina

The capital projects proposed here are the result of extensive planning over the past three years and are designed to best reach the goals of the Historic Brattonville Interpretive Plan. The projects support previous decisions of the board as manifested in the CHM Mission Statement, the Historic Brattonville Site mission Statement, Goal II of the CHM Institutional Plan, and Strategic Initiatives II-A, II-B, II-C, II-D, and II-E of the Institutional Plan. The estimated costs of the physical improvements associated with the Historic Brattonville Interpretive Plan total approximately \$3.8 million. This amount will primarily come from the Capital Projects Fund at the Foundation for the Carolinas (FFTC) which is to be used exclusively for capital projects of the Culture and Heritage Commission. The recommended improvements at Historic Brattonville are long overdue and will greatly benefit the people of York County and the public at large. We are in a fortunate and rare position to be able to meet these capital needs at no cost to the taxpayers of York County, with no expensive and uncertain fundraising campaign, and without diversion of funds that could otherwise be used for operating expenses.

To correlate with the availability of funds from the FFTC for distribution and to add new interpretive features as they are completed, the Capital Projects have been divided into five phases spread out over five or six funding years beginning with initial funding in 2015. The corresponding funding year should not be confused with the project roll-out year. It is quite likely that work on a particular component will continue well into the year following its funding and possibly beyond. Each phase will include funding for a Historic Interpretive Area as well as any necessary planning/design costs for the major components of the subsequent phase.

- 2015: Phase I – The Brick House Restoration
- 2016: Phase II – 1780 Farm
- 2017: Phase III – Bratton Plantation
- 2018: Phase IV – Yeoman Farm / Education era
- 2019: Phase V-a – Visitor Center / Final relocations
- 2020: Phase V-b – Interpretive Support / McGill Barn / McGill Store

The sequence of the phasing is largely based on the amount of research, planning, and design still required to prepare for actual implementation. The “Huck’s Defeat Battlefield” interpretive area was completed in 2014 and significant work on the restoration of the Brick House (Reconstruction Era) is well underway. The remaining planning for the 1780 farm can be completed quickly as soon as the final location of the site is determined through Master Site Planning. Although significant research and planning is required for the Bratton Plantation Historic Interpretive Area because of the number of original structures involved, the 2017 start

date will still be ahead of any anticipated preservation needs. Should an immediate threat to the structures be found during the research, it will be necessary to adjust the phasing to meet that need as soon as possible. The Yeoman Farm and Educational Area are scheduled for Phase IV to allow the preservation needs to come first; however, the relocation of the Bratton Academy and new restrooms to the new Educational Area are scheduled in Phase I to make room for the 1780 Farm without any disruption of programming to area schools which currently utilize the buildings extensively. If income from the FFTC Fund or another source allows, the Picnic Pavilion and/or the Cotton Warehouse may be moved to an earlier phase because of their potential immediate benefit to programming. Phase V will likely be spread over two years because of the anticipated cost of the Visitor Center and the dwindling amount available for distribution.

The cost estimates of each component of the project are not intended to be exact figures but are intended for use in planning. Funding requests in given years will fluctuate depending on the final cost estimates and the distribution from FFTC and other sources of funding available for that year. Per the funding agreement with FFTC available funds that are not used in a given year will be added to the funds available the following year. Any requested funds that are not used in a particular phase can be made available for subsequent phases. The funds from FFTC will be made available each calendar year. A request for 2015 funding may be made as soon as the CHC Capital Projects Fund Advisory Board is established. The advisory board will recommend to the FFTC how funds should be used. They can only recommend that funds be used for projects requested by the CHC for use by the CHM.

Phasing breakdown and Estimated Costs of each Phase

HB Phase I - 2015	Estimated Cost	\$854,000.00 ¹¹
Site Master Plan		
Paint Analysis		
Archaeology		
Brick House Restoration		
Brick House Furnishing Plan		
1780 Farm Interpretive Manual		
Bratton Academy		
Educational Area Restrooms		
Homestead HSR (Structural and Architectural)		

HB Phase II - 2016	Estimated Cost	\$546,500.00
HB Brick House Interpretation		
HB 1780 Farm		
HB Homestead A&E		
HB Homestead Furnishings Plan		
HB Col Bratton House A&E		
HB Col Bratton House Furnishings Plan		

¹¹ Estimated costs do not include contingency funds.

