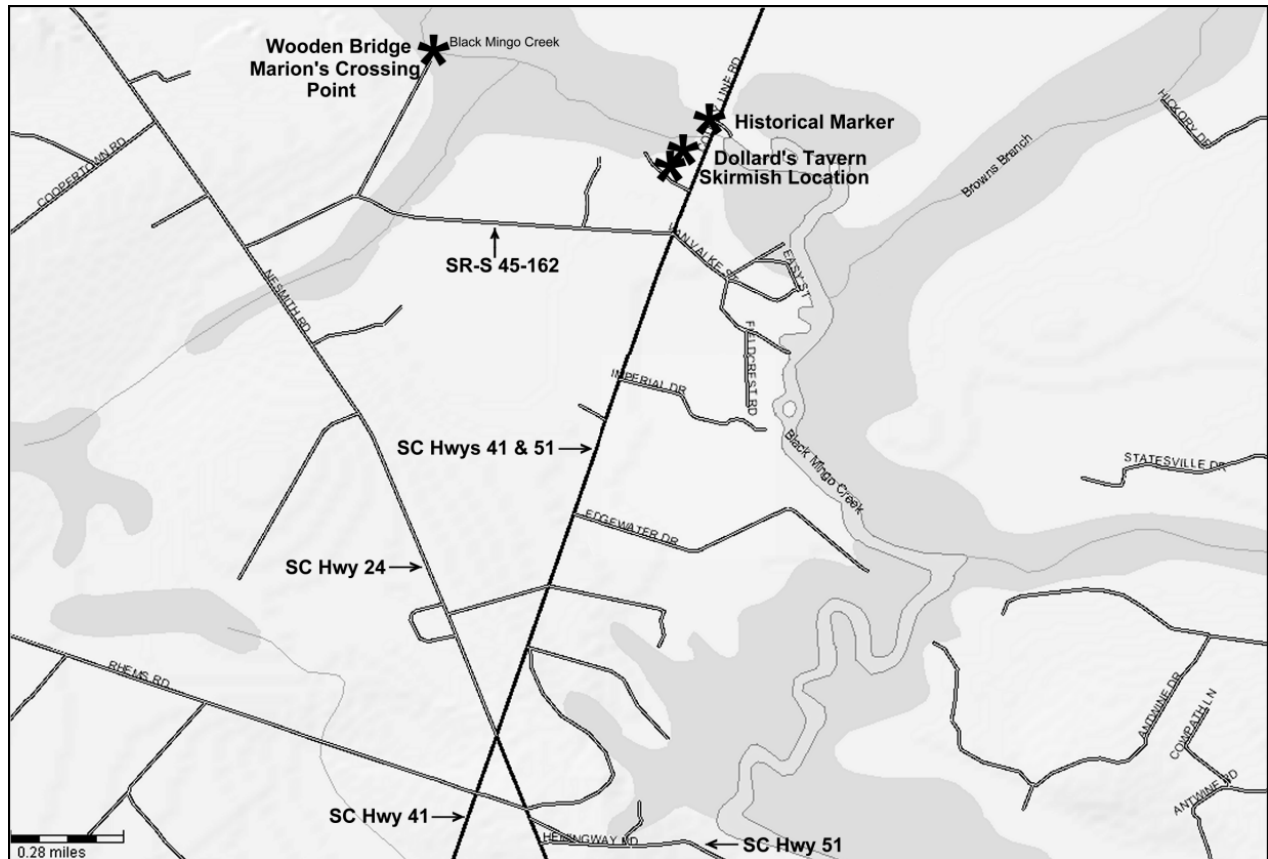


## 367A Dollard's Tavern (Black Mingo or Shepard's Ferry)

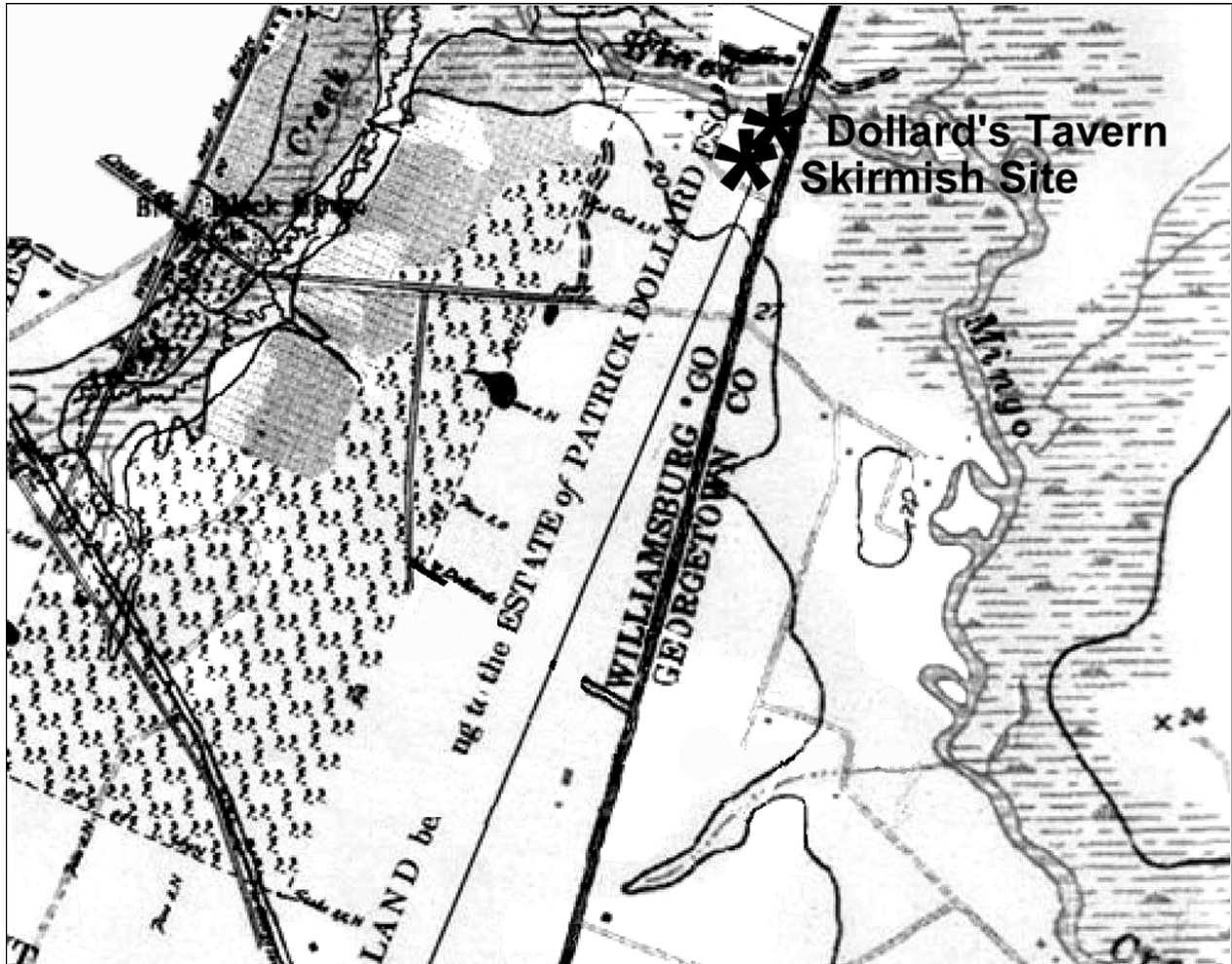


<b>Dollard's Tavern</b>	9/28-29/1780	GPS: 33.62127°N 79.43391°W	Confidence: 4
<b>Black Mingo Historical Marker</b>		GPS: 33.62234°N 79.43300°W	Confidence: 5
<b>Skirmish Location</b>		GPS: 33.62095°N 79.43443°W	Confidence: 4
<b>Wooden Bridge Location</b>		GPS: 33.62842°N 79.44484°W	Confidence: 4

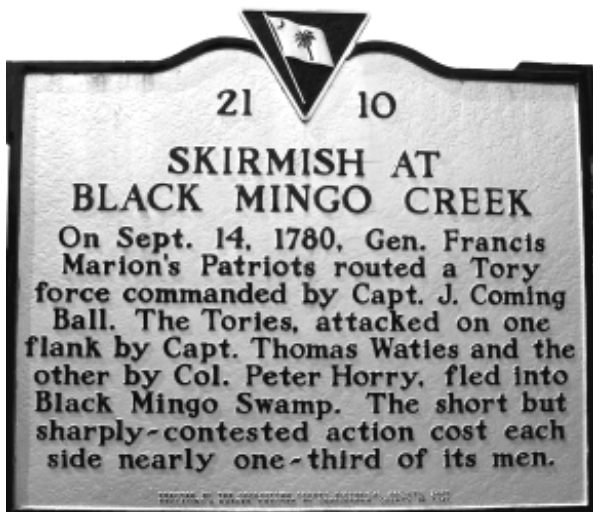
**Directions:** From Hemmingway, go south on US Highways 41 & 51 for about 9.25 miles to the historical marker on the right. Then continue south across the bridge. Dollard's was on the right in the trees about 45 yards from the road.

**Action:** South Carolina militia Col. Francis Marion was informed that a party of Tories, more numerous than his own, lay at Black Mingo Creek under the command of South Carolina Loyalist militia Capt. John Coming Ball. Ball might soon be reinforced so Marion decided to attack him. The Tories were posted at Shepherd's Ferry, on the south side of Black Mingo, a deep navigable creek, and commanded the passage. Col. Marion had to cross the creek one mile above the ferry over a boggy causeway and bridge of planks. It was almost midnight when his force arrived at the bridge and while the party was crossing, an alarm gun was heard in the Tory camp. The colonel immediately ordered his men to follow him in full gallop. Close to Dollard's "Red House" tavern, they dismounted, except a small body which acted as cavalry. Marion ordered a corps of supernumerary officers under the command of Capt. Thomas Waties to proceed down the road and attack Dollard's, where he believed the