

Listed On:
VLR 06/13/2001
NRHP Pending

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

VLR 6/13/01
Write - draft pending

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

historic name Stroubles Creek Site

other names/site number Site 44MY7, VDHR File #060-5042

2. Location

street & number [REDACTED] not for publication
city or town Radford vicinity _____
state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 Zip code 24141

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

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]

Signature of commenting or other official Date

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

State or Federal agency and bureau

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Village Site</u>
<u>Funerary</u>	<u>Graves/burial</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Government</u>	Sub: <u>Public Works</u>
<u>Industry/Processing/Extraction</u>	<u>Manufacturing Facility</u>
<u>Defense</u>	<u>Armory</u>
<u>Vacant</u>	<u>Not in Use</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

roof _____

walls _____

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

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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)

Ethnic Heritage Native Indian
Archeology - Prehistoric

Period of Significance AD 1168-1473

Significant Dates _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Native American Late Woodland Period

Architect/Builder N/A

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

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 9. Major Bibliographical References
 =====
 (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
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property Less than one acre

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

	Zone Easting	Zone Northing
1	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Joanne Jenkins, Industrial Specialist

organization Radford Army Ammunition Plant date January 8, 200

street & number P.O.Box 2 telephone 540-639-7480

city or town Radford state VA zip code 24141

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Additional Documentation

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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)

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Property Owner

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

 Stroubles Creek Site
Name of property
 Montgomery County, VA
County and State

Summary Description:

Site 44MY7 is located on the primary terrace of the south bank [REDACTED]. The site is currently on the property of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. The Stroubles Creek Site represents a Late Woodland period village that was possibly enclosed by a palisade. Analyses of five radiocarbon dates (conventional calibrated dates, one-sigma range) suggest that the site was occupied during the period A.D. 1168-1473.

Description (detailed): Archeological Site

a. Environmental Setting: The environmental and physical setting of this site during its period of occupation saw emphasis placed on the cultivation of beans, maize, squash, and tobacco. Fertile soils were an important factor in the location of villages. The area was also used as a hunting ground and a transportation corridor. Intact features include portions of a stratified midden deposit, a structural post pattern, clay hearth features, storage pits, a possible palisade trench, and other features of unidentified function. The Late Woodland occupation was represented by a large village, which had possibly been enclosed within a palisade. The site was estimated to be only 10% intact by Smith and Weaver, 1984. This was proved erroneous through subsequent excavations by the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research (Pullins, 1994). Approximately 50 to 75% of the site remains intact. Currently, the site is in the area of Building 470, Biological Wastewater Treatment Facility. Construction associated with this facility impacted the site, and a Phase II investigation was initiated. This site was deemed eligible for the National Register under criterion D in that it has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. The site is currently being preserved and protected in accordance with a Memorandum Of Agreement with the State Historical Preservation Office.

b. Period of Time: Five radiocarbon dates (conventional calibrated dates, one-sigma range) and styles of recovered lithic and ceramic artifacts indicate that this Late Woodland period village site was occupied during the period A.D. 1168-1473.

c. Archaeological evidence suggests that indigenous cultural groups occupied the general study area during the late prehistoric and protohistoric periods.

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The paucity of detailed ethnohistoric accounts and the current level of archaeological evidence preclude a definitive statement on the tribal affiliation of the occupants of 44MY7. However, the recovery of Dan River Ware ceramics suggests that the site occupants included, or were in direct contact with, Siouan communities located to the immediate east, such as the Totero or Saponi. Other tribal groups have been documented in adjacent regions that border the study area. The protohistoric and later historic Cherokee Complex defined by Keel (1976) occurred far to the southwest along the Tennessee border. To the east, Siouan tribes appear to have resided in the vicinity of the Staunton (Roanoke) and Dan rivers, and archeological ceramics belonging to the Dan River and Clarksville series can be assigned to these groups. To the north and northwest, the Shawnee tribe appears to have settled near the eastern terminus of the Ohio River Valley. They traveled through and raided western Virginia during the French and Indian War. Far to the northeast, the Iroquois, residents of New York and Pennsylvania, often dispatched war parties southward that would have traveled through the site area.

