

Threatened Sites Projects Undertaken in 2001-2002:

Cactus Hill Site, Sussex County

This year concluded nine years of Threatened Sites funding for work at Cactus Hill. Internationally significant, the site predates by thousands of years the currently accepted date for settlement of North America (some of the earliest dates yet seen in the Western Hemisphere). Five leading scientists had reviewed recent work funded by the DHR and the National Geographic Society. Because of the extreme significance of the site, additional testing continues to solidly substantiate the conclusions. Threatened Sites funding for the last two years has been seen as “seed money” with the bulk of the costs being shared by National Geographic Society and the Nottoway River Survey. Additional testing continues.

Williamson Site, Dinwiddie County

This is one of the largest Paleoindian quarry and campsites in North America. Following two years of funding for excavation and analysis, and radiocarbon dating. The final report has now been completed and will be published through our Research Report Series when funding becomes available. The report better defines site boundaries and portions of the site still having intact deposits.

Sawyer Site, City of Salem

Analysis continued on portions of this Late Woodland site, which is located along the Roanoke River in Salem and in the way of industrial development. Studies of carbonized plant remains at Site C were completed and the results combined into the previous work of a final report, and at Site D a radiometric carbon analysis and ceramic, lithic, and faunal studies were completed. The Archeological Society of Virginia began salvage excavations in the 1980s that were followed by work supported by the Threatened Sites Program.

Fisher Site, Loudoun County

A Late Woodland village located along the Potomac River in Loudoun County, the Fisher Site was first investigated as early as the 1930s. DHR became involved in 1994, rescuing data on human remains that were discovered during expansions to a house on the western portion of the site. The lot to the east is vacant and likely to be developed soon. Archaeological testing of that lot was completed last year, and this year faunal remains were analyzed. Additional efforts were made to determine the presence or absence of a palisade.

Woodlawn Ossuary, King George County

This is a Late Woodland ossuary discovered on the bank of the Rappahannock River in King George County. Groundhogs burrowed into the ossuary and ejected human remains

on the surrounding ground. The site is a contributing element to the Woodlawn Historic District. Work was confined to collecting and analyzing the human remains scattered on the ground; they will be reinterred in the near future.

Bennett Ossuary, King and Queen County

Likely representing a Native American ossuary, human remains were disturbed at an unspecified location in King and Queen County during mining operations a decade ago. Funding provided for the analysis of these remains and preparation of a report so that reinterment may take place.

Baecher Pottery, Frederick County

Anthony Baecher produced pottery in Frederick County in the second half of the 19th century. DHR sponsored an assessment of an area threatened with flooding that was reported to be the location of a kiln, potting shed, and waster piles. No evidence for them was found, but the distribution and volume of pottery across the area examined does point to a direction where they might be located—on a higher, protected property, owned by a concerned and interested party. The report contrasts the more common or utilitarian examples of pottery recovered from the excavations at the site with pottery valuable to collectors and museums and exhibited and sold as antiques.

DuVal Pottery, City of Richmond

The Benjamin Duval Pottery was the earliest pottery industry in Richmond. Duval also operated a tile manufactory there in the first decade of the 19th century. Recent construction obliterated all in-site remains of these two industries. The week before the sites were completely destroyed, rescue efforts recovered numerous samples of the wares from the two industries and even parts of the kilns used in the pottery manufacture, as well as several marked pieces. Approximately 1,500 pounds of wares were recovered and will be reported on in the 2003 issue of the journal *Ceramics in America*.

Yorktown, Colonial Lot #6, York County

The owner of colonial lot #6 (from 1691 plans) in Yorktown plans to build condominiums on the property within two years. We were allowed time to conduct archaeological testing to determine if significant archaeological remains might be present on the property. One of the more significant remains discovered is the presence of a Revolutionary War fortification ditch. Also of interest and worthy of further study is the articulated skeleton of a late-18th-century horse.

Leesville Lake Site, Pittsylvania County

Following up on earlier work conducted here under the Threatened Sites Program, petrographic analysis (the study of rock to determine its origin and characteristic

composition) was conducted on eight artifacts recovered from those sites over the last several years.

Dismal Swamp, City of Suffolk

The Magnolia and Ridgefield sites are located adjacent the Dismal Swamp in the city of Suffolk. During the Late Archaic–Early Woodland period, this area saw great intensification of Native American settlement. cursory evaluation determined archaeological potential and integrity. Features and stratified deposits were discovered and shown to contain a wealth of information.

