

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 15 1985

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC MD-138 Cliff Kill Site

OCT 31 1985

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

LURAY

STATE

VIRGINIA

VICINITY OF

CODE

51

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

07

COUNTY

MADISON

CODE

113

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<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.

N.A.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N.A.

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

30 SEP 1982

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:

MD-138 was located by a foot survey on April 24, 1976, by a crew from the Laboratory of Archaeology of the University of Virginia. Inspection of

[REDACTED] of artifacts about 30 by 35 m. in the sparse forest litter. In late Spring of 1976, [REDACTED], test excavations were conducted at MD-138 (Miller 1976). The existence of this site and of the cliff itself (which is not indicated on the USGS topographic maps) was "predicted" beforehand by speculating on the hunting potentials of [REDACTED] and the possibility of the area having been used for animal drives. [REDACTED]

and the relatively high frequency of tools reinforces the view that the site represents a very special activity that is intimately bound to [REDACTED]. Although we interpret MD-138 as a kill site, the absence of animal bone due to high soil acidity and the lack of rapid soil buildup prevents more accurate assessment of the faunal resources.

Five one meter test squares scattered about the area of occupation produced several diagnostic points, including a Guilford Lanceolate and a Morrow Mountain point of Middle Archaic vintage (ca. 4000 - 3000 B.C.). Later forms included a notched stemmed point (Holland (1955) Type I) of Middle to Late Archaic date (ca. 3500 - 1500 B.C.) and a surface find of a Levanna Triangular point from late Woodland times (ca. 1300 - 1600 A.D.) (Foss 1977: 112-116).

Environment:

[REDACTED] The terrain is rocky, the soil thin and the vegetative cover consists of small trees. There is little ground cover. An area of marshy ground bounds the site [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The marshy ground not only limits the zone of human occupation but renders the site attractive for its water and diverse plants. A rugged boulder slope at the base of the cliff forms the western border of MD-138.

Archaeological Investigations:

The five one-meter squares scattered over the site (see map) were excavated to a depth of 15 cm. Beneath a thin surface of forest litter an A horizon of dark brown forest loam extended to a depth of 5 to 8 cm, overlying a lighter brown clay loam 5 to 10 cm. thick. Beneath this lies the rocky boulder slope associated with the erosion of the Big Meadows Catoclin Greenstone massif. Most artifacts were found in the A horizon.

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"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

late Woodland and

SPECIFIC DATES Middle to Late Archaic BUILDER/ARCHITECT

N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The principal importance of MD-138 lies in its functionally unique role in an environmentally unique area. It represents the first and to date only example of a cliff kill site in Virginia. Despite the absence of faunal remains due to unfavorable soil conditions, analysis of the lithic assemblage supports the interpretation of MD-138 as a kill site of mainly Middle to early Late Archaic date (ca. 4000 - 1500 B.C.) with a late Woodland component. It is doubtful whether the site was used as a drive site continuously, judging from the light scatter of material. Nevertheless, MD-138 remains typical of a special variety of prehistoric heretofore unknown in the Shenandoah National Park.

The probable interrelationship between MD-138 [REDACTED] renders it essential to an understanding of the full range of activities characteristic of Archaic peoples in their exploitation of the Blue Ridge and a useful interpretive tool for the Park, [REDACTED]. This cliff provides an excellent view and a visually stimulating locality for interpreting the prehistoric experience to Park visitors.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Miller, James
 1976 Prehistoric Archaeological Investigations in the Big Meadows and Rose River Area. in Man in the Blue Ridge, by M.A. Hoffman (ed.), Mid-Atlantic Region, NPS, Philadelphia, Pa.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A _____
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B _____
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C _____
 VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

D _____



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

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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

DR. MICHAEL A. HOFFMAN

ORGANIZATION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY, WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

STREET & NUMBER
 201 TILLMAN HALL

CITY OR TOWN

MACOMB

DATE

TELEPHONE
 (309)298-1188

STATE

ILLINOIS 61455

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES NO _____

NONE *A. Bruce 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 *Edmund C. Brown*

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

Yvonne H. Stewart

DATE

12/15/85

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Archaeological Investigations:

Test squares were excavated with trowels and shovels and dirt screened through $\frac{1}{4}$ inch mesh. Only 71 artifacts were recovered (see appended table), yielding a very low artifact density of 142 per cubic meter--a fact that probably reflects the special activities associated with killing and skinning the animals that had been driven over the cliff. Bifaces represent 11.3% of all artifacts while worked and utilized flakes attain a Park high of 18.3%. No tool production waste was present. The high frequency of quartz and cryptocrystalline rock probably reflects both the Piedmont contacts of the hunters and, in part, the late Woodland component.

Intrusions and Data Limitations:

The thin, rocky soil at MD-138 was probably never plowed. Principal historic disturbance occurred along the cliff face to the west where trash dumps of CCC and earlier vintage still provide a wealth of rusting metal junk. Fortunately, these dumps do not impinge on MD-138.

The principal limitation on data derives from the very shallow nature of the site and low artifact density. In light of the hypothesized role of MD-138 in hunting, the absence of bone due to soil conditions is particularly disappointing.

ITEM 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.