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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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historic N/A	A	(44GV1, 44GV2)								
and/or commor	n JOHN GREEN	ARCHAEOLOGICA	L SITES	(VHL)	C 40-18)					
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#### 7. Description Condition Check one Check one deteriorated \_ excellent \_X\_ unaltered \_X\_original site LY\_ good ruins \_ altered N/A \_\_\_\_ moved date . fair \_X\_ unexposed Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The John Green Archaeological Sites (44GV1 and 44GV2), two adjacent and culturally related prehistoric and historic Indian sites,

(Photo 1). Occupational debris is scattered densely over cultivated fields in an area 200 feet in diameter at 44GV1 and covering an area 150 feet in diameter at 44GV2. Excavations conducted in 1968 at 44GV1 determined that the site has well-preserved, refuse-filled pits, human burials, and house patterns. Principal occupation at the John Green sites dates to the Historic Period (AD 1680-1730), with slight unstratified occupation spanning the Early Archaic through Late Woodland periods.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

. The nominated acreage has been in cultivation for many years. The John Green sites have been designated 44GV1 and 44GV2 in the state's official inventory of archaeological sites.

Occupational debris at 44GVl is concentrated within an area measuring two hundred feet in diameter, with a lesser artifact scatter extending over an area six hundred feet in diameter. At 44GV2 such habitational evidence is distributed over an area measuring 150 feet in diameter with lesser amounts of debris scattered over an area 200 feet by 500 feet. Both sites contain similar cultural material dating to the Late Woodland and Colonial periods and are viewed as two related, though spacially discrete, components. The profusion of small white quartz triangular points found on the surface of the acreage nominated has caused this area to be known locally as the "Triangle Site."

In 1968 the Archeological Society of Virginia excavated seventy-eight, five-foot squares at 44GV1 through the one foot of plow zone to the surface of subsoil. The squares were laid out in a central east-west trench, with lateral trenches to the north and south. Eighteen features were revealed, some of which had been disturbed by relic collectors. Six human burials were also uncovered.

Indian artifacts predominated at the site and they included a wide range of ceramics from the Early/Middle Woodland through Historic periods, projectile points from the Early Archaic through Woodland periods, pipe fragments, worked animal bone and shell beads, numerous faunal remains, and one charred corncob. Five short arcing patterns of postmolds were revealed in the excavated trenches, suggesting the presence of circular structures ranging from ten to fourteen feet in diameter.

A wide range of late 17th-century and early 18th-century historic artifacts were also recovered from refuse-filled pits and burials. Metallic artifacts included lead musket balls; copper items such as a spoon, kettle, straight pins, conical "bangles," ring, buttons, and rolled and sheet fragments; and iron objects such as scissors, nails, gun parts, and a knife blade. Also recovered were glass beads, white clay

### 8. Significance

PeriodX prehistoric	Areas of Significance—C  X. archeology-prehistoric  Archeology-historic  agriculture  architecture  art  commerce  communications	community planning conservation conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	reigion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	N/A	Builder/Architect N/A		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Green Archaeological Sites (44GVl and 44GV2) in Greensville County, Virginia, contain prehistoric and historic Indian components with well- preserved organic material and intact features that could significantly contribute to regional studies of historic Indian subsistence and settlement patterns. The presence of house patterns, domestic features, and European trade items mixed with traditional aboriginal remains is extremely significant in documenting the acculturation of the interior Coastal Plain Indians during the period AD 1680-1730. The presence of a wide variety of ceramic wares, typical of an area ranging from the estuarine Coastal Plain to the Central Piedmont of Virginia, affords an excellent opportunity for studying the extent of cultural interaction and trade relations in the transitional fall zone region separating the Coastal Plain and Piedmont provinces. A comparison of the two closely related, spacially discrete components at 44GVl and 44GV2 may advance knowledge of historic Indian settlement patterns and acculturation in a microcosmic setting.

#### BACKGROUND

The John Green Archaeological Sites together represent one of the few areas in southeastern Virginia which contain historic Indian sites that have been tested archaeologically. Limited excavations at 44GVl, conducted by the Archeological Society in 1968, revealed well-preserved house patterns, human burials, and refuse-filled pits. The mixture of typical aboriginal artifacts with historic trade items, floral and faunal remains, and the unique organics preserved by copper salts provide a rare opportunity for studying historic Indian settlement and subsistence patterns as well as acculturation.

The wide variety of protohistoric and historic Indian ceramics from the John Green sites offers great potential for the study of cultural interaction and trade between the Piedmont and Coastal Plain of Virginia. Shell-tempered plain Colono Ware found here typifies ceramics from the estuarine Coastal Plain to the north and east along the James River, possibly representing Weanock (Weyanoke) Indian contact in the Emporia area. The sand-tempered, plain Courtland Ware may represent the last aboriginal ceramic phase of the Nottoway and Meherrin Indians. The grit-tempered, looped-net sherds with folded, punctuated and incised rims are typical of the Clarksville Ware from the Piedmont to the west. The grit-tempered, simple-stamped sherds are typical both of the Clarksville Ware and the Cashie Ware normally found in the interior Coastal Plain of southern Virginia and northern North Carolina.

Although 44GV2 has not been subjected to subsurface testing, the surface debris indicates the presence of a spacially discrete component of approximately the same time period as 44GV1. Comparative study of these two closely related components may advance knowledge of the complexities of historic Indian settlement patterns at a given time and furnish a microcosmic view of acculturation resulting from contact with European society.

9.	Major	<b>Bibliogra</b>	phical	References
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MacCord, Howard A. "The John Green Site," Archeological Society of Virginia, Quarterly Bulletin, Vol. 25, No. 2, p. 98-138.

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

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

JOHN GREEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, GREENSVILLE COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #1 item number 7, 8, 10



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#### 7. DESCRIPTION -- Archaeological Analysis

pipe fragments dating to the period AD 1680-1730, bone handles for iron knives, small pieces of a wool blanket preserved by copper salts, a woven belt made from yarn wrapped with copper foil and exhibiting a diamond-shaped lozenge pattern, split cane matting, and a gourd cup preserved by copper salts (Photos 2 and 3).

On January 14, 1983, the staff of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission's Research Center for Archaeology conducted a surface inspection of 44GVl and 44GV2. A dense concentration of Late Woodland and Colonial periods material associated with a slight rise in terrain was observed at 44GVl, and a moderate artifact scatter was seen at 44GV2, conforming to the site dimensions previously described.

#### 8. SIGNIFICANCE-- Background

In 1970 44GVl was named for a former owner, the late John Green. This name has been retained for both archaeological sites in the nominated acreage due to the very close spacial and cultural relationship of 44GVl and 44GVl.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

