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Form No. 10-308 (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

RM-130, THE BIG RUN QUARRY SITE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

LURAY

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF BIG RUN PORTAL

07

STATE

VIRGINIA

CODE

51

COUNTY

ROCKINGHAM

CODE

165

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STREET & NUMBER

143 SOUTH THIRD STREET

CITY, TOWN

PHILADELPHIA

STATE

PENNSYLVANIA

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

N.A.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

N.A.

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 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 DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

#### Context:

RM-130, the Big Run Quarry Site, was located and sampled by a two stage process of intensive survey and testing in the late Spring and Summer of 1978 in the Southern Areal Transect sampling zone (Foss 1979: 82-85) as part of our study of the cultural resources of the Shenandoah National Park funded through the Mid-Atlantic Region of the NPS. The two stage survey process involved an initial "walk through" inspection followed by shovel transects and the excavation of test squares at selected, representative sites.

RM-130 covers about 1,500 square meters and has yielded huge amounts of debitage typical of a quarry site. RM-130 is clearly the largest and most intensively used prehistoric quarry located within the Park borders and contrasts to other sites which were used incidentally as quarries (eg., AU-167, AU-158) in the sheer amount of debris present.

Because the tested area of RM-130 produced few chronologically diagnostic artifacts, it is likely that the Middle-Late Archaic date assigned it represents only a part of the entire range of prehistoric use. Diagnostic points found at RM-130 include a small, milky quartz specimen tentatively identified as a LeCroy point dating to Early to early Middle Archaic (ca. 5500-5000 B.C.) and a basal fragment of a quartzite biface resembling a Savannah River point of Late Archaic vintage (ca. 2500 - 1000 B.C.).

#### Environment:

RM-130 is located on a narrow terrace about 10 m. above Big Run at the entrance to Big Run portal at an elevation of 1250 feet. The area is distinguished by towering cliffs, steep side slopes and extensive talus deposits of Erwin Quartzite. At present the steep slope behind (west of) the site is forested, but shovel tests placed there revealed an inactive talus slope beneath a thin soil mantle. It is likely, however, that during the Archaic this talus slope was an active zone of mass wasting and provided the raw material used for artifacts.

#### Archaeological Investigations:

After initial location by a walk-through survey in which no artifacts were collected, RM-130 was designated for intensive, sub-surface sampling. Accordingly, a series of shovel transects spaced 5 m. apart were driven through the center of the site perpendicular to one another (see map) and a single one meter test square excavated in an area of maximum artifact frequency.

AT RM-130 the soils in the test square were sandy from the surface to the depth of 40 cm. where excavation was stopped. Surprisingly, there was little colluvium and most rocks unearthed were artifacts. Because such large amounts of cultural material were found, it has been possible to analyze only a small sample to date. For example, Level A (0-10 cm.) of

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Archaeological Investigations:

the test square produced a total of 3,469 artifacts, yielding a density of 30,000 artifacts per cubic meter! Although this density dropped with depth, even the 30-40 cm. level produced an artifact density of over 1,000 per cubic meter. Over 99.5% of the material was local Erwin Quartzite, with broken and occasionally restorable tool blanks constituting, as expected, the most common bifacial tool category.

The high artifact density and frequency of debitage and the ready availability of limitless supplies of quartzite from adjacent talus slopes, show RM-130 to be primarily a quarry or manufacturing site. The lithic evidence further suggests primary artifact thinning was done on the spot. Edge sharpening flakes were rare and the lack of completed tools indicates that tool blanks, rather than completed bifaces, were the major product of the site. Although not tested, RM-131, directly across Big Run, may have been a habitation site used by the stone workers at RM-130.

Intrusions and Date Limitations:

There has been little human disturbance of RM-130 in historic times. It is doubtful whether the terrace was ever plowed because of the extreme rockiness of the soil. Any plowing that would have occurred, however, would have been shallow and ceased over fifty years ago. The talus slope directly west of the site is today covered by thin soil and trees as is RM-130. Although this area of Big Run is subject to violent flash floods, the soil stratigraphy at RM-130 suggests minimal disturbance and the terrace was probably high enough to receive only light amounts of suspended materials (like sands).