John Pitman Pottery, Frederick County

Six boxes of ceramics were recovered at the home of John Pitman, brother of Andrew Pitman whose property was studied previously under the Threatened Sites Program. Funding allowed for preparation of a historic context for the site, processing of the finds, preparation of an inventory of the collection, and a basic comparative analysis of the two brother's products. This culminated in a technical report on methods, findings, and interpretations. The research suggests that the forms and manufacturing traits of the brothers were basically the same.

Threatened Sites Projects Proposed for Completion 2002-2203:

Thomas-Sawyer Site, Roanoke County

Work continues on this very large Late Woodland site located along the Roanoke River in Salem. Because the site was in the way of industrial development, the Archeological Society of Virginia began salvage excavations in the 1980s that were followed by work supported by the Threatened Sites Program. Proposed work includes; in area A, complete analysis of the lithic, ceramic, and faunal remains recovered from this area of the site, and in area D, complete archaeobotanical and molluscan analysis. Final reports will be produced for each of the four sections of the site, A–D.

Bay Creek Site, Northampton County

This is a 1620s Virginia Company site first located by the department in 1977 and slated for commercial development in the near future. There has never been a complete excavation of a colonial site on the Virginia Eastern Shore. Funding has been requested to complete a detailed assessment of the site's full archaeological potential so that outside financial support for excavation and salvage may be solicited.

Magnolia Site, City of Suffolk

Located adjacent to the Dismal Swamp is a Late Archaic–Early Woodland

("transitional") site, that dates to a period (3000-500 BC) of intensified settlement in this area. Deep plowing has severely damaged the site. The goal is to generate sufficient information about the overall integrity so that preservation options may be explored for intact surviving portions.

Fort Colvin, Frederick County

This is a mid-18th-century dwelling traditionally thought to have been a fortified home site during the French and Indian War. It resides on a lot in a residential development and is currently being marketed by a local real estate firm. The project will assess the nature of archaeological deposits associated with the house and conduct historical research.

Chesapeake Culture, Virginia

This major interstate project will undertake a comparative analysis of 18 archaeological collections recovered between the James River drainage and the Upper Chesapeake. Six of the sites are in Virginia and 12 are in Maryland. The Threatened Sites Program funded some of the recovery of this material. The purpose of the project is to investigate rural life in colonial Chesapeake and explore how the diverse ethnic and social groups that made up the Chesapeake society used material culture to shape their relationships with one another and how these relationships varied through time and space. Other contributors to this work are the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and the Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Conference. Findings will be made widely available as part of heightened scholarly and public interest in this early period in conjunction with the 400th anniversary in 2007 of the first permanent English settlement in North America.

Bonham Site, Smyth County

A portion of this Late Woodland Village site near Chilhowie was salvaged at the location of a proposed industrial complex. Work will entail converting illustrations and the report (completed with Threatened Sites funding) to digital format for use in printing limited copies on an as-needed basis and for hard copy publication when funding is available.

Mitchell Site, Sussex County

An assessment of this complex of sites in Sussex County was conducted with Threatened Sites funding five years ago. The report produced at that time will be updated to reflect negative effects on the site over the ensuing five years and format it for publication.

Mockhorn Island Site, Northampton County

The Mockhorn Island Site spans the entire period of prehistoric occupation on the Eastern Shore. Most importantly it has yielded strong evidence for Paleoindian occupation. Located on state property, the site was discovered during DHR's recent survey of the

ocean side of the Eastern Shore. The site is actively eroding into the ocean. Investigations there will better assess erosion damage and the extent of intact deposits. The archaeological research will be useful to Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in its interpretation of the property.

Buckingham County Courthouse, Buckingham County

Buckingham County Courthouse was built in the early 1820s, burned in 1869, and was rebuilt at the same location in 1870. Thomas Jefferson, architect of this courthouse— the first ever designed by him—set a precedent for courthouse construction for the next 150 years. No known complete documentation of the original structure survives. Plans for a 29,000-foot expansion to the courthouse may jeopardize archaeological remains that would reveal details relating to that original design. Plans are to search for evidence of the original structure and study the 19th-century deposits associated with it.

Buzzard Rock Site, Roanoke County

Both the Archeological Society of Virginia and DHR worked at this Middle-Late Woodland site in Roanoke County between 1977 and 1984. Proposed work will format the final report for publication.