HB Original Slave House
HB Original Dairy

HB Phase III - 2017 Estimated Cost \$577,066.00

HB Homestead
HB Col Bratton House
HB Hightower A & E
HB Yeoman Farm A & E
HB Yeoman Farm Furnishings Plan
HB Preserve ruins (slave houses & store)

HB Phase IV - 2018 Estimated Cost \$859,910.00

HB 1850s yeoman Farm
HB Visitor Center A & E
HB Hightower
HB Smith House
HB Cotton Warehouse
HB Gin House & Press
HB Gin House Picnic Pavilion
HB Operations Facility and large equipment
HB Slave Row

HB Phase V - 2019 (2020) Estimated Cost \$905,100.00

HB Visitor Center (V-a 2019)
HB Move remaining non-original structures (V-a 2019)
HB McGill Store (V-b 20020)
HB McGill Barn (V-b 2020)
HB Interpretive Support Facility (V-b 2020)

Total Projected Capital Cost of HB Master Plan **\$3,742,576.00**

Appendix II:

Historic Brattonsville Interpretive Plan Operating Costs & New Revenue Projections

Culture and Heritage Museums York County, South Carolina

Introduction

The operational costs projected here support previous decisions approved by the Culture and Heritage Commission in the CHM Mission Statement, the Historic Brattonsville Site Mission Statement, Goal II of the Institutional Plan, and Strategic Initiative II-F of the CHM Institutional Plan. In addition, they further support the Goals of the Historic Brattonsville Interpretive Plan as approved by the Commission on June 22, 2015. It should be noted that with or without implementation of the Historic Brattonsville Interpretive Plan, there will likely be increased costs related to inflation and a rising cost of living. In addition, there may be unrelated costs throughout the museum system as growth at other sites may require new annual resources as well. However, it is important that we not allow such concern to cripple us into inactivity. If revenues fall short of projections or unforeseen expenses arise, we will simply delay meeting a proportional share of the plan's new operating needs. The revenue projections in this report exceed anticipated new expenses to allow for this possibility. As full implementation comes closer we may even find funding is available to make the operational side of the plan even stronger. Even with the greyest skies, moving forward with the capital components of the interpretive plan will enable us to address the goals identified in the plan as well as the related goals and objectives in our Institutional Plan. Most importantly, it is perhaps the single most impactful improvement we can make to work towards our mission of preserving and communicating the history of the Carolina Piedmont. The plan enables us to preserve significant structures, move closer to the historic setting of the site, and tell a more compelling and authentic story to the public. At the same time we will clearly be putting Historic Brattonsville in a better position to be a regional draw for Heritage Tourism that could significantly benefit the community economically.

Overview of New Operational Costs

- **Staffing:** This Interpretive Plan will be most effective with the addition of three to five new full-time staff members which will include a Historic Farm Program Manager, a Living History Volunteer Program Manager and one to three Interpreters with appropriate specialization. One interpreter will need to specialize in care of historic clothing. The annual cost to the CHC for each position, including benefits, will average \$50,000. The total new annual operating costs for staff will be between \$150,000 and \$200,000. The first position has already been added in the 2015-16 CHC Budget which

only increased by c. \$10,000; thus, the number of positions still needed should be reduced by one.

Estimated new annual expenses going forward: \$100,000 to \$200,000 by 2020.

- **Building Maintenance:** Currently forty-three buildings are maintained at Historic Brattonsville. The Interpretive Plan calls for a total of forty-five to forty-seven for a net change of two to four buildings. Because major cyclical maintenance will be addressed as part of the associated Capital Projects Plan, there will be less pressure on the operating side to find funds annually to cover these expenses. We do not anticipate the net change in the number of structures to have a significant impact on the operating budget that could not be absorbed by current funding.

