

Register documentation on the district's barns, fields, wood lots, roads, and other features focused perceptions and planning discussions; the National Register evaluation highlighted the distinctive nature of the historical continuity in this district, as compared to many other farming areas; and the National Register listing brought recognition and appreciation of the district as an important historic environment. Although the historic district's future is far from guaranteed, an important new dimension will be present as that course unfolds.

Notes

- ¹ Mead & Hunt, "Minnesota's Historic Agricultural Landscapes: Phase I Report," State Historic Preservation Office, St. Paul, 1997; Mead & Hunt, "Minnesota's Historical Agricultural Landscapes:

Phase II Report," State Historic Preservation Office, St. Paul, 1998.

- ² Sluss, Jackie, et al., *Managing a Working Landscape: A Protection Strategy for the Nansen Agricultural Historic District, Goodhue County, Minnesota* (St. Paul: State Historic Preservation Office, 1999).
- ³ The Minnesota SHPO also produced a manual on agricultural historic landscapes for statewide use. See: Sluss, Jackie, et al., *Preserving Minnesota: Inventorying, Managing and Preserving Agricultural Historic Landscapes in Minnesota* (St. Paul: State Historic Preservation Office, 1999).

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Photos by Mead & Hunt, courtesy the Minnesota Historical Society.

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Multiple Property Documentation for Planning and Interpreting Archeological Resources

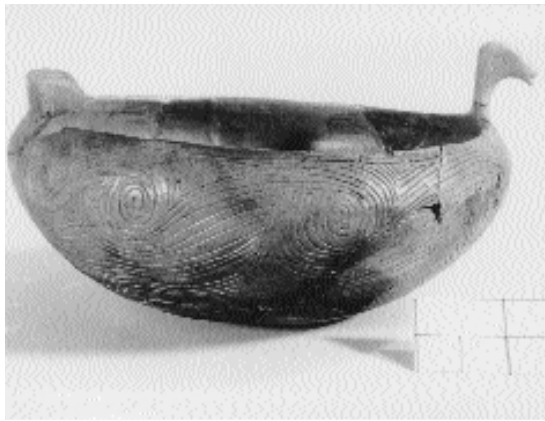
Multiple Property Submissions (MPS) is an under-used nomination format that provides valuable contexts for current historical and archeological research and for public outreach opportunities such as inclusion in National Register educational programs like Teaching with Historic Places lesson plans and the National Register travel itineraries.¹ These documents may be used as frameworks for documentation, assessment, education, and eligibility decisions. They encompass a broad range of topics and themes. Currently, there are 175 MPS nominations for archeological properties from 39 states in our files.²

Archeological sites, and the research that takes place on them, often provide a different perspective on the past than do other types of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Although it could be argued that most places listed in the Register are examples of material culture, archeological materials supply detailed information on the daily lives and activi-

ties of past peoples and cultures. Examining issues such as diet, health, tool making, settlement patterns, and consumer behavior through patterns in the archeological record allows us a more complete window into the past and a broader perspective on our social and cultural history.

Although archeology is an important part of the historic preservation framework, it is often overlooked because the nature of the archeological record is such that much of this information is buried or invisible to the untrained eye. Archeological sites often do not visually convey their significance; rather, someone familiar with the discipline must articulate what types of important information those invisible deposits might yield. There are many reasons that archeological properties continue to be the most under-represented property type in the National Register of Historic Places, but their invisibility contributes to the dearth of significant sites on this important list.

The Gulf Islands National Seashore is primarily an area of natural resources; however, the MPS documentation, Prehistoric and Historic Archeological Properties of the Naval Live Oaks Reservation, has identified contexts associated with the archeological remains of the Late Archaic, Woodland, Mississippi, First Spanish period, Early American period, and the Antebellum period stretching from 4000 B.C. to A.D. 1860. Photo by Dan McCloud, courtesy University of Florida Archaeology Institute.



MPS documentation is a valuable resource for providing a larger comparative framework for understanding the significance of archeological sites and their relationships to other types of properties. This type of documentation includes the identification of relevant contexts, geographical information, property type and resource descriptions, research design(s), and registration (i.e., eligibility) requirements. MPS documentation is a significant and under-used resource for articulating the value of archeological resources, and for use as a planning and interpretive tool. Additionally, using this type of documentation makes it much easier to list sites in the National Register because contextual information does not have to be repeated on individual sites that are nominated under the cover documentation.

Specifically, there are several ways in which MPS documentation can be used to promote the preservation of archeological sites:

Documenting multiple histories. For national parks in particular, documenting and listing archeological sites that may not be associated with the “mission” of a park promotes the National Park Service’s role as steward of the lands set aside for preservation and our role in representing all facets of our nation’s past, including national, state, and local histories. For instance, a Civil War battlefield may also contain important industrial archeological features, or a natural park manager may want to interpret early use and settlement of the area prior to the establishment of the park.

