

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 OCT 31 1985

DATE ENTERED DEC 13 1985

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC AU-167 THE BLACKROCK SPRINGS SITE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

CITY, TOWN LURAY

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE VIRGINIA

VICINITY OF [REDACTED]
CODE 51

COUNTY AUGUSTA

CODE 06
015

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, MID-ATLANTIC REGION

STREET & NUMBER

143 SOUTH THIRD STREET

CITY, TOWN

PHILADELPHIA

VICINITY OF

STATE

PENNSYLVANIA

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

LURAY

STATE

VIRGINIA 22835

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE N.A.

DATE

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:

AU-167, the Blackrock Springs Site, was discovered in March, 1976, as the result of a systematic survey [redacted] undertaken by the Laboratory of Archaeology of the University of Virginia and sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of the National Park Service. [redacted] archaeological survey was conducted on foot by Laboratory of Archaeology personnel. [redacted] had been chosen as a test case for systematic survey of a single drainage system embracing a variety of ecological niches and topographic zones. The survey located 17 sites [redacted] led to the development of a more rigorous and systematic survey and sampling method for prehistoric sites throughout the Shenandoah National Park.

[redacted] all flat or gently sloping areas were walked (provided they fell within the drainage system) and searched for the quartzite debris that characterizes prehistoric archaeological sites in the Blue Ridge. Although no surface clearance was undertaken initially, site location was clearly indicated by exposed road cuts or, more frequently, by areas around the bases of trees where stone artifacts had been brought to the surface by root action in the locally shallow soils.

Based on the large and varied range of artifacts found by the survey, the extent of the site, and the likelihood of minimal historical disturbance, test excavations were conducted at AU-167 in late May and early June of 1976. Chronologically diagnostic projectile points recovered at that time date the site from early Middle to Late Archaic times (ca. 5500 - 1000 B.C.). Middle Archaic point types included a St. Albans-like specimen, several Morrow Mountain points, and a Guilford lanceolate. Late Archaic occupation is attested by a Savannah River point and a parallel-sided, stemmed point (Holland 1955, Type L).

Analysis of the excavated, piece-plotted material (McLearn 1976 and Foss 1977: 89-105) indicates at least six horizontal clusters, each apparently representing a single occupation (component) by a small group. Significant functional-economic variation is reflected in the artifacts recovered.

Environment:

[redacted]

ut

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		paleo-ecology & paleo-economy

SPECIFIC DATES MIDDLE - LATE ARCHAIC BUILDER/ARCHITECT
 (ca 5500 - 1000 B.C.)

N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A number of factors illustrate the significance of AU-167, the Blackrock Springs Site, in the context of both the Shenandoah National Park and the Mid-Atlantic montane region:

(1) By upland standards it is a large and functionally complex site which has been little disturbed by historic activities and erosion.

(2) It contains datable material spanning at least four and a half millennia, from about 5500 B.C. to 1000 B.C.

(3) AU-167 lies within [REDACTED] Because of this geographic position it represents a heretofore unknown aspect of Archaic culture. The intensive analysis of over 3,000 artifacts from the site established a useful comparative standard against which other montane and valley Archaic assemblages can be contrasted. In light of the discovery of at least six horizontal components and the demonstrated functional and temporal variation characteristic of the AU-167 assemblage, this is one of the best studied prehistoric sites in the Mid-Atlantic uplands. Its comparative value is enhanced by the fact that it lies within an intensively surveyed and sampled drainage system [REDACTED] from which two other prehistoric sites, AU-154 and AU-158, have been nominated for the National Register. These two sites, [REDACTED] allow us to explore problems of altitudinal variation and its effect on inter-group contact and Archaic cultural ecology.

(4) The inclusion of Blackrock Springs [REDACTED] the Shenandoah National Park not only affords the site greater protection, but insures the continued return of this region to conditions that approximate those of Archaic times. This greatly augments the interpretive value of AU-167, especially in light of the Park's traditional stress on natural as opposed to cultural resources.

(5) [REDACTED], AU-167 represents an important example of the effect of altitude and its attendant biotic communities and climatic characteristics on Middle and Late Archaic peoples and complements geographically the settings of other sites nominated to the National Register from the Shenandoah National Park.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Foss, Robert W.

