

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name

other names/site number: Wade Archaeological Site 44CH0062

2. Location

street & number 1035 Fort Hill Trail not for publication
city or town Randolph vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Charlotte code _____ Zip 23962

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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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 of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the

National Register

Signature of Keeper

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the National Register

Date of Action

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private
☐ public-local
☒ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☐ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Village Site/Camp</u>
<u>Industry/Processing/Extraction</u>	<u>Processing Site/Manufacturing Facility</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Trade (Archaeology)</u>
<u>Funerary</u>	<u>Graves/Burial</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

[illegible]

7. Description**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)foundation

roof

walls

other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)**8. Statement of Significance****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)Archaeology-Prehistoric

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Period of Significance Prehistoric-Late Woodland Period

Significant Dates A.D. 1000-1450

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Native American-Saponi Indian

Architect/Builder

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5

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

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 17 704541 2 4084597 3 _____ 4 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

____ See continuation sheet.

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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: _____ Dr. Brian D. Bates

Organization: Longwood University date 4/01/03street & number: 201 High Street telephone (434) 395-2875city or town Farmville state VA zip code 23909

Additional Documentation

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)

Property Owner

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

name Staunton River Battlefield State Parkstreet & number 1035 Fort Hill Trail telephone (434) 454-4312city or town Randolph state VA zip code 23962

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Description:

Summary Paragraph

The Wade Archaeological Site is a Native American village site, 270 meters by 70 meters, dating to A.D. 1000 to 1450. The well-preserved site is located on the north bank of the Staunton River on a natural levy in the vicinity of Randolph, Charlotte County, Virginia (see Illustration 1). An extensive occupation midden, numerous pit features, including trash-filled storage pits and human burials, post molds, and a hearth area have been identified at the site. The material artifacts are representative of the Dan River archaeological culture. The artifacts include stone triangular projectile points, pendant, and basalt celt; ceramic pottery, pipes and discs; bone punches, awls, fish hooks, pendants, beads, and turtle shell cup; and various sizes of shell beads. The trash-filled pits and midden contained thousand of pieces of animal bone, representing deer, elk, fox, eastern box turtle, and various fish species, and large quantities of gastropods and bivalves.

Background

In a variety of ways the physical characteristics of the land distinguish the property. The site sits atop a gently rising, natural forming levy approximately 5 to 10 meters in elevation above the surrounding floodplain and only 130 meters north of the Staunton River, Charlotte County, Virginia (see Illustration 2). The soil is a sandy humus and well drained, suitable for habitation. During the Late Woodland Period large more permanent villages developed in this kind of location because of the people's reliance on agriculture. Today the site is situated in an open field, although the field is no longer being cultivated (see Illustration 4).

Dr. Brian Bates and his Longwood College Archaeology Field School, through the placement of 160 shovel test pits at 15-meter intervals, first identified the site in 1996. This was followed by the excavation of 24 1-meter test units in the highest concentration of artifacts identified at the site. In 1998 a 10 by 15 meter area within this concentration was investigation. The

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following year an additional area, 5 by 15-meters, was exposed (see Illustration 3). An undisturbed village midden that covers essentially the entire site was identified beneath the plow zone. Many trashed-filled pits, most of them originally used for storage (see Illustration 5), a large hearth, post molds, and three burial pits containing five individuals were carefully excavated. Charcoal samples from the three burial features were radiocarbon dated to 950 +/- 50, 750 +/- 60, and 660 +/- 40 years before present. This suggests that the site was occupied from A.D. 1000-1450.

Artifacts recovered at the site are typical of those encountered on Dan River Culture village sites. Ceramic production is abundantly apparent on the site. The ceramics, known as Dan River Ware, had generally thick walls, pointed bases, and were tempered with sand or sand and crushed quartz. Their surfaces were impressed with a net or cord wrapped paddle, or smoothed over. Lithic artifacts include an ungrooved axe, a pendant, and various sizes of small triangular projectile points for the tips of arrows, called by archaeologists either Yadkin, Madison, or Clarksville points.

The extensive occupation of the site neutralized the acidity of the soil creating an environment where bone and shell artifacts are well preserved. Bone artifacts include punches, awls, a pendant, a turtle shell bowl, and numerous fishhooks. Found with the hooks are fishhook blanks and fishhook residue that documents the technology of fishhook production. Found with one of the burials were more than 500 bone disc beads, a necklace of nine large columella shell beads, two turtle shell rattles, and a forearm and a wrist bracelet of smaller columella shell beads.

