

Listed On:

VLR 12/17/1985  
NRHP 07/22/1986

Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Hidden Valley Rockshelter

(DHL File # 08-137)

AND/OR COMMON

N/A

**2 LOCATION**

Rural setting

STREET &amp; NUMBER

 NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Warm Springs

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Virginia

 VICINITY OF

CODE

51

COUNTY

Bath

CODE

017

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED  
 N/A

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 MUSEUM  
 COMMERCIAL  
 PARK  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 RELIGIOUS  
 GOVERNMENT  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER: Rockshelt**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U.S. Forest Service (USDA) George Washington National

STREET &amp; NUMBER

210 Federal Building

Forest

CITY, TOWN

Harrisonburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 22801

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bath County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

N/A

CITY, TOWN

Warm Springs

STATE

Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Division of Historic Landmarks

DATE

1968

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDSDivision of Historic Landmarks Research Center for Archaeology  
P. O. Box 368

CITY, TOWN

Yorktown

STATE

Virginia 23690

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE 8-27-85

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hidden Valley rockshelter is an irregularly shaped overhang that is approximately 90 feet long and 10 feet wide at its maximum width. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] An old road runs between the river and the shelter. The entire length of the shelter appears to have been occupied, although there is a rise in floor level on the eastern portion of that would have resulted in less room for occupation. Cultural deposits extend across a narrow toe slope to the old road which may have destroyed a small portion of the cultural deposits. The boundaries of the site extend from the western edge of the road to the back of the shelter, across the entire length of the shelter.

The site was identified by Mr. John Exley III of Martinsville, Virginia, who discovered the site while trout fishing in the Jackson River. He reported the site to Col. Howard MacCord who was the State Archeologist at that time. Mr. Exley reported some vandalism at the site. Apparently this was not the result of looting, but was incidental disturbance of the site by campers and/or fishermen who were building fires within the shelter, at times accompanied by excavating small pits to contain the fires.

Col. MacCord conducted an investigation at the shelter in 1970 (MacCord, 1973), which included the excavation of 210 square feet of the site. (See Figure 1) Cultural material was removed to a depth of 4.6 feet in two ten-foot squares, with a third square excavated until rock prevented further work. MacCord reported cultural materials that ranged in age from Early Archaic through Late Woodland periods, along with ceramics, bone, and ethnobotanical material.

Students from the James Madison University Archeological Research Unit under the direction of Dr. Clarence Geier conducted test excavations at the rock shelter during the summer of 1978. The purpose of these excavations was to use this stratified rock shelter site to help clarify and aid interpretation of a series of sites being investigated by Geier's students [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Excavations were oriented along a north-south grid with five, five foot squares and five 2 1/2 x 5 foot squares opened. The squares were designed to establish a five foot wide trench across a portion of the shelter which would allow for intra site comparisons. The squares were placed adjacent to and on both sides of MacCord's previous excavation (Geier, 1983:1,12). (See Figure 2 and 3)

The 1978 excavations (Geier, 1983) yielded a wide variety of projectile point types, ceramic types, floral and faunal materials, including evidence of the use of cultigens (Gardner, 1982), human skeletal remains, and environmental data derived from soil studies and floral analysis. Geier proposed seven cultural levels from the excavations, which range in age from modern historic to Transitional Archaic. It should be noted that time limitations forced the termination of the excavations prior to reaching the bottom of cultural deposits. In all likelihood, deposits exist that extend into the Late Archaic and perhaps older.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

See Below

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Specific Dates

Probably Late Archaic

Transitional Archaic

Early Woodland UGa #2517 2170 BP +/- 105

Early to Middle Woodland UGa @2519 1705 BP +/- 80

Middle/Late Woodland UGa #2520 1458 BP +/- 90

Late Woodland/Protohistoric UGa #2517 190 +/- 55

165 +/- 55

The Hidden Valley Rockshelter contains the stratified remains of human occupation from the Late Archaic through the Late Woodland and perhaps Protohistoric periods. Artifact analysis indicated subtle changes in artifact debris that yielded information of culture-change through a Woodland continuum from Transitional Archaic-Early Woodland through possibly Protohistoric. This culture-change was reflected through changes in projectile point styles, lithic choices, and ceramic temper and vessel styles. Preservation of both floral and faunal materials was excellent and offers a superb opportunity to study subsistence patterns over the last 2000-3000 years in western Virginia.

