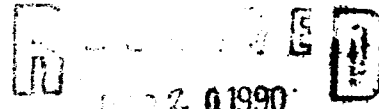


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Sandrock Cliffs

other names/site number 47BT51

### 2. Location

street & number St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

not for publication

city, town

vicinity

state Wisconsin

code WI

county Burnett

code 013

zip code 54024

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing |              |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <u>1</u>     | <u>7</u>        | buildings    |
|              | <u>4</u>        | structures   |
|              | <u>11</u>       | objects      |
|              |                 | <b>Total</b> |

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. 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.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

John J. Kneel

5/1/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC--Seasonal camp

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION--campground

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls

roof

other

N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

Sandrock Cliffs, 47BT51, is a multicomponent, prehistoric, archeological site

and within the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Intermittent occupation of the site took place from the Archaic through the Middle Woodland periods.

Resource Count

Contributing Resources: There is one contributing resource which is a prehistoric archeological site containing two components.

Noncontributing Resources: There are eleven noncontributing resources which include four structures (a fence, a stairway, a footpath, and a road) and seven sites (contemporary camping sites).

Environmental Description

The present topography of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway was formed when Wisconsin glaciers retreated from the area and fluvial processes sculpted the glacial deposits. The topography of this area is generally level, with some topographic relief along the riverways. Rock outcrops of Precambrian igneous rocks and Cambrian sandstone are scattered throughout the region.

The area has a moist continental climate with warm summers and cold winters. There is moderate precipitation in all seasons, with a summer maximum.

The northern portion of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is representative of the Canadian biotic province, while the southern portion of the riverway is more representative of the Carolinian biotic province (Cushing 1965). The Carolinian province is characterized by a growing season of greater than 120

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Archeology--Prehistoric

Period of Significance

Late Archaic to Middle

Woodland

Significant Dates

2500 B.C. to

A.D. 500

Cultural Affiliation

Late Archaic to Middle Woodland

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary Statement

The Sandrock Cliffs site (47BT51) is a significant multicomponent prehistoric site which contains buried and undisturbed archeological material. Initial occupation occurred during the Late Archaic or Early Woodland, with the final prehistoric occupation during the Middle Woodland. The site is significant for its potential to yield information about prehistoric lithic technology and settlement patterns.

Specific Dates

The Late Archaic and/or Early Woodland component (2000 B.C. to 200 A.D.) was identified on the basis of projectile point typology. The Middle Woodland component (200 A.D. to 500 A.D.) was identified on the basis of pottery traits. The extensive distribution of materials at the site strongly suggest that more than one occupation is present. It is likely that the site consists of numerous occupations that overlap both temporally and physically. The cumulative focus of site activities, however, seems centered in the northwestern portion in conjunction with the sandrock cliffs.

Research Topics and Related Data Categories

Cultural resources can be evaluated for several types of significance under Criterion D of the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. The cultural resources of 47BT51 can be evaluated for prehistoric archeological significance.

1. Prehistoric technological patterns. This site has the potential for analyzing prehistoric technological patterns. The concentration of lithic debris from stone tool manufacture is among the most dense of any site in the St. Croix National  See continuation sheet



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

frost-free days. Such a growing season is suitable for aboriginal agriculture.

Glacial outwash serves as the parent material for the predominantly sandy soils of the region. Vilas, Hiawatha, Omega, Friendship, Nymore, and Meehan are examples of such sandy soils which in lowland areas correlate with the northern mesic forest (National Park Service 1976:62).

A mixed conifer-hardwood forest is found adjacent to the riverway. This forest supports an abundance of wildlife, with the white-tailed deer being the most common large mammal. Other animals present include black bear, coyote, red and gray foxes, mink, muskrat, otter, and beaver. The skins of all these animals have commercial value.

Soils at the site are thin and acidic (4.4-5.5 pH). Stratigraphy indicates a thin zone (ca. 0-5 cm) of dark gray sandy loam. This is followed by 10-15 cm of mottled gray and pale brown sand. This layer contained most of the prehistoric cultural material. Below this layer was a yellowish brown loamy sand layer. Below this, at a depth of approximately 50-60 cm was bedrock. In the southern portion of the site, forest stratigraphy is evident. Artifacts are most concentrated between 0-30 cm, but were recovered from as deep as 50 cm in the southern portion of the site where soils are thicker.

