

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic Name Dale's Pale Archaeological District
other names/site number #020-5371, 44CF26, 44CF204, 44CF209, 44CF210

2. Location

street & number South shore of the James River, Chesterfield County Park not for publication
city or town Chester vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Chesterfield code 041 Zip 23821

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register Signature of Keeper _____
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register Date of Action _____
 other (explain): _____

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Dale's Pale Archaeological District
Chesterfield Co., VA

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Archeology-Prehistoric; Archeology-Historic-Non-aboriginal

Period of Significance Middle Woodland (500BC-200AD); Colonial 17th Century; Colonial 18th Century

Significant Dates 1613

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation Native American; Euro-American

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Dale's Pale Archaeological District
Chesterfield Co., VA

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 158 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1 18	295995	4136810	2 18	296584	4136491	3 18	296569	4135912
4 18	296244	4135744	5 18	295792	4136724	See Continuation Sheet	N/A	

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Christopher M. Stevenson
 Organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources date 1 June 2006
 street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue telephone 804-367-2323, Ext. 132
 city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23221

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Lane B. Ramsey, Chesterfield County Administrator
 street & number P.O. Box 40 telephone 804-748-1211
 city or town Chesterfield state VA zip code 23832-0040

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Summary Description: Archaeological Resources

Four archaeological sites constitute the prehistoric and historic resources within the boundaries of the Dale's Pale Archaeological District. Site 44CF26 is a prehistoric site dating mainly to the Middle Woodland period (500BC-AD200) while 44CF204 and 44CF209 and 44CF210 are early and late Colonial period (17th and 18th century) defensive and habitation features. All of the resources are located on property belonging to Chesterfield County and are in close proximity to the James River.

Archaeological Inventory

44CF26 American Tobacco Site (also known as Williams Fishpond Site), #020-5371-0001

This site was tested by MacCord and the results have been published (MacCord 1971). The site was later revisited by VCU. There are very rich Archaic, Early Woodland and, especially, Middle Woodland components here. There is a thin surface layer of organic materials mixed with loess-like sediments. This soil layer directly overlies clay-rich subsoil. The site has never been plowed. Test excavations revealed seven prehistoric features lying at shallow depths below the surface. All could be attributed to the Middle (and possibly Early) Woodland period, although diagnostics recovered from the site include a wide range of materials from Palmer points (Early Archaic) to Gaston ceramics (Protohistoric). The site was tested in 1968 because there was a fear that expansion plans of the American Tobacco Company would threaten the site. When the site was revisited by VCU in 1984, it remained completely intact. Subsequent construction of the ICI Films plant adjacent to the site may have had some impact, but the integrity of the site appears to remain excellent. While only trace amounts of Protohistoric materials have been recovered, and the site, therefore may not be important within the periods of significance for the district, the site is undoubtedly eligible for listing in the National Register (Criterion D) on its own merits.

44CF204 Dale's Pale, #020-5371-0002

Site numbers 44CF204 and 44CF205 were assigned to the intact northern and southern ends, respectively, of a berm-and-ditch feature which extends for two miles between the high banks overlooking the James and Appomattox Rivers, and to an area possibly enclosed by this feature at its southern terminus (The southern portion of the ditch feature and 44CF205 are located outside of the district). The site was identified by Mouer after extensive studies of colonial and European records concerning the placement of and nature of Thomas Dale's palisade, and similar field fortifications of the period. The feature is clearly visible from aerial photographs (for instance, see frame 4020359274 of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service series from flights made on March 27th, 1970). It appears as an open ditch and berm running between Bermuda Hundred Road and Allied Road, and

then from Allied Road to the bluff above the Appomattox River at a point approximately 2000 feet east of the mouth of Shand's Creek.

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The feature runs in a nearly straight line across old fields and woods northwest to the bluff over the James River, just east of the scarp which falls sharply west to the American Tobacco plant. The feature thus bounds a high ridge formed by an ascending marine terrace. At the southern end of the feature there is a length of nearly 1/2 mile in which the feature is visible on the ground. This runs across ground that may never have been cultivated, much of which is in poorly drained upland swamp forest. Another intact portion consists of a length of approximately 200 feet at the northern end, just north of a logging road in a forested buffer zone along the James River bluff. The remainder of the feature exists only below ground and can be detected only as a soil mark or crop mark in aerial photographs.

