

044-0086

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Henry
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: JAN 21 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
The Martinsville Fish Dam

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: [REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN: [REDACTED] CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Fifth; W. C. Daniel

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Henry CODE: 089

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Is in process of being deeded to the Archeological Society of Virginia (Patrick-Henry Chapter)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
c/o R. P. Gravely Jr., Trustee    Box 2275

CITY OR TOWN: Martinsville STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Henry County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Martinsville STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
No previous surveys

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Henry

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 21 1974

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present and original appearances of the fish dam correspond very closely. The structure is a typical prehistoric Indian fish-trap made of stones piled in the bed of [redacted] River to form a low vee-shaped wall extending from bank to bank of the river, with the apex of the vee pointing downstream. Originally the wall of stones may have been one to one-and-one-half feet higher than at present. The original opening at the apex (to receive an open-work basket woven of willow or other slender tough twigs) is now closed by stones washed down by floodwaters from the upstream walls of the structure. At present (1973) when the [redacted] River is at normal level and clear, the entire wall is partially exposed and is clearly visible. Despite the wearing down of the dam over the centuries, it is considered to be in an unusually good state of preservation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Cultural (subsistence pattern)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Martinsville Fish Dam is one of the few aboriginal fish-traps of this type discovered in Piedmont Virginia. The dam is probably associated with a prehistoric Indian village located about 1,000 feet to the northwest on the \_\_\_\_\_ River which was excavated in 1963 by members of the Patrick Henry Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia and which by internal evidence dates to the latter part of the late Woodland period or the early part of the Mississippi period in the East (roughly covering the period 1200 A.D. to 1400 A.D.).

The dam, in excellent state of preservation, is easily accessible to the public by automobile on both sides of \_\_\_\_\_ River. Recently donated by its owners to the Archeological Society of Virginia, it is to be preserved within a small park for the education and enjoyment of the public. Commercial interests located nearby have agreed to provide funds to prepare the site, to build an adequate over-look on the \_\_\_\_\_ bank of \_\_\_\_\_ River, to print and distribute a small brochure of the feature, and to provide maintenance of the site.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and  
Archaeological Society of Virginia

No Published Record.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		██████████	██████████	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.5 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
No Overlap			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
R. P. Gravely, Jr.

ORGANIZATION: Archeological Society of Virginia      DATE: 28 May 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1202 Mulberry Road

CITY OR TOWN: Martinsville      STATE: Virginia 24112      CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National     State     Local

Name J.R. Fishburne, Jr.  
J.R. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date SEP 18 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date JAN 21 1974

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date JAN 21 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS