

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 WR-103, THE COMPTON GAP SITE
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK
CITY, TOWN LURAY VICINITY OF [REDACTED] NOT FOR PUBLICATION
STATE VIRGINIA CODE 51 COUNTY WARREN CODE 187
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 07

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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
DATE N.A.
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED
y A A

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Context:

WR-103, the Compton Gap Site, was located in the Fall of 1978 in a foot reconnaissance after the completion of an intensive study of the cultural resources of the Shenandoah National Park (Hoffman et al 1979) raised a number of questions concerning the far northern part of the Park. Examination of topographic maps and a knowledge of site distribution gained through previous experience allowed the "prediction" of a site at Compton Gap.

Compton Gap took on added importance because of the work of Gardner (1974) in the Front Royal area in the adjacent part of the Shenandoah Valley. That work has produced a number of stratified sites ranging in age from Paleo Indian through late Woodland which ultimately should have counterparts (except, perhaps, for Paleo Indian sites) in the Blue Ridge. It was felt that a survey of Compton Gap would enhance the comparability of the Blue Ridge material to that from the Front Royal area.

A brief foot inspection of Compton Gap produced artifacts datable to the Late Archaic (ca. 2500 - 1000 B.C.) and a surprisingly varied lithic assemblage. Today most of the site is covered by secondary forest and is only readily visible in a slightly eroded road bed at the gate of the Compton Gap Fire Road.

Environment:



Archaeological Investigations:

Exploration of WR-103 was both brief and productive. The site was located by surface inspection of a spot where it was "predicted" based on other distributional evidence and a small, "grab" sample taken to document the presence of a site and range of materials present. A site survey form was prepared and the site's location marked on a 7.5-minute series USGS quad. map. Visibility was restricted to the slightly eroded road bed at the gate to Compton Gap Fire Road so that the overall dimensions of WR-103 could not be determined. The western edge of WR-103 was destroyed in the 1930's during the construction of Skyline Drive. Originally, the site probably consisted of many horizontal components covering several thousand square meters.

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

SPECIFIC DATES Late middle Archaic

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

WR-103, the Compton Gap Site, is a good example of an archaeological site the significance of which is determined as much by its strategic location as by the extent and richness of artifactual data. As mentioned before, the extensive exploration of the nearby Front Royal area of the Shenandoah Valley by Catholic University archaeologists (Gardner 1974) has provided us with some of the best documented Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic sites in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. Until the systematic exploration of the Shenandoah National Park, however, there was no comparative information from the highland zone to complement the picture of pre-historic development in the Valley (and Piedmont).

Secondly, the ideal location of WR-103 as a way station in north-south and east-west movement and exchange makes it a potentially valuable source of information concerning the relationship between cultural and environmental zones.

the presence of imported lithic material emphasizes the communications role played by the Compton Gap Site.

sites known for the Shenandoah National Park and complements the other prehistoric sites proposed for National Register nomination. When one considers the unhappy fate that has met many of the nearby Valley sites where developers have destroyed a number of valuable cultural resources, the preservation of such a site is all the more important. The fact that WR-103 occupies an ecological and cultural niche that was virtually unknown five years ago increases its importance to the prehistory of the mid-Atlantic region.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gardner, William M. (ed.)

1974 The Flint Run Paleo-Indian Complex. occasional publ. no. 1, Archeology Laboratory, Dept. of Anthropology, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY [REDACTED]

UTM REFERENCES

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

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

MACOMB

DATE

TELEPHONE

(309)298-1188

STATE

ILLINOIS 61455

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *John W. Mitchell*

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 *John W. Mitchell*

TITLE

Chief Archaeologist, Macomb Pontal Service

DATE

10/27/85

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

DATE

12/13/85

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Archaeological Investigations:

A striking characteristic of WR-103 is the variability of its lithic industry. In our brief survey a range of lithic debris was found that included: quartzite, quartz, jasper, and blue-gray cryptocrystalline rock. Since most of these materials are imports (from both the Valley and Piedmont) and since Compton Gap rests astride both east-west and north-south routes of communication, it probably played an important role in the passage of peoples, goods, and ideas throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Almost certainly, more extensive collection at the site would produce a wider range of chronologically diagnostic points and give a truer reflection of the date of WR-103. At present, the only diagnostic recovered from WR-103 is a late Middle Archaic Halifax point.

Intrusions and Data Limitations:

[REDACTED]