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TENTED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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XEXCELLENT

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X_ORIGINAL SITE

_FAIR

XUNEXPOSED

RIGHS

MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The nomination includes terrace systems and upland areas along the New River and Incorporates a number of prehistoric and historic sites. Moderate hills to the east and west are characteristic of the Appalachian Mountain province. Emanating at the base of and in these hills, numerous small streams provide readily accessible fresh water sources. Alluvial leposits of sand and silt form the two terraces of the area.

Excavations at the Ingles cabin site which overlays 44 My 29 have produced projectile points similar to the Palmer, Kirk, and Savannah River types. While crypto-crystalline materials predominate, crystal quartz and ferruginous quartzite also occur. These artifacts date from the Early Archaic to the Late Archaic period (ca.B.C. 3000-1500).

A small early Late Woodland period component is represented by approximately 100 sherds of Grayson series pottery (Holland 1970) and several large chert projectile points. The Late Woodland material is confined to the plowzone at 44 My 29 while the Archaic period material extends several inches into the undisturbed matrix.

the Radford series (Evans 1955) while the lithic material includes quartzite, chert and chalcedony.

Site 44 My 28 consists of a sparse surface scattering of debitage and pottery over an irea of 60 feet in diameter.

While excavations have not been conducted, the surface lata indicates that the site represents a single occupation of the site dating to the same period as 44 My 2 and 44 My 30 (ca. A.D. 500- A.D. 1600).

The distribution of artifacts on the surface of the site indicates the site vas the location of an unpalisaded village. Radford series pottery (the indigenous ceramic type of the region) predominates. Although excavations have not been conducted, the occurrence of bone artifacts on the surface of the site indicates that sub surface features exist. The northwest side of the site may overlap with 44 My 11.

Evans (1955) reported the results of the controlled surface collection of the site which agrees with the later work of Holland (1970). Holland placed one five foot test square in the site in 1963. Based on Holland's survey and on the results of a surface survey conducted in 1975, the site is defined by a darkly stained circular area of soil about 225 feet in diameter. The predominant pottery type is that of the crushed limestone tempered Radford series with the New River, Wythe, and Grayson series representing a minority of the sherds reported (Holland 1970:22; Buchanan 1975; personal observation). Athic items are manufactured from chert and quartz. Bone artifacts include a variety of tool categories representing utilization of numerous species. Shell-fish remains are also reported. A radio-carbon date of A.D. 1250 ± 120 years probably date to the earlier occupation of the area and not to the palisaded village which is probably associated (cont'd) (C.S.)

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7. DESCRIPTION:

with the Radford series pottery (Holland 1970:22). This latter occupation probably dates to ca. A.D. 1500 or later.

Following the abandorment of the site by the Indians, the location was occupied by William Ingles, a prominent figure on the western frontier and apparently the first white settler to reside at the site. Before coming to the site of Ingles Ferry, William Ingles and his wife, Mary, lived at Drapers Meadows on the east side of the New River in Montgomery County, near present Blacksburg. In the massacre of July 30, 1755 Mary Ingles was captured by Shawnee Indians and taken to the Ohio towns where she remained a few months, before she escaped and returned to the New River settlement.

concern about Indian attack they moved on to Bedford where Mary is said to have remained until 1762. William, a militia officer, served in the French and Indian War and spent part of the war period on the New River. However, the earliest date to confirm his location at the present Ingles Ferry site on New River is 1762, when he was granted a license to operate the ferry across New River (Hening 7, p. 588).

Although the Ingles family controlled both sides of the river at the ferry site, the residence of William Ingles was located on the east side of the river, and during the 1760's a fort, believed to be called Fort Hope, was located at his residence (Virginia Mss. 8 ZZ 53; Preston Papers 2 QQ 43). Following the death of William Ingles in 1782, his widow Mary lived in a small one room log house (Site D) located at the head of a spring branch on the east side of the river, about one-half mile from the ferry, and about 25 yards southwest of the spring (Map B). The cabin was removed ca. 1900-1910. Excavations currently in progress have revealed the foundation of the cabin which measured 14½ feet by 16 feet. This one room structure had one door and one window. The area excavated to date measures 1400 square feet and includes 37 features which provide details on the period of construction and the later addition of a lean-to. More than 30,000 artifacts have been recovered and confirm a date ca. 1760-1770.

