

Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

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
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME
HISTORIC MD-138 Cliff Kill Site
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK X NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN LURAY X VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 07
STATE VIRGINIA CODE 51 COUNTY MADISON CODE 13

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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 AGENCY
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
STREET & NUMBER 143 SOUTH THIRD STREET
CITY, TOWN PHILADELPHIA VICINITY OF PENNSYLVANIA STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
DATE FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

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 the base of a cliff [REDACTED] revealed a scatter of artifacts about 30 by 35 m. in the sparse forest litter. In late Spring of 1976, in conjunction with the testing of MD-143, test excavations were conducted at MD-138 (Miller 1976). The existence of this site and of the cliff itself [REDACTED] was "predicted" beforehand by speculating on the hunting potentials [REDACTED] the possibility of the area having been used for animal drives. The location of MD-138 at the base of a steep [REDACTED] high cliff and the relatively high frequency of tools reinforces the view that the site represents a very special activity that is intimately bound to the peculiar topography and environment [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:

MD-138 is situated at the base of a sheer [REDACTED] cliff [REDACTED], on a small, flat area of ground on the ancient boulder slope. The terrain is rocky, the soil thin and the vegetative cover consist of small trees. There is little ground cover. An area of marshy ground bounds the site to the south and east, [REDACTED]. At this point, that stream has not yet established a definite channel and numerous springs erupt from the rocky ground. 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. [REDACTED]

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

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 and sites [redacted] [redacted] 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 ca. 750 square meters

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

MD-138 lies at the base of a sheer cliff

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	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

St. Bryan 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

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
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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.