This high ridge, with its position overlooking the vast lowground fields of the peninsula, was apparently Thomas Dale's rationale for selecting, and naming, the Bermuda Hundred settlement. According to Ralph Hamor's 1614 account, Dale's "new Bermudas" was laid out in five hundreds. These were the Nether Hundred (Bermuda Hundred proper), the Upper Hundred (probably Presquile), Digge's Hundred (probably lower Curles Neck), West-Shirley Hundred (Shirley), and Rochedale Hundred (Rochedale, Jone's Neck). Dale began his principal construction in the Nether Hundred which he fortified "with a pale of two miles, cut over from river to river" (Hamor 1614). That palisade "secured eight English miles in compasse," which is nearly precisely the distance around the peninsula from one end of the two-mile-long feature to the other. The land thus encompassed was "for the most part champion and exceeding good corn ground," referring to the vast acreage of cleared Appomattox fields on the lower terrace. According to Hamor, around this circuit, along the palisade and on the "verge of the river," there were, by 1614, already more than fifty houses constructed.¹

A document of August or September, 1623, describes Thomas Dale's fortifications at Bermuda Hundred thus: "The fortifications anciently used were by Trench and Pallizado and diverse blockhouses made of great Tymber built upon passages and for the scouring of the Pallisadoes" (Manchester Papers, No. 387, PRO, List of Records 528; in Kingsbury, Volume IV: 259, et seq.).

¹. Hamor (1614) states: "...upon which pale, and round about, on the verge of the River in this Hundred, halfe a mile distant from each other, are ve(r)y faire houses, already builded, besides divers other particular mens houses, not so few as fifty..." In his *General History*, John Smith reproduced Hamor's statement with slightly different wording: "upon which circuit, within halfe a mile of each other, are many faire houses already built; besides particular mens houses neere to the number of fifty." Smith, then, with the aid of hindsight (he was writing compiling his work many years later) discounted the houses built along the "pale," and placed their number at "neere to," rather than "not so few as" fifty. With no evidence one way or another, many historians might dispute this number, but archaeology may yet reveal somewhere near fifty houses constructed at Bermuda Hundred by 1614.

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By the time this document was prepared, the fortifications had already gone to ruin, but the Virginia Company urged that they be rebuilt, because the settlements of Henrico and Charles City (Bermuda Hundred) "by reason of their situation may be strongly fortified." John Rolfe described Bermuda Hundred as a "high and pleasant seat," and claimed that Dale had named the settlement after Bermuda "because of the strength of the situation." A drawing made in the early 1610s depicts, in a highly stylized manner, the settlement and fortifications of Thomas Dale at "Stadt Henriville," the sister settlement to Bermuda Hundred five miles upstream.² The location of the ditch and berm relative to each other, and their placement on high ground overlooking the settlement on the lowgrounds, completely match the situation of the "Dale's Pale" site at Bermuda Hundred. These contemporary descriptions - of a trench and palisade fortification stretching for two miles across the high ground of Bermuda Hundred, environing eight miles of river front property - all suggest that the feature registered as archaeological sites 44CF204 and 205 could well represent Dale's palisade of 1613.

During the summer of 1984, Mouer and the field school students cut a small test trench perpendicular to the back (east side) of the berm. A possible square posthole was found behind the berm, as was a narrow slot trench running along the base of the berm. The following year, a large strata cut/cross-trench was excavated across the feature in a power-line right-of-way running through the woods in property owned by Allied Fibers. Among the features revealed were burned, highly disintegrated boards buried about a foot below the top of the berm. Under the ash layer containing the burned boards, a sherd of tin-glazed earthenware probably dating to the early 17th century was recovered. At site 44CF205, on a high flat terrace overlooking the steep banks of Appomattox Bay, and possibly enclosed by the palisade, systematic testing revealed highly disintegrated crumbles of brick, small pieces of plate or brigandine armor, and a large, ornate wrought gate hook. Nineteenth-century artifacts were also found, including a horseshoe, saber hanger, and Civil War bullet.

