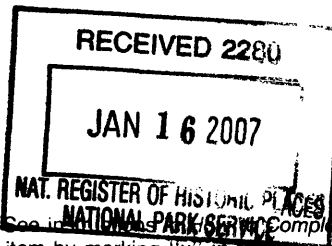


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on the back of this form. 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 an 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 Nation Ford Fish Weir

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Located in Catawba River approximately 1,200 feet upstream not for publication
from rail trestle at Nation Ford

city or town Rock Hill vicinity

state South Carolina code SC county York code 091 zip code 29730

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edwards 1/11/07
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

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 the 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 *Juan McDaniel* Date of Action 3/1/07

Nation Ford Fish Weir
Name of Property

York, South Carolina
County and State

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

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		_____ buildings
1		_____ sites
		_____ structures
		_____ objects
1		_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Resources of the Nation Ford Road Area

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/fishing grounds

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other _____

Narrative Description

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1

NATION FORD FISH WEIR

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Nation Ford Fish Weir consists of a double "v" shaped fish trap or weir located in the channel of the Catawba River approximately 1,200 feet upstream from the site of the Nation Ford in York County. Shoals on the Catawba River were ideally suited for the construction of weirs because they provided areas where shallow water flowed over bedrock. The Nation Ford Weir was formed by the placement of long rows of rocks forming loose dams in two wide "v" shapes with the open mouths of the "v" facing upstream. A cane basket or brush trap was usually placed across a small opening at the downstream end of the "v." The current, flowing into the trap, would bring fish into the basket, from which they could be harvested by the Native Americans.

The Nation Ford Fish Weir is visible at times of low water flow in the Catawba River. The double "v" pattern is clearly visible from the air and can be seen as a rippled area in the river from the bank. The rock structures which form the weir are remarkably intact.

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.)

- 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.
- 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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/NATIVE AMERICAN

Period of Significance

c. 1600 - c. 1750

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1

NATION FORD FISH WEIR

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nation Ford Fish Weir has significance as a physical evidence of Native American habitation during the period prior to European settlement in South Carolina. It is eligible to be placed in the National Register under Criterion A as a site associated with Native American culture and fishing activities. One of the few relatively intact fish weirs remaining in South Carolina, the Nation Ford Fish Weir provides valuable evidence of the fishing practices of Native Americans. Because these structures were of necessity located at shoals areas, many have been destroyed in navigation improvements, development of dams for hydroelectric production, and other development practices. The condition and location of the weir make it a significant resource in understanding the Native American culture.

The flow patterns of the Catawba River have been altered by the construction of a number of hydroelectric facilities upstream, including the Lake Wylie Dam, which is approximately five miles upstream. Historical flows in the river would have been much more variable than they are now, with river levels rising and falling more directly in response to rain levels in the drainage basin of the Catawba River Valley. Historical accounts of the crossing at Nation Ford, just downstream from the weir, indicate that travelers could walk or ride on horses or wagons across the river on bedrock at times of normal to low flow. There are many accounts of travelers being detained at the ford to wait for high water to recede. The active control of water in the extensive system of reservoirs on the Catawba River tends to limit periods of excess flow. There are usually daily discharges from the lake Wylie Dam, resulting in dramatic changes in the flow levels in a given day. During periods of low flow, which occur regularly, the fish weir is clearly visible. During the historic drought which occurred from 1999 to 2002, there were extended periods of very low flow. The fish weir maintains its integrity as a feature in the Catawba River because it is clearly visible from the bank and from the air for extended periods of time. The periods of high water which hide the structure from view mimic the freshets and floods which occurred naturally in the river.

The fish weir, because of its proximity to Nation Ford and the Nation Ford Road, is related to the historic context of the Resources of the Nation Ford Road Area Multiple Property Submission. The ford was the principal crossing point of the Catawba River for the Catawba Indian Nation and other Native American groups. Several of the principal Catawba villages were located in close proximity to the ford. It is likely that the weir was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

located in this vicinity both because of the shoals of the river and because of the ready access that the activity at Nation Ford provided.

The age of the weir and the identity of the builders cannot be known. Archaeological research at the site could possibly help to provide a clearer picture of the date of construction and the builders. Should this work be undertaken, it may justify the eligibility of the site under Criteria D. However, to date no archaeological evidence is available for the site. Work done for the Catawba Indian Nation has documented the location of Catawba villages just upstream at Spratt bottoms and at other nearby sites on Sugar Creek and the Catawba River. It is possible that the weir was constructed by other Native Americans prior to the location of the Catawbas in the area.