## Cultural Chronology

Archaic Period 3000 - 1000 B.C.

During the Archaic a warming trend known as the Altithermal took place. Seasonal exploitation of diverse and dispersed resources was characteristic of the period. Both large and small game was hunted and a wide variety of plants exploited. The material culture includes lithics, exemplified by large stemmed, side notched, corner notched, and "turkey tail" points, and by the emergence of cold hammered copper tools. The riverway appears to have been only minimally utilized by Archaic peoples. During the Early and Middle Archaic there appears to have been winter aggregations of groups for hunting and a summer dispersal for hunting, gathering, and fishing. Habitation sites of the Squirrel River phase occur along streams near outlets to lakes. The large number of cortical flakes indicates the possibility that non-local lithic material was transported in bulk.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Old Copper and Red Ocher cultures are present during the Late Archaic period. Representative of these cultures are cold hammered copper articles (knives, awls, harpoons) often associated with secondary bundle burials. In the Red Ocher culture mound burials are overlain with crushed hematite and turkey tail points, copper beads, and marine shells are present as grave goods.

Woodland Period 1000 B.C. - A.D. 1675

The Woodland Period was characterized by extensive mound building activities, the emergence and development of ceramics, an increased dependence on cultigens such as maize and wild rice, and a greater reliance on large game and fish.

During the Early Woodland incipient agriculture of such cultigens as marsh elder, squash, gourd, sunflower, and chenopodium was developing in the south, while more hunting and plant collecting was taking place in the north. Population densities were low and ceramics were thick, grit tempered, and rounded or slightly flat with inside and outside cordmarking and cord impression. Copper implements and non local lithic materials were present. Documentation is lacking in the riverway of this period.

The Middle Woodland marked a period of intensification of trade networks. An increased reliance on agriculture in the Mississippi Valley in the south was developing into the Hopewell Culture. The north developed into the hunting and gathering Laurel Culture (Northern Minnesota) and Lake Forest (Michigan). The Arvilla Complex is characterized by linear and circular mounds with subsurface burial pits. Cultural material includes side and corner notched points, unilaterally barbed harpoons and ceremonial bone and shell artifacts. Ceramics are rare having beveled lips on wide mouthed grit tempered jars. If the Arvilla Complex actually reflects the distribution of populations, then a settlement subsistence pattern entailing seasonal east west migrations between the St. Croix region to the Mississippi may be suggested. The Kathio phase/complex (ca. A.D. 927) may overlap the Arvilla and is characterized by secondary burials in ground level pits. Subsistence involved the exploitation of wild rice and the summer hunting of prairie bison. Ceramics include St. Croix Stamped, Blackduck and Clam River ceramics. The complex may overlap Blackduck and these relationships are not clearly

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

understood. Kathio may have extended further east and Blackduck may extend further south. If so, the expanded boundaries would coincide with the boundaries of the riverway.

Most occupations along the riverway involve from the late Middle Woodland to the late Late Woodland and early Historic time periods. Portions of the period overlap with the Mississippian Period and influences are evident.

The Late Woodland period was characterized by an increase in the size and number of sites, a greater role for agriculture, and development of a symbiotic relationship between southern agricultural groups and northern hunter gatherers in which agricultural products were traded for game (Syms 1977). The Blackduck culture appeared during the Early Late Woodland (A.D. 700 - 1500). Wide physical distributions and regional manifestations of this culture exist in a variety of biomes. Blackduck relationships with Laurel and Kathio are controversial. Blackduck lifeways revolved around seasonal hunting and gathering in which fish exploitation and probably wild rice harvesting played dominant roles. A seasonal round with spring and summer fishing, late summer ricing, possible spring and fall prairie bison hunting, and winter hunting in small family groups has been proposed (Syms 1977). Changes in ceramics, lithic technology, and burial modes occurred at this time. Ceramics are punctated and fabric impressed on exterior surfaces and globular in shape. Lithics are represented by small triangular points for the bow and arrow and burials are made in smaller mounds with partially flexed, primary burials occasionally associated with grave goods and sometimes wrapped in birch matting.

During the Late Late Woodland there was a shift to non favorable conditions for agriculture in marginal areas. Blackduck contracted greatly during this time to areas north of Lake Superior where it probably continued into the Historic Period.

