

# Sumter Marion National Forest

## South Carolina



# Russell Farmstead

Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 6/11/2002

## Highlights

The Russell house was a busy Appalachian farmstead in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Vacationers flocked to the area that is now Highlands, NC, to escape the hot South Carolina summers. At the old log house, the Russell Family provided overnight lodging and good home-cooked meals for weary travelers. As many as 80 visitors stayed in the house at one time when the Chattooga River, just up the road, was too deep to cross.

The self-sufficient farmstead included 10 outbuildings clustered around the main house. Many of life's necessities were made in the sheds and the blacksmith shop. The spring house provided drinking water and served as a refrigerator. A fire destroyed the main house and three outbuildings in 1988, leaving only a chimney of the main house. The farmstead is listed in the *National Register of Historic Places*. A sign on the site details the layout of the farmstead as well as much of the above information.

## Surrounding Areas

Highlands, NC, is 45 minutes away. This quaint town is filled with historic inns, small shops, and a variety of restaurants. A number of waterfalls are within a short drive from town.

## For More Information

*Andrew Pickens Ranger District*

*112 Andrew Pickens Circle*

*Mountain Rest, SC 29664*

*Telephone: (864) 638-9568*

*Fax: (864) 638-2659*

*Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.*

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## Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

4931 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29212-3530 (803) 561-4000

**Directions:** From Walhalla, SC, follow SC Highway 28 north to Cuzzin's General Store. Take the left fork (Hwy. 28). The farmstead is on the left before the bridge crossing the Chattooga River into Georgia.

**Safety:** Be cautious around old buildings. They can harbor snakes and stinging insects. Old structures may be unstable and weak.

**Season:** Year-round. Spring and Summer are the best seasons.

**Site Information:** Remnants of farmstead, outbuildings and sheds are still standing. Spring house is located behind the chimney through the woods. Interpretive sign on site.



*The Russell farm house as it once looked.*

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