

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
44-BO-26

AND/OR COMMON
Bessemer

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

[REDACTED]

CITY, TOWN

Eagle Rock

VICINITY OF Bessemer

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th M. Caldwell Butler

STATE

Virginia

CODE

44

COUNTY

Botetourt

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Kathryn Stull and Mrs. Lizzie Anderson

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Eagle Rock

VICINITY OF Bessemer

STATE

Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Botetourt County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fincastle

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: "An Archeological Assessment of the Bessemer Site (44-BO-26), Botetourt County, Virginia." Wayne Clark. Virginia Research Center for Archeology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, 23186
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

DATE

1974 and 1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Research Center for Archeology, College of William and Mary

CITY, TOWN

Williamsburg

STATE

Virginia

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bessemer site (44-80-26) is located [REDACTED]

The site was first identified by Howard MacCord in 1974 during a Phase I survey for the relocation of Route 220 (MacCord:1974). In 1977, more extensive archeological testing was undertaken by Wayne Clark and Keith Egloff. This subsequent testing identified lithics and ceramics which assigned Bessemer to the Late Woodland Period (900-1600 A.D.). Artifact distribution indicated that the site extended [REDACTED]

Construction plans during 1977 called for the dissolution of the western periphery of the site, retaining the bulk of the site east of the construction area. Thus mitigation was immediately undertaken on the western periphery of the site by Clarence R. Geier and Joey Moldenhauer in August of 1977. The following description and statement of significance on the Bessemer site results from the combination of data generated from the procedural results mentioned above.

The mitigation of sections of Bessemer led to the identification of 28 structural features. These structural features include: 11 fire hearths, 9 storage/trash pits, 1 human burial, 1 rectanguloid longhouse, 1 possible drying rack, and 6 shallow soil discolorations, and artifact clusters (Fig. 2).

The house was identified by 193 post molds shaped in a large rectanguloid pattern, 50 feet long and 20 feet wide. The structure was oriented in a northeast/southeast direction with an opening at the north end (Fig. 3). Its construction appears to be like that of an Algonquin longhouse, markedly different from other Virginia aboriginal houses (Geier, Moldenhauer:1977).

Eleven fire hearths were identified throughout the site area; however, none were located within the confines of the longhouse. All of the hearths are roughly circular in shape and have a shallow basin type construction. Interestingly enough, all but one of the hearths were conspicuously lacking in fire cracked rock (Fig. 2).

Nine pit features were identified conforming to a storage/trash type. While the dimensions both horizontally and vertically vary, the majority of the artifacts recovered depict the remains of kitchen and cooking activities (Fig. 2).

One burial of a young woman in her early 20's was recovered (Fig. 4). The woman had been decapitated either before or as a part of her burial. While no grave goods were identified, the woman was buried in a fetal position with a large rock on her shoulders and one on her ankles.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION	This site is significant because of its implications for settlement and social elements during the Woodland Period in Virginia.		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bessemer site (44-BO-26) is extremely significant when compared to the archeological resources in the surrounding area and within the State of Virginia.

The Craig Creek Valley has been extensively surveyed by numerous individuals, including Holland (n.d.) and several amateur archeologists. Based on these surveys, utilization of the Craig Creek Valley predominantly occurred during the Archaic Period when a hunting and gathering mode of adaptation predominated (Clark:1977). However, three Woodland sites were identified: 44-BO-7, 44-BO-8 and 44-BO-26. Of these sites, Bessemer is the only site to have yielded pottery that has a predominantly Late Woodland orientation (Clark:1977).

Of further significance is that a house of the size and shape of that recovered at Bessemer is not common to Virginia. It is more consistent with northern Iroquois and Algonquin longhouses (Geier, Moldenhauer:1977). While the Bessemer house shows a northern influence, the projectile point and ceramics industry has a strong southern affiliation. Other Late Woodland villages of the same time period, such as 44-BA-3 and 44-BA-39 on the Jackson River and the Shannon site on the Roanoke River, have stockade walls built around them (Geier:1976; MacCord:1971; Benthal:1969). In contrast, based on present excavations, the Bessemer site does not have a stockade around it, possibly indicating the lack of a need for defense.

While only the western periphery of the site has been excavated, already Bessemer has provided great insight into the understanding of the Late Woodland occupation in central western Virginia. Thus when construction commences on the proposed second section of Route 220, advanced testing of 44-BO-26 is required to analyze the complete significance of the site.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Benthal, Joseph L. "Archeological Investigations of the Shannon Site, Montgomery County, Virginia." Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia, 1969.

Clark, Wayne E. "An Archeologist Assessment of the Bessemer Site (44-BO-26), Botetourt County, Virginia." Virginia Research Center for Archeology, Williamsburg, Virginia, 1977.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY [REDACTED]

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

[REDACTED] (Fig. 1)

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

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

R. Theresa Hands, Survey Archeologist

ORGANIZATION

James Madison University Archeological Research Center

DATE

March 5, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Dept. of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, James Madison University 703/433-6266

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Harrisonburg,

Virginia

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

1

6

1

"The Bessemer Site (44-B0-26): A Late Woodland Dan River Cultural Component in Central Western Virginia." Clarence R. Geier. James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

2

7

2

A total of 3,918 artifacts were recovered from the site excluding ecofacts. Sixty-eight of the artifacts are projectile points conforming mainly to the Hamilton/Caraway triangular type of point thus confirming a Late Woodland occupation. Approximately 2,150 pieces of pottery were identified belonging primarily to the Dan River, Radford, and Wyth series, all which also substantiate a Late Woodland occupation (Geier, Moldenhauer:1977).

At the present time, the western periphery of the Bessemer site has been fully excavated and located under a section of Route 220. The bulk of the site which lies [REDACTED] is in an area which is presently used for agricultural activities. Although the surface cultural component has been disturbed, subsurface features most probably have remained intact due to the frequency of flooding in the area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

3

9

3

Geier, Clarence R. "The Gathright Reservoir: An Evaluation of the Need for Further Archeological Data Recovery." Manuscript on file at the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 1976.

----- & Moldenhauer, Joey. "The Bessemer Site (44-BO-26): A Late Woodland Dan River Cultural Component in Central Western Virginia." Manuscript on file at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 1977.

Holland, C. G. "An Archeological Survey of the Hipes Reservoir." Virginia Research Center for Archeology, Xeroxed.

----- . An Archeological Survey of Southwest Virginia. Smithsonian Contributions to Anthropology, Number 12.

MacCord, H. A. "The Hirsch Site, Bath County, Virginia," Archeological Society of Virginia Quarterly Bulletin, Vol. 27, No. 2.

----- . Letter to Jess M. Malcom, Virginia Research Center for Archeology, Carbon Copy, 1974.

List of Figures

- Figure 1 Eagle Rock USGS Quadrangle, Location of Bessemer Site
- Figure 2 Map of Structural Features at 44-B0-26
- Figure 3 Artist Reconstruction of the Longhouse
- Figure 4 Picture of the Burial
- Figure 5 Photograph of the Bessemer Site
- Figure 6 Photograph of the Bessemer Site