## Physical Description



National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4



Recordation

The initial archeological research on the site was conducted by the Midwest Archeological Center in 1982 when surface collections, shovel tests, and test excavations were carried out (Perry 1986). Eleven 1 x 1 m and three 1.0 x 0.5 meter units were excavated. The site was investigated again in 1983 by the Midwest Archeological Center (Connor et al. 1985). Surface collections, shovel tests, and three 1 x 1 m test excavations were made. Lithic artifacts, fire cracked rocks, and prehistoric ceramics were recovered by the research efforts of the Midwest Archeological Center.

During investigations at the site cultural material was found concentrated in three areas. Area A (see site map) was located in 1982 in the northern portion of the site (Connor 1986). Area B (see site map) represents a dense concentration south of Area A. In this area many shovel tests had 10 or more flakes in them. A small, corner notched projectile point was also recovered from Area B. Area C (see site map), located between Area A and Area B and to the east, has a greater concentration of lithic debris in subsurface contexts than any other part of the site.

Prehistoric Components

The prehistoric assemblage is dominated by flakes and non-diagnostic shatter. Chipped stone artifacts, cores, burned rock, and ceramics were also recovered. The chipped stone tool assemblage consists of three projectile points, a preform, a retouched artifact, and two utilized pieces (with projections worn in such a way that use as perforators or drills is suggested).

One style of projectile point recovered from the site suggests a Late Archaic to Early Woodland occupation (Connor et al. 1985:212). This point resembles the general category of side notched lanceolate forms typical of this period. The other style indicates a Late Archaic to Middle Woodland occupation (Connor et



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

al. 1985:212-213). The sides of the point are slightly convex and it can be classified as either corner notched or stemmed (part of the base is broken).

Twelve ceramic sherds were recovered including eleven body sherds and one excurvate rim sherd with an indeterminate comb stamped design on the upper exterior rim. All sherds have grit tempering with smoothed interior and exterior surfaces. The ceramics were too incomplete to type, but are generally characteristic of Middle to Late Woodland materials.

Faunal elements are missing at the site and probably reflect the highly acidic quality of the soil. This could also account for the paucity of ceramics at the site.

A cluster of fire cracked rock was discovered in Excavation Unit 2 and may represent the remains of a hearth.

The majority of the artifacts were found 5-25 cm below the surface. Some cultural material, however, was found at a depth of 50 cm in some portions of the site (Perry 1982:53).

## Area Excavated

[REDACTED]  
meters being excavated. This amounts to considerably less than 1% of the total area of the site.

## Disturbances

Heavy utilization of camping facilities by local people and canoeists has resulted in some erosion of the archeological resources.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] has occurred in the past resulting in loss of some artifactual material from the site.  
[REDACTED]

## Data Limitations

The lack of preservation of organic material at the site limits the potential of radiocarbon dating. It also limits the potential to reconstruct subsistence activities.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

---

Riverway (Perry 1982:55). Compared to other sites investigated during the survey and evaluative phases of this project, the densities of lithics at 47BT51 are the highest observed (Commonwealth 1979).

Flakes, non-diagnostic shatter, and cores all provide potential for understanding the steps in manufacture of prehistoric stone tools. Bipolar technology appears to be the dominant reduction method based on the predominance of bipolar over non-bipolar cores. Preliminary analysis of the lithic material indicates that most flakes were interior elements with relatively few primary or cortical flakes (Connor et al. 1985:210-211). This suggests that a significant amount of the material underwent initial processing somewhere else and that specialized technological activities occurred at the site.

The site has the potential to yield information to examine questions about intrasite comparisons. Differences have been discovered between Areas A, B, and C in the lithic assemblages. Lithics in Area A are primarily quartz with small amounts of chert, quartzite, basalt, and chalcedony with plain and cortical striking platforms. In Area B the sample is smaller, but contains a more uniform distribution of lithic types. Plain cortical elements comprise the bulk of the striking platforms. In contrast to these, Area C reveals a greater lithic diversity. Quartz is less frequent, while both basalt and quartzite are greater and chert and chalcedony are present in minor amounts. There are also differences in striking platform characteristics between Areas A and C, primarily in number of bifacial thinning flakes (14.5% in Area C and 4% in Area A). This, combined with the larger percentage of faceted platforms indicate that the later stages of lithic reduction as well as tool finishing or sharening were more prevalent in Area C than in Area A. This data supports the contention that different occupations could result in localized areas exhibiting unique configurations of lithic debris. Along the bluff edge lithic material is almost all quartz. Materials from Area A show more lithic diversity, but still an abundance of quartz. Material from Area C, however, is the most diverse and includes the least quartz. These patterns are to be expected, if small groups reoccupied the site, and each group brought a slightly different combination of lithic materials to utilize during their stay.