1977 Man and Mountain: An Archaeological Overview of the Shenandoah National Park. M.A. thesis, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY [REDACTED]

UTM REFERENCES

A [REDACTED]
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [REDACTED]
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [REDACTED]
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D [REDACTED]
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
 [REDACTED]

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A		N/A	
N/A		N/A	

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

DR. MICHAEL A. HOFFMAN, ACTING DIRECTOR

ORGANIZATION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH LAB, WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

STREET & NUMBER

201 TILLMAN HALL

CITY OR TOWN

MAEDMB

DATE

TELEPHONE

(309) 298-1188

STATE

ILLINOIS 61455

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

[Signature]
 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 *[Signature]*

TITLE

Chief Archaeologist, National Park Service

DATE

10/27/85

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12/13/85

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Environment:



Archaeological Investigations:

Prior to excavations, a base line and grid system were established oriented to the longitudinal axis of the AU-167 terrace. A temporary site datum was marked with a nail on the base of a large tree on the southern periphery of the site. A topographic map at a scale of 1:250 with a 25 cm. contour interval was executed in order to relate artifact concentrations to micro-elevational variation and control for effects of micro-erosion. This original map was reduced to a scale of 1:650 with a 50 cm. contour interval and included with this form.

For sampling purposes, the site was divided into five meter "sections" composed of 25 one meter squares. After removal of the decomposing forest litter (A_0 horizon) in designated sections, large numbers of artifacts were found in place and piece plotting undertaken. The plotting of individual artifacts was facilitated by strings crossing the sections in rows and columns to form 25 squares. All artifacts were cleaned with trowels and brushes and mapped on 1:10 scale drawings before removal and bagging. Since most artifacts were confined to the shallow humic zone ($A_0 - A$) horizon) most sections were cleared only to a depth of 5 cm. Limited vertical testing revealed a shallow B horizon and underlying cobble stream terrace. Artifacts are most abundant in the A horizon. All soil units contain large numbers of quartzite cobbles with the frequency of boulders increasing as one moves toward the steep mountain slope to the north-northwest.

A total of 3,002 artifacts (including debitage) were recovered from five sections and two one meter test squares at AU-167 (see map), yielding an artifact density of 469 artifacts per cubic meter. Of the 3,002 stone artifacts recovered, 98.1 % were quartzite and apparently obtained from the boulders and cobbles of Hampton Quartzite found in the adjacent stream bed and on and within the terrace itself. Analysis by Foss (1977: 89-105) has confirmed our original hypothesis (McLearn 1976) that artifact distribution at or near the surface reveals distinct activity areas. Foss (1977: 89-105) identified six horizontal clusters encompassing 63.1 % of the excavated area and representing about 28% of the potentially habitable portion of the site. Since only the top 5 cm. were removed from most excavated units, it is possible that additional material could be recovered and associated with one of the defined clusters.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Archaeological Investigations:

Typological analysis of the AU-167 artifacts using a multi-phyletic system (Foss 1977:89-105 and enclosed tables and cluster map), selective microscopic edge wear analysis of tools (Hays 1979) and consideration of the paleo-ecological potential [redacted] (McLearn 1976) suggest a variety of prehistoric activities at the site. These include the hunting and processing of variously-sized mammals, the gathering and preparation of plant foods, and the quarrying of local quartzite and manufacture of finished stone tools. The average size of the horizontal clusters at AU-167 is 10-15 square meters (see map), suggesting periodic, seasonal re-occupation by small groups. Subsequent to Late Archaic times (after ca. 1000 B.C.) there is no evidence for use of AU-167 but further sampling of the site might well show an Early Woodland and possibly even Early Archaic component.

Intrusions and Data Limitations:

[redacted] the AU-167 terrace is little disturbed from its prehistoric state. The shallow soils and long use of the area as a resort apparently discouraged even the shallow, animal-drawn plows used in other spots in the Blue Ridge. It seems likely that the major historic use for the site was as pasture and perhaps for light recreation subsequent to its original timbering.

The lack of significant depth to the archaeological material at AU-167 renders the site of principal value for its horizontal components. Although some disturbance of artifact provenience has occurred through root and worm action, our excavations and analyses have shown horizontal displacement to be minimal due to the tendency of the rocky subsoil to hold even partly buried artifacts within a restricted radius. The major limitation of AU-167-- a problem suffered by most highland sites in this area--is the total absence of detectable prehistoric features and organic remains. This problem is somewhat compensated by the horizontal integrity of the remains, however.

ITEM 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holland, C.G.

1955 "An Analysis of Projectile Points and Large Blades," Appendix in C. Evans, A Ceramic Study of Virginia Archeology. BAE bul. 160 Washington, D.C.

McLearn, Douglas C.

1976 The Paine Run Survey and Excavations at the Blackrock Springs Site: Investigations of Archaic Occupation in the Blue Ridge. in Man in the Blue Ridge, M.A. Hoffman (ed.), Mid-Atlantic Region, NPS., Philadelphia, Pa.