Archeological investigations have been numerous within the mountainous areas of western Virginia over the last ten years. The work of Geier at the Back Creek VEPCO Project and within the environs of Lake Moomaw, approximately eight miles downstream from this rockshelter, has yielded large amounts of prehistoric data. The majority of sites investigated, however, do not yield the continuum of data that is found at the Hidden Valley Rockshelter. This rockshelter offers the opportunity to fill in the many gaps that are missing within the Woodland continuum of western Virginia. The change through time in projectile point and ceramic styles found at the shelter can be used to better interpret sites that have previously been investigated. Similarities in point styles between the rockshelter and sites investigated at Lake Moomaw indicate the possibility of a fusion-fission type settlement pattern along the Jackson River drainage during the Woodland period. Protection of this rockshelter site until additional investigation can be conducted there will ensure the cultural materials will be left in situ for an interdisciplinary excavation approach that can be utilized to further investigate: the possibility of the fusion-fission settlement pattern; subsistence patterns of the occupants through time and any changes that can be noted over time; additional information on the paleo environment of western Virginia over the last 3000 years, and the changes in subsistence patterns as the occupants adapted to any changes in the environment.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gardner, Paul S. Plant Remains Analysis Hidden Valley Rockshelter (44BA 31) Bath County, Virginia Report submitted to U.S. Forest Service, 1982.

MacCord, Howard The Hidden Valley Rockshelter, Quarterly Bulletin, Archeological Society of Virginia, Vol. 27, No. 4:198-228

Göler, Clarence R. A Preliminary Statement on Archeological Excavations at the Hidden Valley Rockshelter (44BA 31): A Stratified Site on the Jackson River, Bath County, Virginia. USDA U.S. Forest Service Southern Region Cultural Resources Report No. 1983

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The Hidden Valley Rockshelter is the land contained within an overhang approximately 90 feet long by 10 feet wide, along with a narrow toe slope that extends from the edge of the overhang to an old road that parallels the Jackson River.

The boundary contains all the land that Archeological testing has proven to contain cultural material.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A		N/A	
N/A		N/A	

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George A. Tolley Forest Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION

U.S. Forest Service George Washington National Forest 9-18-85

STREET & NUMBER

210 Federal Building

TELEPHONE

(703) 433-2491

CITY OR TOWN

Harrisonburg,

STATE

Virginia 22801

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

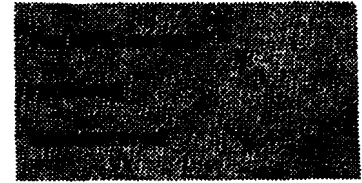
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

DESCRIPTION

Item number 7

Page 2

Following the excavations during the 1978 season, plastic was placed over each excavated square and the squares were back filled. In addition, the Forest Service trucked in several loads of soil that was placed over the entire length of the site to serve as a protective cap over the cultural materials. This has helped to protect the top levels of the site from incidental disturbances from fishermen and other recreationists. Presently, the site has changed little from 1978. There have been two areas of camping or fire pit construction, but these were confined within the added soil layer. Rodent activity near the rear of the shelter has brought several small pieces of burned bone to the surface. There has also been a limited amount of natural spalling from the shelter walls.

List of Figures:

- Figure 1: Plan view of MacCord's 1970 Excavations
- Figure 2: Plan view of Geier's 1978 Excavations
- Figure 3: Topographic map of site including major Excavation Units
- Figure 4: Photograph of Shelter taken from western edge of site
- Figure 5: Photograph of Shelter taken from eastern edge of site