Because the site contains components probably spanning the Late Archaic to Middle Woodland periods, and because the lithic cultural material is stratified and exhibits areal assemblage

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

---

differences, this site has the potential to yield information about specialized technological activities over a period of time. Possible differences between Archaic and Woodland lithic manufacturing could be detected and patterns of change from one type of lithic technology to another between periods. This is significant not only for understanding lithic technology for the Archaic and Woodland peoples in the Riverway, but for these periods in other areas of the Midwest.

2. Settlement patterns and site function. During the period from 1000 B.C. to A.D. 500, the site appears to have been used intermittently for short term, limited activities. This is indicated by the limited number and diversity of tool types found at the site (Connor et al. 1985:219). The abundance of debitage indicates tool manufacturing was an important activity, especially in regard to the later stages of such manufacturing activity. A cluster of fire-cracked rocks found between 14 and 17 cm beneath the surface probably represents a firehearth. This suggests food preparation activities and the possibility of a habitation site at 47BT51. This site contains archeological data (including at least one feature) that have potential to contribute to our understanding of the nature of prehistoric site settlement and function in the St. Croix National Riverway.

3. Dating potential. The site contains burned rock in its buried cultural deposits. Burned rock can be dated by thermoluminescence or electron spin resonance techniques. The site has a series of components, and therefore has potential to provide dates for a significant portion of the cultural sequence in the St. Croix National Riverway.

4. Site integrity. Research potential is enhanced by the relatively undisturbed condition of the prehistoric components. Although foot traffic has disturbed some shallowly buried cultural material in certain areas, most of the site is intact. The site preserves at least one archeological feature, and probably a number of others.

5. Identification of a possible Archaic component. The St. Croix Riverway appears to have been only minimally utilized by Archaic peoples. Site 47BT51 was the only site in the northern portion of the Upper St. Croix River with a possible Archaic component tested by Perry 1982 from the Midwest Archeological Center. Protection of this site could therefore safeguard a potential data base for understanding more about the Archaic period in the park region.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References

Connor, M. A., C. M. Schoen, J. E. Zalesky, and J. R. Bozell  
1985 Archeological Investigations Along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, 1983. Manuscript on file. Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Cushing, E. J.  
1965 Problems in the Quaternary Phytogeography of the Great Lakes Region. In The Quaternary of the United States, H. E. Wright Jr. and D. G. Frey (eds.), pp. 403-416. Princeton University Press, Princeton.

Lynott, M. J.  
1980 The Dynamics of Significance: An Example from Central Texas. American Antiquity 45:117-120.  
1982 An Evaluation of Three Archeological Sites in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Manuscript on file, Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln.

National Park Service

1976 St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, Master Plan. Manuscript on file, Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service, Omaha, Nebraska.

Perry, L. A.  
1982 Preliminary Report. Archeological Site Evaluation, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway 1982. Manuscript on file, Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

1986a Archeology Along the St. Croix Riverway, 1981. Manuscript on file, Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

1986b Archeological Site Evaluation, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, 1982. Manuscript on file, Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Richner, J. J.  
1983 Archeological Investigations at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, 1979-1980. Draft Manuscript on file, Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number:** 90000632

**Date Listed:** 5/1/90

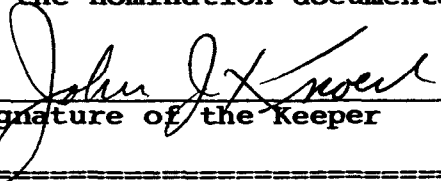
**Sandrock Cliffs  
Property Name**

**Burnett  
County**

**Wisconsin  
State**

**Multiple Name**

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

5/1/90  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====

**Amended Items in Nomination:**

Item 8: Period of Significance and Significant Dates  
The period of significance begins 2500 B.C. and ends A.D. 500.  
There are no significance dates.

Verified by phone with:  
Cathie Masters  
Archeologist  
Midwest Archeological Center

-----

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)