Estimated new annual expenses: \$0 by 2020.

- **Utilities:** The Interpretive Plan does call for additional use of utilities. Several of the buildings will be wired for exhibit operation and program lighting. This use will have minimal impact on electricity usage. The Smith House and possibly the Cotton Warehouse may have heating and air conditioning installed for occasional use. Some of the new support space will need to have mechanical systems installed; however, it has yet to be fully determined if this space will replace or add to current use.

Estimated new annual expenses: \$10,000 by 2020 (placeholder only).

- **Marketing:** While it would be premature to develop a marketing plan that reaches ahead to 2020, we do believe that the implementation of this interpretive plan will put us in a good position to be competitive in the regional heritage tourism market. To attract the wider audience we will need to ensure there is appropriate funding for marketing. It is likely that, in addition to expanded advertising and distribution of collateral material, we will need to commit more staff hours to this effort. Any increase in the amount spent on marketing Historic Brattonsville will need to be based on future research and projections for return on investment as well as funds that are available to be committed. While it is both hoped and believed that the Interpretive Plan will result in audiences from a wider area, it is important to remember that the more local audience, including the Charlotte area, has not been fully saturated. It will be important to continue current marketing efforts to grow that audience as well. As new components are added, we need to make sure we successfully get the word out to people within a fifty-mile radius.

Estimated new annual cost: \$40,000 by 2020. (This number can go up or down depending on available funds. The amount committed will have a direct correlation to the success of the plan as a regional draw).

Total Estimated New Annual Costs: \$150,000 to \$250,000

Anticipated New Available Funds for operational expenses

- **General Obligation Bond:** We are currently in the final years of payment of a General Obligation Bond from c. 2002. The final payment will be made in December 2017 freeing up funds beginning in FY 2018-2019.
New Funds available annually: \$190,000 by FYE 2019

- **County Growth:** York County is one of the fastest growing counties in South Carolina. Recent planned development indicates that this trend will continue. For income projections, the County estimates 2.5% growth per year. Assuming the millage rate dedicated to the CHC remains constant at 2.6 mils, this percentage would result in an additional \$323,439 available for operating expenses. It should be noted that a significant portion of this amount will likely be needed for expenses associated with inflation and rising cost of living. Still, this is an important source of income that can be evaluated annually to meet the overall needs of the organization, including increased operating costs at Historic Brattonsville.
Estimated new funds to be committed annually to the operational growth at HB: \$25,000 to \$35,000 by FYE 2020

- **Admission & Retail Growth at HB:** We believe that Visitation to Historic Brattonsville will minimally increase by 10% to 15% upon completion of this plan. This plan, if marketed appropriately, has the potential to have much larger impact; however, staff has chosen to be conservative in projections. Current average retail/admission income per visitor is c. \$6.60. Admission rates at Historic Brattonsville are relatively low compared to similar sites and have remained static for some time. The admission rates should be restructured to increase the average retail/admission per visitor by \$1.00. The modest increase in admission combined with the conservative estimate of growth in visitation would yield approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year in additional funds. We also anticipate continued growth at our other sites; however, only Historic Brattonsville is included in this projection.
Estimated new funds available annually: \$50,000 to \$60,000 by FYE 2020

- **Net Development Income for Operations:** This category includes membership, contributed income, and program/operational grants *minus* fundraising expenses. (Income for capital projects is excluded.) Despite recent gains in this category, it is not time to abandon a conservative strategy. However, we can reasonably expect an additional \$25,000 of Net Development Revenue for Operations to be available annually beginning in FYE 2020 for supplementing funds for the new operating expenses related to the Historic Brattonsville Interpretive Plan. This amount could be generated through simply sustaining an increase in this category of slightly over 2.5% annually over the next five years.
Estimated new funds available annually: \$25,000 by FYE 2020

Total Estimated New Funds Available Annually: \$290,000 to \$310,000