# 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 type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" 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"/> 1800-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Early-late Middle  
Archaic

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

RM-130 is the only major and exclusive quarry site located in the Shenandoah National Park and was probably used by large numbers of Archaic peoples in the Shenandoah Valley for millennia. It represents an important type of economic activity and has produced such spectacular evidence of artifact density as to suggest it was a major manufacturing center for a large territory. Given the number of technological studies now underway at prehistoric sites throughout Virginia (most notably the work of Errett Callahan, personal communication) RM-130 acquires importance as a site where numerous hypotheses relating to prehistoric tool production can be tested against primary archaeological data. Although datable artifacts are not common, they occur in sufficient numbers to provide a chronological framework, while additional excavations would undoubtedly sharpen our control over dating of this crucial site.

The relationship of RM-130 to its companion (RM-131) across the river would allow inter- as well as intra-site studies to be conducted within a functionally and regionally controlled context.

As an example of primary information on the prehistoric "industrial" exploitation of the Blue Ridge, RM-130 occupies a unique place in the culture history of the region and is of special importance to the interpretation of prehistoric economy. Its early date places it at one end of a spectrum of industrial exploitation that can be documented in the Blue Ridge into the 19th century when an attempt to establish a major iron mining and smelting industry collapsed under the weight of northern competition. From an interpretive point of view, we might profitably compare the RM-130 quarry to the Miller Iron Works of early to mid 19th century vintage and, in each case, inquire into the byproducts, both positive and negative, of the use of the Blue Ridge before the establishment of the Shenandoah National Park.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Foss, Robert W.  
1979 A Geographical Perspective on Blue Ridge Prehistory: The Prehistoric Survey. in Patterns in Time, by M.A. Hoffman (ed.), Mid-Atlantic Region, NPS, Philadelphia, Pa.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1,500 square meters

UTM REFERENCES

A [REDACTED]			B [REDACTED]		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	D [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION



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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME/TITLE DR. MICHAEL A. HOFFMAN

ORGANIZATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY, WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY DATE

STREET & NUMBER 201 TILMAN HALL TELEPHONE (309) 298-1188

CITY OR TOWN MACOMB, STATE ILLINOIS 61455

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES  NO  NONE

*A. Bryan Mitchell*

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



**MEMBERS**

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission*

221 GOVERNOR STREET  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219  
TELEPHONE: (804) 786-3143

June 23, 1983

Mr. James W. Coleman, Jr., Regional Director  
Mid-Atlantic Region, National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

**RE: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATIONS: Shenandoah National Park**  
Site Near Paine Run Rock Shelter (44AU154), Augusta County  
The Paine Run Rock Shelter (44AU158), Augusta County  
The Blackrock Springs Site (44AU167), Augusta County  
The Gentle Site (44MD112), Madison County  
Cliff Kill Site (44MD138), Madison County  
The Big Meadows Site (44MD143), Madison County  
Robertson Mountain Site (44MD172), Madison County  
Jeremey's Run Site (44PA116), Page County  
The Big Run Quarry Site (44RM130), Rockingham County  
The Compton Gap Site (44WR103), Warren County

Dear Mr. Coleman:

On behalf of the Commonwealth, it gives me great pleasure to inform you officially that the above ten archaeological sites, located in Shenandoah National Park, have been placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register. The nominations forms were forwarded to your office in September of last year for submission to the National Register of Historic Places. Recognition of these sites was initially proposed by the Park Service.

One of these properties, Site Near Paine Run Rock Shelter (44AU154), is also partially owned by M.E. Bibb and H.C. Powers of Weyers Cave. Both of the owners and the appropriate officials were properly notified in accordance with federal procedures, and copies of letters from Augusta County and Mr. Powers are enclosed for inclusion with the nomination of that site when it is forwarded to the National Register.

The Virginia Landmarks Register was established by an act of the General Assembly in 1966 and includes "the buildings, structures, and sites which are of state-wide or national significance." It is our judgment that these sites richly deserve this official recognition as ten of the Commonwealth's historic resources.