

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

LISTED ON:
VLR 06/06/2007
NRHP 06/10/2008

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Knotts Creek/Belleville Archaeological Site
other names/site number DHR File [redacted] 133-5255

2. Location

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 4/29/08
Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper _____
Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | buildings |
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | sites |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | structures |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | objects |
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Camp
Domestic Single Dwelling
Defense Fortification

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Landscape Sub: Forest

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
roof N/A
walls N/A
other N/A

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- x A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
x D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- Archaeology, Prehistoric
Archaeology, Historic/Non-Aboriginal
Exploration, Settlement

Period of Significance 500 B.C – A.D. 1600 (Middle/Late Woodland Period); 1635-1650

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation Native American; English

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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10. Geographical Data
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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By
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name/title E. Randolph Turner, III, Archaeologist/Director, Tidewater Regional Office

organization Virginia Department of Historic Resources date May 5, 2007

street & number 14415 Old Courthouse Way, 2nd Floor telephone 757-886-2815

city or town Newport News state VA zip code 23608

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

- Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Virginia Department of Transportation, Attn.: Antony F. Opperman, Environmental Division

street & number 1401 East Broad Street telephone 804-371-6749

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23219

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the

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**Knotts Creek/Belleville Archaeological Site
(#44SK0194) Suffolk, Virginia**

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7. Description

Summary Paragraph

[REDACTED] in the City of Suffolk, Virginia, the Knotts Creek/Belleville Archaeological Site [REDACTED] contains significant Native American and English components. The Native American component dates to the Middle and Late Woodland periods (ca. 500 B.C. - A.D. 1600) and likely represents a seasonally occupied base camp, while the English component dates to the second quarter of the 17th century and represents a rare enclosed settlement. Archaeological investigations at [REDACTED] confirm that both components of the site remain well-preserved.

Background

[REDACTED] is an archaeological site containing intact deposits of Middle/Late Woodland Native American occupation (ca. 500 B.C – A.D. 1600) and the remains of an English enclosed settlement dating to the second quarter of the 17th century. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] When first discovered the site was in cultivation, and is currently in dense undergrowth and secondary forest cover.

First added to the archaeological inventory at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in 1988, [REDACTED] was discovered earlier that decade by the James River Institute for Archaeology during an archaeological survey of the Harbor View development tract in Suffolk, Virginia. This survey clearly identified it as a seventeenth century English site. In 1989 the Virginia Commonwealth University’s Archaeological Research Center (VCU-ARC) identified the site within the proposed impact zone for construction associated with Route 164 (McLearn and Boyd 1989). Testing at this time was limited, however, as archaeologists discovered that portions of the site were located beneath a spoil heap.

Given the potential significance of [REDACTED] VCU-ARC conducted a Phase II evaluation study in 1990 (McLearn and Harbury 1990). At that time, VCU-ARC redefined the site’s boundaries by carefully removing the spoil pile, having the site plowed and disked, and then conducting a comprehensive surface collection within 25 ft. squares. To determine the presence of subsurface features, plowed topsoil was then removed in a series of six trenches and one large block (Figure 2). While a large number of cultural features, both Native American and English were identified at this time, most were merely mapped, with a few subjected to archaeological testing.

Following the Phase II investigation, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) determined that [REDACTED] would be avoided during the Route 164 construction, and the site was enclosed within a chain link fence which remains there today. However, following a severe storm in 1991 a large erosion gully formed in a drainage ditch wall to the south of the site, causing southern portions of the site to erode.

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At the direction of VDOT, VCU-ARC conducted archaeological excavations in the affected portion of the site, and monitored VDOT's efforts to stabilize the site from further erosion by backfilling with sterile soil. Based on the results of VCU-ARC's testing (Figure 2), [REDACTED] is estimated to be approximately 150 x 250 feet in size.

Historic artifacts recovered included mainly lead-glazed earthenwares, the majority of which appear to be locally manufactured. Other wares included delft, slipped earthenware, and German stoneware. Case bottle fragments comprised the majority of the glass assemblage. Pipe fragments included both imported European white clay pipes and at least one Dutch piece, as well as locally made and more numerous terra cotta examples. Also present were a number of small flakes and chunks of English flint, including one gun spall, as well as hand-wrought nails, lead shot, and unidentified corroded iron fragments. The artifacts indicate an occupation date during the second quarter of the 17th century, possibly extending into the second half of the 17th century.

The archaeological excavations at [REDACTED] identified a number of historic cultural features, including portions of a small 17th-century settlement. The site contains at least two interlocking palisaded enclosures with corner bastions and related features, along with evidence of earthfast structures both inside and beyond the palisade lines. Clearly visible in Figure 2 is the ditch forming the two interlocking palisaded encloses, both of which have only been partially exposed, in addition to a semi-circular feature on the west wall of the larger enclosure, which may be a gun platform or watchtower. Intriguingly, one of the two palisades intrudes into the earlier post features, suggesting that English occupation here could have preceded the construction of the palisades.

Prehistoric artifacts from an earlier Native American occupation at [REDACTED] included a variety of sand-tempered, sand-and-gravel tempered, and shell-tempered ceramic sherds as well as triangular projectile points, examples of fire cracked rocks and lithic flakes, biface fragments, and hammerstones. Diagnostic Middle Woodland (500 B.C. – A.D. 900) ceramics present at [REDACTED] included Prince George Net-Impressed, Popes Creek Net-Impressed, and Mockley Net-Impressed ceramics, while the Late Woodland period (A.D. 900 – 1600) is represented by Roanoke Simple-Stamped ceramics.

Also present are a number of small and medium-sized pit features and a large number of post molds defining houses and other structural features at the site (Figure 2), all of which confirm the excellent preservation of the site's Native American component. A radiocarbon date of A.D. 1360 +/- 50 was obtained from charcoal recovered from one pit feature. In addition to wood charcoal, other pit features produced well-preserved floral (charred seed and nut fragments) and faunal (calcined bone) remains. The size of the site, as well as the types and density of the artifacts and features present, suggest that [REDACTED] served as a seasonal base camp at intervals during the Middle and Late Woodland periods.,More substantial settlements were likely located closer to the Nansemond River.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The site is well protected, being fenced and under ownership by the Commonwealth of Virginia through VDOT.

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8. Statement of Significance

Summary Statement

The significance of [redacted] resides in its ability to address important historical and archaeological issues related to the lifeways of Native Americans in coastal Virginia during the Middle and Late Woodland periods (500 B.C. – A.D. 1600), as well as the outward expansion of English settlements from Jamestown during the 17th century. The site is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history, as it represents a rare example of a second-quarter 17th century enclosed settlement, one of the earliest English expansions out of Jamestown into Nansemond territory. While unproven, the date of the settlement suggests it is associated with the 1644-46 period of Powhatan-English conflict.

The site has also yielded, and may continue to yield, information important in history. It contains well-preserved archaeological deposits that can provide significant new information on Native American lifeways during the Middle/Late Woodland periods, including the origins of sedentism in coastal Virginia accompanied by the rise of the Nansemond chiefdom, which by 1607 was part of the Powhatan paramount chiefdom [redacted] also contains well-preserved archaeological deposits associated with a Jamestown-era English enclosed settlement that can provide significant new data information on lifeways in a frontier environment during the early to middle 17th century.

Background

The Nansemond Indians, at the time of the founding of Jamestown by the English in 1607, occupied territory on both sides of the Nansemond River in present-day Suffolk, Virginia. With the exception of a single, unsuccessful attempt to occupy Dumpling Island, the Nansemond's territory was not settled by Europeans during the initial years of contact (Virginia Company period, A.D. 1607 -1624). With a population of 850 or more persons, the Nansemonds were one of the more powerful districts in the Powhatan paramount chiefdom and among the last in the James River drainage to be subjugated by the English.

The first evidence of English settlement in the environs of [redacted] are patents dating to 1635 and 1637 (McLearn and Harbury 1990) shortly after the termination of hostilities between the English and Powhatan tribes that swept through the region from 1622 until a peace treaty was concluded in 1632. Intriguingly, the first recorded sign of peaceful relations among the English and at least some of the Nansemonds is a 1638 marriage between a son of Captain Nathaniel Bass and a Nansemond named Elizabeth who was the daughter of the Nansemond chief at that time (Rountree 1990, 1993; Rountree and Turner 2002). Shortly afterwards, war again broke out among the Powhatan tribes and the English, lasting from 1644 to 1646, when the Powhatans were defeated. As in 1622-32, records indicate that the Nansemonds fought against the English during the 1644-46 conflict.

Archaeological evidence indicates that the principal English occupation at [redacted] dates to the second quarter of the 17th century. This site represents a rare enclosed settlement likely built for defensive purposes (cf. Hodges 1993). Archaeological evidence also suggests that English occupation at [redacted] may have preceded the construction of the palisaded enclosures here, a sequence of events fitting the available historical documentation noted above, with the

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initial occupation at [REDACTED] (possibly in the late 1630s) followed by the construction of the palisades as a defensive reaction to the hostilities that broke out in 1644.

As a result, [REDACTED] is historically significant as a representation of English expansion out of Jamestown during the 1630s and 1640s following the defeat of the Powhatan paramount chiefdom during two periods of armed conflict at this time. The archaeological deposits associated with the English occupation at [REDACTED] are well-preserved, thereby having high research potential to expand our knowledge on life in a frontier setting as well as the structural composition of outlying fortified settlements such as at [REDACTED]. For example, most of the ceramic vessel and pipe fragments at [REDACTED] are locally made and may assist in providing additional information on the economy of the Jamestown colony during its first decades, the rise of local crafts, and how the degree of economic dependence on England may have varied over time. Similarly, the enclosed settlement, largely unexcavated, has excellent potential to provide a better understanding of the layout and use of such facilities during hostile times. Fortified settlements in Virginia dating to the first half of the 17th century are extremely rare, with fewer than ten examples having been identified archaeologically.

[REDACTED] also is significant for its well-preserved Native American deposits dating to the Middle and Late Woodland periods (500 B.C – A.D. 1600). Based upon its size and the types and density of artifacts found [REDACTED] likely served as a seasonal base camp for the larger, more substantial settlements located closer to the Nansemond River and the nearby Chesapeake Bay. This a critical period in the prehistory of coastal Virginia, in which increased sedentism results in increasing population. By 1607, this culminated in the region-wide Powhatan paramount chiefdom. Further archaeological investigations at [REDACTED] are likely to provide us with new information on the lifeways of the Nansemond Indians and their predecessors over the two millennia preceding 1607. Archaeological excavations have documented excellent feature preservation at the site with both well-preserved floral and faunal remains, in addition to wood charcoal, allowing for radiocarbon dates. Given this state of preservation and the known multiple occupations of the site, [REDACTED] has excellent potential for documentation of changing lifeways along with increasing sedentism and population, all of which led to the Nansemond's consolidation into a chiefdom, one of the most dominant Native American groups in both the Powhatan paramount chiefdom and coastal Virginia by 1607.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Hodges, Charles T.

1993 Private Fortifications in 17th-Century Virginia: A Study of Six Representative Works. In *The Archaeology of 17th-Century Virginia*, edited by Theodore R. Reinhart and Dennis J. Pogue, pp. 183-222. Archeological Society of Virginia Special Publication No. 30.

McLearen, Douglas C., and Luke Boyd

1989 Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Route 164 Project Area, City of Suffolk, Virginia. Report prepared by Virginia Commonwealth University Archaeological Research Center for Virginia Department of Transportation. Copy on file at Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.

McLearen, Douglas C., and Katherine E. Harbury

1990 Phase II Archaeological Significance Evaluation of [REDACTED] City of Suffolk, Virginia. Report prepared by Virginia Commonwealth University Archaeological Research Center for Virginia Department of Transportation. Copy on file, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.

McLearen, Douglas C., and Katherine E. Harbury

1991 Phase III Archaeological Investigations of a Section of [REDACTED] City of Suffolk, Virginia. Report prepared by Virginia Commonwealth University Archaeological Research Center for Virginia Department of Transportation. Copy on file, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.

Rountree, Helen C.

1990 *Pocahontas's People: The Powhatan Indians of Virginia Through Four Centuries*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

1993 The Powhatans and the English: A Case of Multiple Conflicting Agendas. In *Powhatan Foreign Relations, 1500-1722*, edited by Helen C. Rountree, pp. 173-205. University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville.

Rountree, Helen C., and E. Randolph Turner, III

2002 *Before and After Jamestown: Virginia's Powhatans and Their Predecessors*. University of Florida Press, Gainesville.

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Section 10, Photographic Data Page 6



10. Geographical Data

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Photographs

The following is the same for all photographs included.

Knotts Creek/Belleville Archaeological Site in Suffolk, Virginia #133-5255 [Redacted]

Digital Images taken by Dr. Randolph Turner in 2006, stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Photo 1 of 4 Phase II, Main Excavation Block, Features 1, 2, and 3,
palisade trench and bastion or watchtower/gun platform

Photo 2 of 4 Phase II, Main Excavation Block, Feature 143, unknown disturbance

Photo 3 of 4 Phase III, Feature 273, late 18th-early 19th century ditch

Photo 4 of 4 Phase III, Feature 273, late 18th-early 19th century ditch, close up of timbers in ditch