d. Physical Characteristics: The site measures approximately 80 m in diameter for the village proper, with a total east-west extent of about 140 m and a north-south extent from the riverbank to about 80 m south. The site has been determined to be a Late Woodland village. There are no standing structures, buildings, or ruins. There were approximately 4 cf of artifacts recovered by the College of William and Mary in 1993 and 10 cf recovered by Dr. Joseph Benthall during his 1968 excavation. Recovered artifacts include lithic tools and debitage; fire-cracked rock; Radford Ware, Dan River Ware, and New River Ware ceramics; faunal remains; archaeobotanical remains, and human skeletal remains. Additionally, 49 subsurface features and numerous post stains were identified during the 1968 and 1993 investigations at the site. These features include storage/refuse pits, hearths, one human grave, a stratified midden deposit, at least two structural post patters, a possible palisade trench, and other features of unidentified function. The features were found at depths ranging from 1.0 to 3.3 feet below the ground surface. The human remains of an infant, 0-5 months old of indeterminate sex, was found at a depth of 2.4 to 2.8 feet below ground surface.

e. Likely appearance of the site during the period of occupation or use: Site 44MY7 is located on the primary terrace of the south bank [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. The site was originally identified by C. G. Holland during his survey of southwestern Virginia (1963 - 1970). Temporally diagnostic artifacts recovered were from the Late Woodland period, during which populations developed a subsistence strategy with more emphasis on the cultivation of

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 Stroubles Creek Site
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beans, maize, squash, and tobacco. With horticultural developments, fertile soils became an increasingly important factor in the location of villages and hamlets. A description of the "typical" village site in southwestern Virginia is based on the excavation results from a number of villages, including site 44MY8 and 44MY3. An oval or circular palisade enclosed most of these villages, with gates formed by overlapping palisade lines. Domestic structures were commonly located adjacent to the palisade and surrounding an open plaza area. The arrangement of houses, burials, and storage pits suggested a moderate degree of community organization.

f. Current and past impacts: Currently there are no impacts to the site. The site has been fenced off for its protection. Past impacts would include land surface modification, including cut and fill episodes, soil erosion, and the construction of Building 470, a wastewater treatment facility built in the 1970s with subsequent improvements in the early 1990s.

g. Previous investigations: C. G. Holland conducted a survey of southwestern Virginia (1970). At the time of Holland's survey, a bulldozer had cut a trench parallel to the river and directly through the site. An erosion gully was also worn into the village at right angles to this trench, and Holland's survey was limited to inspection of these disturbances. Temporally diagnostic artifacts recovered were from the Late Woodland period, and included two triangular points, one New River series ceramic sherd, seven Wythe series sherds, and 137 Radford series sherds. Other artifacts included one provisional point type, one Patrick Indented Base point, as well as one drill, one hafted scraper, one unbacked knife, one chert flake, two hammerstone/milling stones, animal bones, riverine shell, and one unidentifiable point.

Excavation of the site was undertaken from May through October 1968 under the direction of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and Dr. Joseph Benthall. This excavation uncovered numerous Late Woodland features, including a structural posthole pattern, a burial, and 14 pit features. The artifact assemblage includes projectile points, lithic and bone tools, and several ceramic ware types. Radiocarbon results from the 1968 excavations and from later work at the site date the major component to the period A.D. 1170-1470. Favorable soil conditions preserved large quantities of faunal remains, mollusk shells, and archeobotanical materials. Michael Barber (2000) recently completed an analysis of the vertebrate faunal remains recovered during this site testing.

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In 1984, an archaeological overview and management plan was prepared for the RFAAP by Gerald Smith and Guy Weaver. Smith and Weaver erroneously reported that this site was almost completely destroyed by the construction of wastewater treatment ponds and a container disposal area. However, they did recommend a professional evaluation of the site.

A Phase II field evaluation of the site was conducted by the College of William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research from August 16 to 24, 1993. The project permitted an evaluation of the site in terms of eligibility criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and identified the effects of past and proposed construction on those resources that appear eligible. This evaluation revealed that approximately 50 to 75% of the site remains intact. Systematic shovel testing was conducted at 5- to 10-m intervals along the baseline to determine the extent of the site. Eleven shovel tests were excavated along the baseline south of the fence until modern wells and the existing equalization basin made it necessary to excavate six additional tests north of the fence. Two more shovel tests were excavated to test the extent of the midden deposit north of the fence. All shovel test fill was screened to recover artifacts, and soil profiles were drawn of all tests. Seven trenches were excavated by a backhoe equipped with a smooth-edged bucket approximately 1 m wide. These trenches were placed to identify the extent of previous construction stripping and fill impacts to the site, to remove the extensive full/spoil and plowzone overburden in order to identify intact deposits and features, and to define the primary site limits based on feature distribution relative to the proposed construction.