Recognizing these resources also promotes a more inclusive history, particularly for people whose history has been poorly documented, is severely biased, or for which there exists no written record such as American Indians, African Americans, women, and children. Articulating the significance of archeological resources often

connects local and regional communities with their past and promotes a more holistic view of the pasts that we share as Americans.

Education. MPS documentation can be used to educate maintenance and interpretive staff and public and private landowners as to the location and significance of archeological resources, thereby encouraging responsible stewardship. Such documentation can raise awareness about the value of archeological research, thus increasing its visibility. For instance, historical archeologists, particularly those who study the recent past, are often called upon to explain the value of archeological research on sites that are well documented in the written record. MPS documentation outlines a research design for a particular context, which can express the unique ability of historical archeology to answer questions using both the documentary and material record (as well as oral histories, ethnographic, and other types of evidence) that could not be answered by using one type of evidence alone or are answered more thoroughly using multiple lines of evidence. For example, the Potts Plantation, an individual nomination under the *Rural Resources of Mecklenburg County*, MPS, is a cultural landscape that includes the remains of five separate tenant farm complexes. The sites represent not only a long period in the history of the plantation, but also the shift from slave labor to a paid tenant system in North Carolina. Several African-American families, possibly former slaves on the plantation, lived on these sites. A combination of documentary, archeological, and ethnohistorical data could provide information concerning the affect of tenancy on culture (Orser 1988), cultural adaptation to changing economic situations, and culturally determined structure placement and space usage (Clouser 1985) (Hood 1997:41). This documentation can articulate the location and research significance of such sites and thus, better inform management decisions.

Assessment. Another use of MPS documentation is to assess current and past impacts on archeological resources and to update park and/or public files. Clarifying the significance and information potential of archeological properties in this format is one way to facilitate making informed decisions about the long-term management of archeological resources. MPS documentation provides the broad comparative framework within which the condition of sites



Tenant House #4 from Potts Plantation. The site was listed under the Rural Resources of Mecklenburg County, MPS, North Carolina. Photo by Davyd Foard Hood, courtesy North Carolina Division of Archives & History.

can be assessed and decisions can be made about the range of appropriate treatments.

Eligibility decisions. On a similar note, MPS documentation is especially useful for making decisions about the eligibility of redundant resources such as lithic scatters or 20th century tenant farm sites. MPS cover documentation includes the development of historic contexts (key in making eligibility decisions), research and, in some cases, sampling designs and documenting protocols which can help to identify and prioritize redundant site types at local, statewide and/or regional levels. Property type categories established in the documentation include a critical element for questions of eligibility—registration requirements. Determined by analyzing current data on the types of sites and related properties in relationship to the National Register criteria and areas of significance, registration requirements state the characteristics that make properties eligible for listing in the National Register.

The area identified for a Multiple Property Submission (like a county or a geographical/natural feature such as a mountain range or river drainage) may contain several other types of resources which do not have to be addressed if the submission is only focusing on one resource type. However, documentation can also include a variety of resources under a Multiple Property Submission that are tied together by a common context or themes. Furthermore, submissions are based on current data (known sites) and sites can continually be added as more survey and inventory work is completed.

The National Register is about the preservation and commemoration of important places in American history. If we do not consider invisible

places, does the National Register list accurately represent all those places that are important in our history? There are many advantages to using Multiple Property Submissions to identify and list archeological properties; making these resources visible is one of the most valuable benefits.

Notes

- ¹ The Teaching with Historic Places program has five lesson plans devoted to archeological properties: Frederica, an 18th century planned community on St. Simons Island in Georgia; Gran Quivira, a Pueblo village in New Mexico occupied from the 7th century to the arrival of the Spanish in the early 17th century; Knife River National Historic Site in North Dakota which includes more than 50 sites associated with the Northern Plains Indians spanning approximately 8,000 years; Mammoth Cave in southwestern Kentucky with remains associated with the early Woodland period and archeological investigations for the past 76 years; and Saugus Iron Works in Massachusetts, the site of an ironworks along the Saugus River which dates from 1646-1668. See also the first National Register travel itinerary devoted specifically to accessible archeological properties: *Indian Mounds of Mississippi*, based on the pamphlet prepared by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the Southeast Archeological Center.
- ² For a list of Multiple Property documents associated with archeological properties, see Appendix B in the National Register Bulletin, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Archeological Properties*. A list of Multiple Properties can also be found on the web at www.cr.nps.gov/nr/research/mplist.htm.

References

- Clauser, J.W. Jr. "Front Yard-Backyard, Everything in its Place." In *Indians, Colonists, and Slaves, Essays in Memory of Charles H. Fairbanks*. Gainesville: Florida Journal of Anthropology Special Publication No. 4., 1985.
- Orser, Jr., C.E. *The Material Basis for the Postbellum Tenant Plantation, Historical Archaeology in the South Carolina Piedmont*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1988.
- Hood, D.F. Potts Plantation. Individual nomination under the multiple property documentation, *Rural Resources of Mecklenburg County*, MPS. On file, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, Washington, DC, 1997.
- Useful National Register Bulletins:
Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Archeological Properties
How to Complete the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form

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