The cemetery and the cabin site are presently enclosed within the outdoor theatre walls where the play The Long Way Home is presented each summer. The story depicts the escape of Mary Ingles from the Shawnee Indian camp, and her walk back to the New River settlements.

continued

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DESCRIPTION: (cont.)

A tannery (Site B) was located northwest of the cabin on the north side of the spring branch, Archaeological investigations to test both of these sites are planned.

In 1782 the will of William Ingles was probated in Montgomery County (Will Book B, p. 54), and under its terms, his son, John Ingles, was to receive all lands of his father, although the widow was allowed to use 100 acres for her lifetime. The tract was to include the house and the greatest part of the cleared lands. The will also states that the land over the river opposite the land where William Ingles lived was to go to son John. Benefits from the ferry were reserved for five years for Mary, the daughter of William Ingles.

The road to the Ingles Ferry passed in front of the cabin door. The ordinary, tavern store, and stables for the traveling public were located on the west side of the river. In November 1969, this area was placed on the National Register of Historic Places under the name of Ingles Ferry. On February 9, 1843 Thomas Ingles, grandson of William, reported to the Pulaski County court that a bridge across the New River at the site of Ingles Ferry had been completed. (Pulaski Order Book 1, p. 184). The bridge was destroyed in the Civil War, and the ferry service was resumed.

About 1790-1800 John Ingles, son of William and Mary Ingles, built a house (Site E) located 100 yards east of the cabin (Map B.) The original howe had a stone foundation, and later additions had a brick foundation. The changes in the house appear to have been made following the death of John Ingles in 1849 (Will of John Ingles, Montgomery County Book 8, p. 48). The house, named Ingleside, is still in the hands of the descendants, being presently owned by Mary Lewis Ingles Jeffries and her brother J. Lewis Ingles, Jr.



8 SIGNIFICANCE

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SPECIFIC DATES 8000 B.C.-1600 A.D.; 1762-1975

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ingles Bottom Archeological Sites encompass a variety of human occupation sites documenting man's utilization of the region from B.C. 8000 to the present. The occurrence of prehistoric sites of different time periods on the different geological formations provides data relevant to understanding changing settlement patterns over time. The presence of in situ artifacts of the Archaic period at 44 My 29 will enable future study of intersite variability. The remaining sites will be of value in studying the development of local cultures during the Woodland period and the replacement of these earlier cultures by cultures producing the New River series pottery. Given the rapid destruction of our archeological resources, this area will preserve a sample of the archeological resources of the floodplain area of the New River valley.

The habitations of the Ingles family from the beginning of the settlement to the present time present opportunity to study cultural changes during the historic period. The historic archeological sites and standing structures document the initial settlement of the area by William Ingles, a notable frontier leader. William Ingles' home on the east side of the New River served as a fort for the early settlers and the one room log house being excavated was the home of his widow, Mary Ingles, until her death.

The location of the log house has been confirmed by excavations. John Ingles, son of William Ingles, built a house in the 1790's which still stands.

The Ingles Ferry Road, considered a major gateway to Kentucky and the West, crosses New River at Ingles Bottom. The ferry which served travellers during the 18th century was replaced by a bridge in the 19th century. With the destruction of this bridge during the Civil War, the Ingles family resumed ferry operations which were discontinued in the mid-20th century. Slightly upstream of the nominated area, present Interstate 81 carries modern travellers across the New River.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Extent remaining: although the Ingles cabin site has been excavated, the accompanying outbuildings and cemetary remain undisturbed. The prehistoric components of the site are largely undisturbed.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached list (continuation sheet #3)

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