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Stroubles Creek Site
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Summary Statement of Significance

The Stroubles Creek Site (44MY7) represents a Late Woodland period village containing a stratified midden deposit, intact pit features, structural post patterns, and well-preserved faunal and floral remains. Additionally, one feature representing a human burial was identified and excavated at the site. The probability of other features representing human graves at 44MY7 is considered high. Further investigations of this site should contribute significant information to our current understanding of regional Late Woodland period subsistence practices, settlement patterns, and environmental adaptations. The documented presence of human burials should prove important to regional studies of demography, health status, and mortuary practices. Further indicating this site's archaeological research potential, the mixture of ceramic wares should provide valuable data for the study of cultural interactions and social dynamics in the New River Valley of southwestern Virginia during the Late Woodland period.

Historical Background

Site 44MY7 is located on the primary terrace of the south bank of the New River in Montgomery County, in the southwestern regions of Virginia known as the Appalachian Valley. The site is on the property of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP). The site was originally identified by C. G. Holland during his survey of southwestern Virginia (1963 - 1970). Temporally diagnostic artifacts recovered were from the Late Woodland period. During this period, populations developed a subsistence strategy with more emphasis on the cultivation of beans, maize, squash, and tobacco. With horticultural developments, fertile soils became an increasingly important factor in the location of villages and hamlets. A description of the "typical" village site in southwestern Virginia is based on the excavation results from a number of villages, including site 44MY8 and 44MY3. An oval or circular palisade enclosed most of these villages, with gates formed by overlapping palisade lines. Domestic structures were commonly located adjacent to the palisade and surrounding an open plaza area. The arrangement of houses, burials, and storage pits suggested a moderate degree of community organization.

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Stroubles Creek Site
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People belonging to what MacCord and Buchanan (1980) have defined as the Intermontane Tradition are believed to have inhabited this area from 100 B.C. to sometime during the 1600s A.D. Scholars (Mooney 1894) have attributed Siouan identities to these Intermontane peoples. Site 44MY7 has been dated to the period A.D. 1168-1473 and is the only site on RFAAP reported to have materials that must be reported under the Section 4 requirements of NAGPRA. Ceramics recovered from this site suggest that it was occupied by one of the eastern groups of the Siouan language stock, possibly the Occaneechi, Saponi, Mohetan, or Tutelo, who are believed to have inhabited the region in late prehistoric times.

By the end of the seventeenth century, most of the original occupants of the Appalachian Valley had moved elsewhere in response to epidemic disease introduced by European contact and/or Iroquoian attack. By the time Europeans settled the southwestern portion of Virginia during the eighteenth century, the region appeared devoid of permanent Indian settlements. The only Native American tribes claiming the Appalachian Valley at that time were the Cherokee and the Shawnee, who utilized the area for hunting and/or as a transportation corridor.

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Bibliographic References

- Benthall, Joseph L., with appendices by Michael B. Barber, Paul W. Parmalee, and Gary Crites
2000 "The Stroubles Creek Site (44MY7) Excavations, Radford Army Ammunition Plant, Montgomery County, Virginia". Archaeological Society of Virginia Quarterly Bulletin
- Keel, Bennie C.
1976 "Cherokee Archaeology, A Study of the Appalachian Summit", Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press.
- MacCord, Howard A., Sr., and William T. Buchanan
1980 "The Crab Orchard Site, Tazwell County, Virginia". Archaeological Society of Virginia, Special Publication 8, Richmond, Virginia
- Mooney, James
1894 "The Siouan Tribes of the East". Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 22, Washington, D.C.
- Pullins, Steven
1994 "A Phase II Archaeological Evaluation of Site 44MY7, Radford Army Ammunition Plant, Montgomery and Pulaski Counties, Virginia". Report prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District.
- Smith, Gerald P. and Guy G. Weaver
1984 "An Archaeological Overview and Management Plan for the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, Montgomery and Pulaski Counties, Virginia." Department of Anthropology, Memphis State University. Report prepared for U.S. Army Material Development.

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Section 10 Page 1 Stroubles Creek Site
Name of property
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Verbal Boundary Description

Site 44MY7 is located on the primary terrace of the [redacted] bank [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]. (see Plan of Phase II Investigation map)

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the nominated property are based on a Phase II archaeological survey conducted by the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research and are restricted to that area where subsurface testing has shown contiguous archaeological deposits to be present.