From these considerations, Mouer believes that the site may represent the principal fortification of the original settlement at Bermuda Hundred. There is some evidence that the feature was periodically re-excavated, suggesting that it served throughout the Colonial Period as a boundary ditch, which its surviving elements most resemble. The earliest known land patents in Virginia went to some of those men who served as corporation members and householders at Bermuda Hundred under Dale (e.g., John Rolfe, Samuel Jordan and William Craddock), as well as John Woodlief, the first head of the Berkeley Hundred Company who, for reasons not clear, ended up

² Francus Jacobus, *Virginia*, 1612-13. Reproduced in the 1925 Catalogue of Anderson galleries, New York City. On file at the Library of Virginia, and published as a cover illustration on O'Dell (1976).

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at Bermuda Hundred. Woodlief, Jordan, Craddock and Rolfe all had adjoining plots along the palisade near the bluffs over the Appomattox. Their properties were described as running back into the woods "to the place where the pale ran." The "place where the pale ran" remained a property boundary well into the 20th century and, in some places, still serves as such.

44CF209 Colonial Period house, #020-5371-0003
And 44CF210 associated dump, #020-5371-0004

Site 44CF210 is marked by a partially filled cellar hole and rubble from a substantial house. The site lies in a wooded buffer zone along a logging road, on a bluff overlooking the James River. Surface materials noted included some fragments of brick, unidentified ferrous metal objects, wrought nails, and a single sherd of white salt-glazed stoneware. Immediately adjacent to the site is an overbank dump (44CF209), in a ravine of a north-facing slope. The ravine is filled with trash dating to the 2nd and 3rd quarters of the 18th century. VCU's collection includes Whieldon clouded ware, underglazed Chinese porcelain, British and Rhenish stonewares, wine bottles, etc. The original occupants of this substantial site have not yet been identified. While logging activities may have disturbed some of the grounds and possible outbuildings, the site appears, in general, to have exceptional integrity.

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Statement of Significance - General Summary

Bermuda Hundred is significant as the site that was extensively used in prehistory beginning as early as the Archaic period (5000 BC), a principal town of the Appomattox Indians during the Protohistoric or early Contact Period (circa 1600 - 1611), and as the locus of a continuously occupied community that was originally established, in 1613, as one of the first settlements of the Virginia Company. Bermuda Hundred was the largest Virginia settlement between 1613 and 1617, and home to its Lieutenant Governor, Sir Thomas Dale. Other prominent early denizens included John Rolfe and Pocahontas. It may have been at Bermuda Hundred that Rolfe developed a variety of tobacco which became the basis of Virginia's economy for nearly three centuries. Bermuda Hundred was the first incorporated community in English America, and the site of the first private land ownership by English colonists. It was also part of the area attacked during the 1622 Indian uprising which obliterated one third of the English population at the time. Beginning in the mid-17th century, Bermuda Hundred became an important location of local mercantile activity. Waterfront stores operated here continuously from the second quarter of the 17th century until about 1940. After 1688, Bermuda Hundred arose as one of the few settlements in Colonial Virginia to attain the status of a town, and, in 1691, it became an official port. The port flourished, with periods of greater or lesser activity, until about 1940, when the last store, post office and ferry serving the town shut down.

Beginning in the late 18th century, Bermuda Hundred attracted an important free African-American enclave, whereas, during the Colonial Period, the town had been one of the region's principal slave markets. The district includes the lands of several plantations surrounding the town site. These were home to a number of families who also owned lots and businesses within the town. The district contains numerous archaeological sites representing a wide variety of time periods, functions, and social groups significant in the history of Bermuda Hundred, Virginia, and the nation. It also contains the archaeological remains and standing remnants of the town--now a small village--as well as certain landscape qualities suitable for memorializing and interpreting a rural, riverfront community with a very substantial history.

