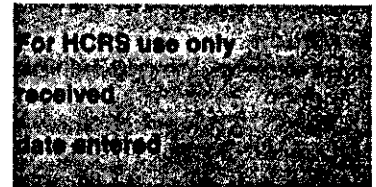


United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# 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 Indian Jim's Cave (Site 44 HA 18)

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Right bank of Staunton River —X not for publication

city, town Brookneal —X vicinity of congressional district Fifth (W.C. Daniel)

state Virginia code 44 county Halifax code 083

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: site

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mr. John T. Davis, Jr.

street & number Box 41

city, town Brookneal N/A vicinity of state Virginia 24528

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Halifax County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Halifax state Virginia 24558

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 44 HA 18 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1970  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Virginia Research Center for Archaeology, Wren Kitchen

city, town College of William & Mary, Williamsburg state Virginia 23186

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Indian Jim's Cave Archaeological Site in Halifax County, Virginia, is located on the south bank of the Staunton River, one mile upstream from the town of Brookneal (Photo 1). It is oriented northeast and situated at the juncture of the floodplain and the first terrace above the river, where it is subject to annual flooding and siltation. The cave is surrounded by a dense growth of deciduous trees. The acreage nominated includes the geographical feature traditionally known as Indian Jim's Cave as well as a second cave, located immediately upriver, which appears to have been completely in-filled and is likely to contain intact prehistoric cultural deposits.

The cave is oblong in shape, measuring 17 meters deep and 7 meters wide. The cave originally had approximately 30 centimeters of open space between its ceiling and floor (Photo 2). Eighty centimeters of silt, accumulated during at least 40 episodes of flooding, occur in readily discernible stratigraphic deposits. Beneath these flood deposits is a dark, gray/brown slightly clayey loam rich in organic materials and containing the site's cultural levels. This dark loam is more prevalent near the front of the cave, whereas to the rear of the dropline it occurs in association with ash deposits, burned layers and other soil accumulation attributable to prehistoric occupation.

The ceiling of the cave is flat, interrupted by angular blocks of a hornblend, gabbro, and gneiss formation which protrude into the cave's interior and partition it off into three rooms. Debris from the ceiling of the cave has accumulated near these blocks. Although the cave has been known to local relic collectors for many years, its extensive flood deposits have inhibited the disturbance of the site's intact cultural layers.

The cave was tested archaeologically in 1969 by Dr. William MacLeRoy. In eight days of field testing, he determined that intact cultural deposits lay beneath the cave's silt deposits.

In Sept.- Oct. 1980, Mr. Lyle E. Browning conducted test excavations at the cave. The excavations sampled portions of the cave's floor and determined that most of the cave's archaeological record survives intact.

Although much of the overburden sealing in the cave's archaeological layers was removed, increasing the cave's interior height to 110 centimeters, intact sections of these flood deposits were left in situ for future study. The majority of the cave's archaeological deposits remain intact at the present time. Only thirteen square meters, out of a total of 105 square meters, were partially excavated. Extant archaeological deposits are at least 80 centimeters deep. Artifacts dating from ca. 2000-1000 B.C. to A.D. 1600 were recovered. Evidence of earlier occupation is likely to be present in untested deposits below those excavated.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates	N/A	Builder/Architect	N/A
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## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Indian Jim's Cave Archaeological Site in Halifax County, Virginia, is significant due to its varifiable research potential. Intact, stratified cultural deposits extending to a depth of at least 80 centimeters, containing important information unavailable at most other sites in the region, have been documented by archaeological testing. The scientific excavation of the cave would provide the opportunity to study several pertinent research problems, including documenting subsistence patterns and adaptations to seasonal changes over time, refining cultural chronologies, and analyzing social interaction patterns.

## Background

Indian Jim's Cave is traditionally believed to have been the home of Halifax County's last surviving aboriginal inhabitant, Indian Jim, who lived there with his Negro wife until the close of the 18th century. The tract on which the cave is situated was once part of the Seven Island Plantation owned by Patrick Henry. The cultural interaction between Indian Jim and his wife, as representatives of different ethnic groups, and their relationship with the community to which they were adjacent, may be revealed in the archaeological record at the site.

Lithic and ceramic artifacts excavated from intact cultural deposits at the cave indicate that the site was occupied during the Woodland Period as well. Excavations were terminated before sterile subsoil was revealed. It is very likely that earlier Archaic and possible Paleo-Indian levels are present.

Provenience studies from the 1980 archaeological test excavations note that the greatest artifact density at the site occurs near the mouth of the cave, although cultural materials do not extend beyond the immediate area at its entrance. Fire pits and refuse disposal areas occur to the rear of the cave.

The excavation of preserved faunal and floral remains and associated artifacts within the cave's sealed cultural layers should reveal much about the cave's inhabitants' subsistence patterns and their adaptation to seasonal changes over time. Analysis of the floral and faunal remains recovered during the 1980 test excavations indicate that during the Woodland Period, the cave was occupied during the late autumn and early winter months. Detailed studies on climatic changes over time should be possible through pollen analysis.

The study of diagnostic lithic and ceramic artifacts, which are present in a stratified context, should significantly refine regional cultural chronologies. These data would also provide new information on the evolution of trade patterns and other forms of social interaction over time for this region of Virginia.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Morgan, George, The True Patrick Henry, 1907

Copy on file at Red Hill Shrine, Campbell County, Virginia

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Brookneal, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

117	68108140	41101131210
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

117	681081710	41101131410
Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

117	681091110	41101121610
Zone	Easting	Northing

D 

117	681091410	41101121910
Zone	Easting	Northing

E 

Zone	Easting	Northing

F 

Zone	Easting	Northing

G 

Zone	Easting	Northing

H 

Zone	Easting	Northing

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The UTM reference is the easternmost edge of the nominated area. The edge of the river terrace forms a long-axis bisecting line through the area. Equal areas are to each side of the line.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
none	N/A		

state	code	county	code
	N/A		

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lyle E. Browning, Field Archaeologist, with VRCA staff

organization Archaeological Society of Virginia

date March 8, 1981

street & number 3612 Denison Road

telephone (804) 226-2316

city or town Richmond

state Virginia 23231

## 12. 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*H. Bryan Mitchell*  
H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date MAY 10 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration