

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 Bull Thistle Cave Archaeological Site (DHL File No. 92-22)

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number not for publication

city, town Tazewell vicinity of

state Virginia code county Tazewell 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 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	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 type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

[Redacted owner information]

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tazewell County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Tazewell state Virginia 24651

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Division of Historic Landmarks Survey (site # [Redacted]) has this property been determined eligible? yes no
(DHL Survey File No. 92-22)
date July 29, 1985; August 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Landmarks 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition
 excellent deteriorated **Check one** unaltered **Check one** original site
 good ruins altered moved date N/A
 fair unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Summary Description

The Bull Thistle Cave Archaeological Site [REDACTED] The small pit cave, which extends vertically to a depth of 119 feet below its entrance, was used by Native Americans [REDACTED] during the latter half of the Late Woodland Period (ca. A. D. 1300 - 1700). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The nominated area includes one contributing site.

Background

Bull Thistle Cave Archaeological Site [REDACTED] is located in southwest Virginia [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bull Thistle Cave is a small pit, or vertical, cave with a surveyed length of 575.2 feet and a vertical extent of 119 feet. Sixty-five feet below the narrow entrance is the top of a talus cone located within what is the cave's main chamber, an area seventy feet east-west by sixty feet north-south. A small room (thirty-five feet east-west by twenty feet north-south) extends west of the main chamber from near the top of the talus cone. At a vertical distance of approximately forty-five feet below the top of the talus cone, two narrow passages, one of which connects with a stream passage, extend from the east end of the main chamber.

See Continuation Sheet #1

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 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		

Specific dates N/A Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Statement of Significance

Bull Thistle Cave Archaeological Site [redacted] located in Tazewell County, Virginia. [redacted] during the latter half of the Late Woodland Period (ca. A. D. 1300 - 1700). [redacted]

[redacted]

Background

[redacted]

[redacted]

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clark, Wayne E. An Assessment of the Archeological Resources in the Caves of Virginia. 1978. Unpublished report on file with Division of Historic Landmarks, Richmond, Virginia.
See Continuation Sheet #5

10. Geographical Data

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet #6

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

state	code	county	code
N/A		N/A	
N/A		N/A	

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Ellen Norrisey Hodges and Staff

organization Division of Historic Landmarks date 1987

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone 804-786-3143

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



H. Bryan Mitchell, Director
title Division of Historic Landmarks

date August 5, 1987

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Bull Thistle Cave Archaeological Site [redacted] Tazewell County, VA
Continuation sheet 1 Item number 7

[redacted]

[redacted]

The ceramic smoking pipe removed from Bull Thistle Cave in 1985 suggests the [redacted] deposit dates from the Late Woodland Period. The configuration of the recovered portion of the pipe indicates it is an alate-stemmed modified tube or modified platform pipe, styles commonly associated with this period in southwest Virginia. The clay is tempered with crushed mussell shell, a trait considered to have been introduced into the material culture of the native peoples of southwest Virginia from the Mississippian cultures of the Tennessee Valley during the latter half of the Late Woodland Period, or ca. A. D. 1300 - 1700.

[redacted]

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Bull Thistle Cave Archaeological Site [REDACTED], Tazewell County, VA

Continuation sheet 2

Item number 7

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Bull Thistle Cave Archaeological Site also has potential to yield significant paleoenvironmental information. During the August 1986 survey, the osteological remains of both domestic and wild fauna, apparent victims of the natural pit trap, were noted on the surface of the talus slope and cave floor. It is likely that the talus cone below the pit entrance holds deposits bearing further faunal, floral, and geoarchaeological remains useful for reconstructing past environments through the Holocene and possibly even into the late Pleistocene Period.

M.E.N.H.

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Bull Thistle Cave Archaeological Site [redacted] Tazewell County, VA

Continuation sheet 3

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[redacted]

[redacted]

Bull Thistle Cave Archaeological Site has enormous potential for contributing significant information on the Late Woodland Period cultures of southwest Virginia.

[redacted]

See Continuation Sheet #4

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Bull Thistle Cave Archaeological Site [REDACTED] Tazewell County, VA

Continuation sheet 4

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Bull Thistle Cave Archaeological Site likely contains other intact deposits which may provide significant paleoenvironmental data for the southwest Virginia region. Through the years the cave has served as a natural pit trap, as evidenced by the osteological remains of both wild and domesticated fauna, some in articulated position, presently lying on the cave floor. Similar intact deposits dating from earlier in the Holocene and possibly even into the late Pleistocene may lie buried within the talus cone or beneath the present floor surface. Other types of paleoenvironmental remains with the potential to provide additional information on the flora and climate of the region may also be contained within these deposits.

M.E.N.H.

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Bull Thistle Cave Archaeological Site (44TZ92) Tazewell County, VA
Continuation sheet 5

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Willey, P. and Crothers, George. Archaeological [REDACTED] Survey of
Bull Thistle Cave [REDACTED] Virginia. 1986. Unpublished report on file
with Division of Historic Landmarks, Richmond, Virginia.



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Bull Thistle Cave Archaeological Site [redacted] Tazewell County, VA

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Continuation sheet 6

Item number 10



[redacted]

[redacted]