Bone fragments, representing deer, elk, bear, fox, eastern box turtle, and various fish species were abundant at the site. Shellfish recovered from the site include numerous gastropods and bivalves.

Nine copper tubular beads were documented from the neck area of the same burial that contained all the bone and shell beads. The human burials and their associated funerary items uncovered at the Wade Archaeological Site were not removed from the ground, but were documented *in situ*.

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8. Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Wade Archaeological Site (44CH0062) represents the occupation of the probable ancestors of the Saponi Indians between the years of A.D. 1000 to 1450. This group has embodied characteristics, which can be attributed to the Late Woodland Period in prehistory, under the Eastern Woodland Culture. Through the archaeological investigation of this well-preserved site, recovered features and artifacts have yielded information to further the advancement of knowledge about the social and political organization of the Saponi Indians. Feature pits, a large hearth, and post molds provide invaluable information concerning community organization. The site contains period artifacts that show a mastery of art and technology that is unique to the local region. The shell and copper ornamental artifacts are of value in demonstrating cultural interaction, trade, and status in a tribal society. The well-preserved floral and faunal remains have high potential to address questions related to subsistence.

Background

Only a few Late Woodland village sites, similar in size to the Wade Archaeological Site, have been identified along the Roanoke River in the middle Piedmont region of Virginia. The waters of the John H. Kerr Reservoir and Lake Gaston have impacted most village sites located further south along the Staunton River. This makes the Wade Archaeological Site research potential all the more important.

A large population over a period of time is evident at the Wade Archaeological Site, due to the abundant artifacts, storage and refuses pits, post molds, and human burials. Archaeological evidence from ecofacts shows that the site was occupied year round. The Late Woodland Period is characterized by sedentary cultures with a seasonal pattern of gardening, hunting and gathering. The archaeological evidence implies a large materialistic community with an organized structure, and a complex mortuary system.

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The ethnic association for the Wade Archaeological Site is most reasonably that of the Saponi Indians based on the slim historic accounts for the region. The site is a prime example of how the Saponi culture developed in the areas of art, technology, trade, and domestic activity during their time of occupation at the site. The traditional Saponi's lifestyles were eventually replaced as the European settlers moved west in the New World. Only by preserving and researching sites like the Wade Archaeological Site can we recover information concerning the early Saponi Indians of Virginia.

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9. Bibliographical References

Barber, Michael B., Michael F. Barber, and Christopher L. Bowen.

1994 *Phase III Excavations at the Hurt Power Plant Site Pittsylvania County, Virginia: A Protohistoric Village on the Middle Roanoke (Staunton) River.* Preservation Technologies, Inc., Salem, Virginia

Bates, Brian D.

n.d. *A Report on the Phase II Evaluation of Staunton River Battlefield State Park: 1996-2000.* Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Longwood College, Farmville, Virginia

Briceland, Alan Vance

1987 *Westward From Virginia: The Exploration of the Virginia – Carolina Frontier 1650-1700.* University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville.

Ward, H. Trawick and R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr.

1993 *Indian Communities on the North Carolina Piedmont A.D. 1000 to 1700.* Monograph No. 2 Research Laboratories of Anthropology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

10. Geographical Data: Boundary Justification

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The boundaries of the nomination encloses the 270 meter by 70 meter distribution of Native American artifacts location in the middle of the highest section of the nature levy 130 meters north of the Staunton River, and 300 to 570 meters west of the Southern Railroad bed.

10 Geographical Data: Verbal Boundary Description

The Wade Archaeological Site (44CH0062) is located in the vicinity of the small town of Randolph, Charlotte County, Virginia, on top of a natural levy 130 meters north of the Staunton River. The site is in the middle of the highest part of the levy 300 to 570 meters west of the Southern Railroad bed. This part of the levy contains the sandiest soil along the levy and is well drained.

List of Illustrations

Illustration 1 of 5

Map of Saxe Quadrangle showing location of the site.

Illustration 2 of 5

Map of Staunton River Battlefield State Park showing location of the site.

Illustration 3 of 5

Map of excavated units at the site.

Illustration 4 of 5

View of the site area from the east along the natural levy.

Illustration 5 of 5

View of the profile of the excavation storage pit, Context 5.