

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Chester-Union	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 14 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Fishdam Ford (38CS49)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
On the Broad River 150 feet upstream from the S.C. Hwy 72 bridge

CITY OR TOWN:  
Chester-Union

STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 45      COUNTY: Chester-Union      CODE: 023-087

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both    con- State trol	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Site unused

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of South Carolina

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Capital Building

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Unregistered

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
S.C. Preliminary Survey of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
S.C. Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia,      STATE: South Carolina      CODE: 45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

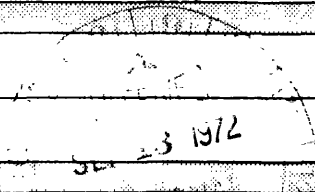
COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

2-15-74



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Site 38CS49 is a V shaped fish trap or weir located on the Broad River 150 feet upstream from the Hwy. 72 bridge. Historically this location is known as Fishdam Ford deriving its name from the adjacent Indian fish trap. The shallow water, created when the river flows are more resistant bed rock, was ideally suited for the construction of fish traps. The traps were constructed by aligning sloping rows of stone to form a wide V with the mouth facing upstream. A long tapering cane basket was usually placed across a small opening in the apex of the V. The current, flowing into the mouth of the trap, would channel fish into a position from which they could not escape.

When the first Europeans arrived in this country weirs were still used by the Indians. Consequently we have several reliable ethnographic accounts describing their use and construction. In 1722 Robert Beverley wrote the following account of a fish trap in Virginia:

At the Falls of the River, where the Water is shallow, and the Current strong, the Indians use another kind of Weir, thus made: They make a Dam of loose Stone, whereof there is Plenty at hand, quite across the River, leaving one, two, or more Spaces or Trunnels, for the Water to pass thr'o; at the Mouth of which they set a Pot of Reeds, wove in Form of a Cone, whose Base is about three Foot, and perpendicular ten, into which the Swiftness of the Current carries the Fish, and there lodges them. (Beverley, 1722).

The Fishdam Ford trap is in very good condition considering its long history. The trap itself is made of large rocks rafted into place by the Indians. The rock alignment and the V shaped trap can be seen on the accompanying photographs and map.

8. 15 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |  |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century             | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

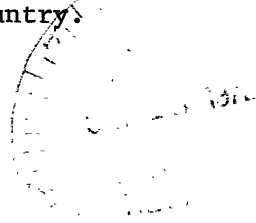
Fish weirs have been reported on many of the major streams along the eastern seaboard from Georgia to New York (Strandberg and Tomlinson, 1969: 312). In South Carolina Hemmings located three fish traps on the upper Savannah River in the vicinity of Trotters Shoals (Hemmings, 1970: 48). Unfortunately we are unable to date the earliest use of fish traps along the eastern coast. Archaeological evidence, in the form of a Morrow Mountain Archaic point, 5050-450 B.C., found in a fish trap on the Potomac River indicates that some of the structures may be very old (Strandberg and Tomlinson, 1969: 312). On the other hand, weirs were still being constructed by both Colonials and Indians during the 18th century. Traps of Indian origin were sometimes repaired by the Colonist and put back in service. The size and irregularity of the boulder alignment of the trap at Fishdam Ford would suggest that it is of Indian origin.

During the 18th century the fish weir served as an important river crossing. On November 9, 1780 General Sumter crossed the Broad River at Fishdam Ford and engaged the British on the left bank. The Battle of Fishdam Ford, which took place approximately 1/4 mile northeast of the ford, was an important American victory. By 1818 a ferry was operating across the river at a point 400 feet upstream from the fish trap.

Rock fish traps were once numerous on many of the Carolina Piedmont rivers. Floods, bridge construction, and dams have destroyed many of these traps. In South Carolina only four fish weirs have been recorded. Of the four, three will be submerged under the water of the Trotters Shoals Reservoir. Undoubtedly many more exist in the state but more research is needed to locate them.

Fishdam Ford (38CS49) is not only representative of an aboriginal method of fishing that existed in this country long before the coming of the Europeans but the ford also played an important role in the Colonial history of the Carolina back country.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Beverley, Robert  
 1722 History of Virginia, by a native and inhabitant of the place.  
 2nd ed., London.

Hemmings, Thomas  
 1970 Archeological Survey of the Trotters Shoals Reservoir Area in South Carolina. Unpublished manuscript on file at Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"
				34	35	45
				81	25	20

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than 1 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
South Carolina		Chester	
South Carolina		Union	

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Thomas M. Ryan**

ORGANIZATION: **Institute of Archeology - Anthropology**      DATE: **June 20, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**University of South Carolina**

CITY OR TOWN: **Columbia**      STATE: **South Carolina**      CODE: **45**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Charles E. Lee  
 Charles E. Lee

Title Director, S.C. Department of Archives and History

Date Sept 6, 1972

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

Robert W. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/14/73

ATTEST:  
Wm. M. ...  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date 7 30 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Chester-Union	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 14 1973

(Number all entries)

FISHDAM FORD (38CS49)

9. Major Bibliographical References

McCrary, Edward

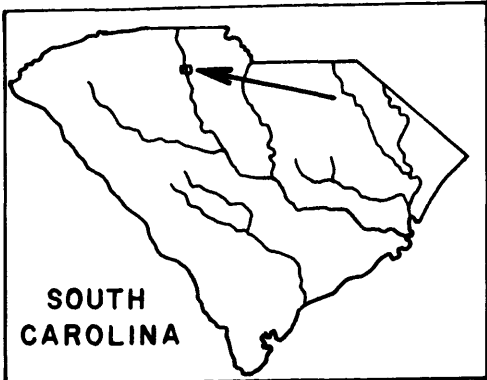
1902 The History of South Carolina in the Revolution 1780-1783.  
Macmillan, New York.

Strandberg, Carl H. and Ray Tomlinson

1969 "Photoarchaeological Analysis of Potomac River Fish Traps"  
American Antiquity, Vol., 34, No. 3, pp. 312-319, Salt Lake City.



**GENERAL LOCATION  
OF  
FISHDAM FORD BATTLEFIELD  
38CS52  
NOVEMBER 9, 1780**



**FORMER LOCATION OF  
A CANE BASKET FOR  
COLLECTING FISH.**

**INDIAN FISH TRAP  
38CS49**

**S. C. HIGHWAY 72**

**CARLISLE**

**CHESTER**

**FISHDAM FORD**

**SITE OF MOMAN'S FERRY 1818**

**OLD ROAD  
LEADING TO FERRY  
SHOWN ON 1818 AND  
1861 MAPS. NOW ABANDONED.**

**CURRENT**

**BROAD RIVER**

**FISHDAM FORD  
CHESTER COUNTY  
SOUTH CAROLINA**

**INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY  
AND ANTHROPOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**



**-34°35'**

**-81°25'**