Prehistoric Resources

The presence of a Middle Woodland site (44CF26) with exceptional subsurface integrity is a unique opportunity to address issues surrounding hunter-gatherer subsistence and settlement strategies during this period. Well defined pit contexts with preserved macroscopic and microscopic organic remains can provide critical data on the introduction of cultigens and the use of native foods. The unplowed nature of this site has limited the impacts to subsurface features and increases the probability that fragile post structures are present. In addition, a careful study of late prehistoric archaeological remains at 22CF26 and Bermuda Hundred is likely to provide insights into the effects of contact on indigenous populations and social systems. While it cannot

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be stipulated precisely the date at which the development of the nascent Powhatan Chiefdom occurred, or that the first effects of contact were felt along the James River, the numerous well-preserved sites of Bermuda Hundred should offer opportunities to reconstruct these landmark historic events, and to gauge their effects, more accurately. The known date (1611) of the "removal" of the Appomattox from this site should permit archaeologists to determine with considerable accuracy the material conditions of life for these native Americans at that time, and to chart with some accuracy further developments through the 17th century by comparing these conditions with those from later sites.

Colonial Resources

The Virginia Company Period represents the period of initial exploration and settlement of the first permanent English settlement in continental North America. This period is one which is unique to Virginia and of significance to the founding and development of the nation as a whole. According to Ralph Hamor's account, Dale set to work constructing a settlement at Bermuda Hundred almost immediately after removing the Appomattox in December of 1611. However, serious attention was turned to the building of the five hundreds which comprised the Bermuda City Corporation only early in 1613, after completion of the major construction at the sister settlement known as Henrico.

The history and archaeology of the Virginia Company Period are clearly significant to furthering our understanding of the foundations of the American nation. There has been substantial archaeological study of Company period settlements in the past two decades; namely at The Maine (Outlaw 1990), Martin's Hundred (Noël Hume 1991), Flowerdew Hundred (Deetz 1993), and Jordan's Journey (Mouer, McLearn et al. 1992; McLearn and Mouer 1993; McLearn, Mouer et al. 1994). All of these excavations are of settlements founded as "particular plantations" near the end of the Company Period, and do not represent the initial Virginia Company settlements. Clearly, a site such as Dale's Pale represents one of only several settlement types dating to the earliest European presence. These unique sites reflect strategies of defense, community organization, and subsistence modes which may have rapidly changed within the first decade of settlement.

The organization of the original company settlements, particularly outside of Jamestown, remains poorly known. At Bermuda Hundred there is the opportunity to recover archaeological evidence of fortifications, the company compound and "granary," as it was then called, the common gardens and fields, manufacturing facilities, etc. The martial nature of the early settlement was, according to historical sources, more extensive and severe than that of the later palisaded or fortified compounds, such as Martin's Hundred or Jordan's Journey. Further study will undoubtedly reveal traces of Dale's formal military training and experience. History often credits Dale with saving the Virginia Colony from utter failure. If there is anywhere that can mark the history of Dale's success, and study archaeological remains of his methods, it is at

Bermuda

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Hundred. Later Colonial period sites such as that represented by the mid to late 18th century house and refuse dump (44CF209, 44CF210) within the district offer materials for comparative studies that can track changes in European commodity usage, the development of American agronomy and industry, and the organization of early plantations in this region.

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10. Geographical Data

Boundary Description

The northwest corner of the district boundary begins on the James River shore at a point 200 m east of the filtration plant pump house. The edge of the district continues along the James River shore for a distance of 738 m. At this point, it turns due south for a distance of 600 meters and crosses the reservoir. At the end of this transect, the boundary continues in a southwesterly direction for 370 m before changing to a northwest orientation for a length of 1056 m. At this point, it turns and intersects the starting point after a distance of 250 m. The boundaries follow the exact points of the 158-acre polygon drawn when connecting the following UTM points:

1. 18, 295995E, 4136810N; 2. 18, 296584E, 4136491N; 3. 18, 296569E, 4135912N;
4. 18, 296244E, 4135744N; 5. 18, 295792E, 4136724N

Boundary Justification

The district boundary falls within survey parcel #2800 belonging solely to Chesterfield County and is related to the four documented archaeological resources. The boundary uses natural features, such as the James River shoreline, as well as artificial limits to provide a clear perimeter encompassing the four resources.