Native Americans commonly employed weirs along streams and rivers. The material and construction of the baskets was relatively consistent, with white oak splints averaging one inch in width in a checkerboard weave.¹ The baskets were placed in the opening of weirs of brush or stone and they were also baited and used in calm waters to attract fish. Catawba Indians would have caught eels, suckers, mud turtles, and other aquatic life with the weirs and baskets.²

A number of early Europeans described the practice of using weirs for fishing. In 1705, John Beverly wrote the following account of a fish trap in Virginia:

“At the falls of the Rivers, 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 a-cross the River, leaving one, two, or more Spaces or Tunnels, for the water to pass thr’o; at the Mouth of which they set a Pot of Reeds, wove in the 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.”³

James Adair provided a similar description of weirs in 1775:

“The Indians have the art of catching fish in long crails, made with canes and hickory splinters, tapering to a point. They lay these at the falls of water, where stones are placed in two sloping lines from each bank, till they meet together in the middle of the rapid stream, where the entangled fish are soon drowned.”⁴

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

In South Carolina, a number of fish weirs have been reported. Three weirs in the vicinity of Trotters Shoals on the Savannah River are now inundated by the Richard B. Russell Lake. The McCollum Fish Weir and the Fishdam Ford Weir on the Broad River are listed in the National Register. Weirs were numerous in the Catawba River. In 1848-9, the State of North Carolina undertook a program to improve the navigation in the Catawba River in that state. Detailed surveys of the river were completed, which identified at least 40 fish traps and weirs which would need to be cleared or removed to enhance navigation.⁵

It is impossible to accurately date the construction of the Nation Ford Weir without extensive archaeological research. Evidence in the form of a Morrow Mountain Archaic Point found in a fish trap on the Potomac River suggests that some of the structures may date to 5050-4050 B.C. (Strandberg and Tomlinson 1969). There is also evidence that weirs were being constructed and used into the eighteenth century. Patrick Calhoun reported that settlers had repaired and were using an Indian fish weir across the Little River in western South Carolina in 1765.⁶

The Nation Ford Fish Weir is a significant physical reminder of Native American culture, and is representative of a resource which has been destroyed in many locations.

¹ Frank G. Speck, "Catawba Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing." Museum of the University of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Anthropological Society, Joint Publication # 2, 1946, p. 16.

² Speck, p. 25.

³ John Beverly, 1705.

⁴ Samuel Cole Williams, ed., Adair's History of the American Indian. (Johnson City, Tennessee: The Watauga Press, 1930), p. 432.

⁵ Report of the Joint Select Committee Upon the Catawba River, North Carolina House Document # 55, Raleigh, N. C., 1852.

⁶ Robert L. Meriwether, The Expansion of South Carolina 1729-1765. (Kingsport, Tennessee: Southern Publishers, Inc., 1940), p. 169.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9

Page 8

Nation Ford Fish Weir

Name of Property

York County, South Carolina

County and State

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Beverley, Robert. The History and Present State of Virginia, in Four Parts. London, 1705. Reprint edition, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1947.

Meriwether, Robert L. The Expansion of South Carolina 1729-1765. Kingsport, Tenn.: Southern Publishers, Inc., 1940.

Speck, Frank G. "Catawba Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing." Museum of the University of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Anthropological Society Joint Publication #2. Philadelphia, 1946.

Williams, Samuel Cole, ed. Adair's History of the American Indian. Johnson City, Tenn.: The Watauga Press, 1930.

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [1|7] [5|0|3|7|6|0] [3|8|6|9|2|8|0]
Zone Easting Northing
2 [1|7] [5|0|3|5|8|0] [3|8|6|9|3|5|0]

3 [1|7] [5|0|3|5|3|0] [3|8|6|9|0|8|0]
Zone Easting Northing
4 [1|7] [5|0|3|7|2|0] [3|8|6|9|0|0|0]

See continuation sheet

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.)

11. Form Prepared By

Paul M. Gettys
name/title
organization date
street & number 4180 Cureton Ferry Road telephone (803) 329-3567
city or town Catawba state SC zip code 29704

Additional Documentation

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)

Property Owner

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

State of South Carolina
name
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10

Page 9

Nation Ford Fish Weir

Name of Property

York County, South Carolina

County and State

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary is the area within the Catawba River extending five hundred feet upstream and downstream from the center point of the fish weir; the weir is labeled as the "Old Indian Dam" on the accompanying copy of a portion of a 1879 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers map of the Catawba River and as "Nation Ford Fish Weir on the accompanying York County Tax Map # 706, drawn at a scale of 1" = 330' (The boundary is shown as the pair of solid lines crossing the river; the weir is shown as a dotted line). The weir is located approximately 1,200 feet upstream from the Nation Ford Railroad Trestle, also part of the Resources of the Nation Ford Road Area MPS.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The area identified provides recognition for the fish weir itself and an area within the stream bed of the Catawba River which will provide protection for the weir.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 10

Nation Ford Fish Weir
Name of Property
York County, South Carolina
County and State

Name of Property: Nation Ford Fish Weir
Location of Property: In the Catawba River, approximately 1200' upstream from
the Nation Ford Railroad trestle
Rock Hill vicinity, York County, South Carolina

Name of Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photographs: 2006
Location of Original Negatives: Catawba Regional Planning Council, Rock Hill, S.C.

The accompanying aerial photograph clearly shows the outline of the fish weir in the Catawba River, with the shape of the two "v" forms visible, and the Nation Ford Railroad Trestle visible downstream.