Tories to be. At the same time, he detached two companies to the right under Col. Hugh Horry and the cavalry to the left to support the attack. Before the corps of officers could reach the house, the men on the right had encountered the enemy, who had left the house and were in a field opposite the house. This circumstance removed the element of surprise for the Patriots, and the Tories first fire was so severe and unexpected that Horry's men fell back in confusion. Horry's men soon rallied at the great urgings of Capt. John James, and the Tories, being attacked on their flank by the corps of officers, and finding themselves between two fires, gave way after a few rounds and took refuge in Black Mingo swamp, which was in their rear. This action was of short duration and was so closely and sharply contested, that the loss on both sides was nearly one third killed and wounded. Marion captured Ball's prized horse, which he named "old Ball" and rode him throughout his partisan campaigns.

**Note:** It must be remembered that this action took place about midnight in the dark. This is the reason that the horses hooves could be heard on the Wooden Bridge. Marion followed Black Mingo Creek to the skirmish site while the officers proceeded down the road to SC-R 45-162 and took it east before turning on the road north to attack the British from the south. Caught in the crossfire, the British fled into the swamp. (Continued on the next page.)



Overlay map done by Charles Baxley of an old survey and the modern topographic map. Skirmish location has been added to the survey by the author.



Black Mingo Historical Marker



Photo of the Black Mingo Bridge and Creek from the boat landing.