

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 09 1990

National Register of Historic Places
Multiple Property Documentation Form

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

The Indian Use of Block Island Between 500 B.C. and A.D. 1676

B. Associated Historic Contexts

The Indian Use of Block Island Between 500 B.C. and A.D. 1676

C. Geographical Data

The incorporated limits of the Town of New Shoreham, R.I., which are coterminous with the island of Block Island.

See continuation sheet

D. Certification

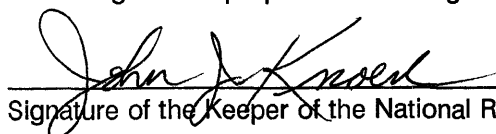
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.


Signature of certifying official

3 Jan 1990
Date

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.


Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

2/23/90
Date

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E. Statement of Historic Contexts

See continuation sheet

F. Associated Property Types

See continuation sheet

G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

See continuation sheet

H. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: Anthropology Department, Univ. of Connecticut at Storrs

I. Form Prepared By

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Statement of Historic Contexts

Summary Introduction

Block Island provides the temporal, geographical and cultural framework for the identification, evaluation, and protection of Native American archaeological resources of the state's largest offshore island. The island contains a wide range of coastal habitats, including salt ponds, lagoons, beaches, and freshwater ponds. The range and density of natural resources on the island allowed for year-round occupation by A.D. 500. Indian groups on the island exploited a wide range of marine mammals, fish, and birds, as well as terrestrial resources. By the early seventeenth century, horticulture was also an important component of the diet. Archaeological research indicates that marine resources played a much more important role in the island's subsistence economy compared to coastal mainland groups, and also compared to other offshore islands such as Martha's Vineyard (Ritchie 1969). The small size of the island greatly limited the number of terrestrial animals such as deer, an important component in the diets of coastal and other island groups. Late Woodland period middens on the island are characterized by high percentages of marine animals and extremely low percentages of terrestrial animals such as deer. This information suggests that Block Island may have had an economy somewhat different than other coastal or island groups in the area, with a stronger emphasis on marine resources.

The archaeological and historical record documents fairly continuous Indian use of the island from 5,000 B.P. to the mid-eighteenth century, although the nature of occupation changes dramatically after 500 B.C., when the frequency, size, and complexity of archaeological sites increase. Following the European settlement of the island in 1661 and continuing to King Philip's War in 1676, the Indian population on the island declined rapidly. By the late eighteenth century, only a few Indian families remained on the island.

Geological and Environmental Setting

Block Island is one in a series of southern New England islands, from Staten Island, New York to Nantucket, Massachusetts, formed by glacial drift sheets and end moraines. Block Island was formed as part of a glacial terminus that stretched from Montauk Point to Martha's Vineyard.

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The island was a highland 14,000 years ago when the sea level was lower. Estimates of sea level changes for the region indicate a rise of approximately 20 meters over the last 9,000 years (McMaster and Ashraf 1973). Block Island formed from two adjacent high points which eventually became two islands connected by beach deposits in the form of a double tombolo (Sirken 1976). Block Island appears to have been connected with Long Island, and likely became an independent island ecosystem after 6,000 years ago. The Great Salt Pond, comprising some 500 acres, is the most prominent feature on Block Island. Two smaller salt ponds, Trim and Harbor Ponds, are situated near the southeastern corner of the Great Salt Pond (Fig. 1, 2). Morenon (1985) suggests that the Great Salt Pond may have formed within the past 4,000 years when the inland movement of barrier beaches created a large lagoon. The saltwater ponds, with rich shellfish beds and other marine life, lie in close proximity to the sea and offshore marine resources, and were the focus of settlement after 2500 B.P. In addition to the salt ponds, numerous ponds, springs, and inland wetlands characterize the south end, and to a lesser extent the north end of the island. These ponds were a source of fresh water and of food resources such as turtles, birds, and plants.

The north end of the island, known as Corn Neck, is characterized by well-drained fertile soils and was the primary location for Indian and colonial horticultural activities.

Marine Coastal Ecosystem

Block Island is located on the northern boundary of the mid-Atlantic coast, which extends from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina to Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The seasonal hydrographic fluctuations in the area have an important influence on fish and marine mammals in the waters around Block Island. During the fall and winter the general movement is from north to south, with many northern species of fish and marine mammals wintering in or passing through Block Island waters.

The coastal marine ecosystem of Block Island can be divided into four habitat types: rocky shores, sandy shores, tidal ponds, and tidal marshes (Bellantoni 1987). A wide variety of shellfish can be found in the tidal ponds and marshes as well as on the shore, including soft-shell clams (*Mya arenaria*) and quahog (*Mercenaria mercenaria*). Finfish inhabiting the waters around Block Island and also found in archaeological contexts include cunner (*Tautoglabrus adspersus*), tautog (*Tautog onitis*), Atlantic

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salmon (*Acipenser sturio*), bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*), striped bass (*Roccus saxatilis*), and black sea bass (*Xiphias gladius*).

Block Island is also within one of the major migratory bird routes along the Atlantic coast. The earliest migrants reach Block Island around mid-April. Bird species found on the island include Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*), black ducks (*Anas rubripes*), common merganser (*Mergus merganser*), cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) and, in the early historic period, great auk (*Alca impennis*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Many of these species have been found in midden deposits associated with occupations.

A number of reptiles can also be found on the island in both salt and freshwater habitats. Several species have been found in archaeological contexts, including painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*), box turtle (*Terrapena carolina*), and snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*). Terrestrial mammals, although represented in smaller numbers in archaeological sites, include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), and dog (*Canis familiaris*). Several marine mammals have also been recovered from archaeological contexts, including grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*), harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*), and dolphin and whale.

Block Island is a distinct coastal environment, offering a wide range of coastal and marine resources to the aboriginal inhabitants.

Indian Use of Block Island

The earliest identified sites on the island date from the Late Archaic period (ca. 5,000-2500 B.P.). These sites are few in number and are generally quite small, most associated with the larger ponds and inland wetlands on the island. It is quite possible that other Late Archaic sites were located in coastal areas but have been inundated by rising sea levels. The limited information on the nature of Late Archaic land use on the island suggests use of inland wetland resources on a temporary basis. It appears that sometime during the Early Woodland period (ca. 2500 B.P.) Indians began to use the island more frequently, as indicated by an increase in the number of archaeological sites from this period around the Great Salt Pond. By the early Middle Woodland Period (ca. 1500 B.P.) the evidence indicates a dramatic increase in the frequency, size, complexity, and duration of occupations around the Great Salt Pond. Recovered faunal and plant remains indicate that the Indians were occupying the island year

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round, with a heavy emphasis on marine resources, including fish, seal, and migratory birds. This trend continues through the Late Woodland period (ca. 1000-500 B.P.), with the frequency, size and complexity of sites continuing to increase. Several Late Woodland sites appear to be over two hectares in extent and occupied year round. Excavations at one of these sites (RI 1428) revealed living floors, the remains of houses, and a number of specialized activity areas such as storage facilities, cooking features, fish and mammal processing areas, tool manufacturing areas, and refuse areas. The middens yielded a wide range of terrestrial and marine food remains, indicating that these sites were occupied throughout the year. Late Woodland sites also contain a wide range of artifacts, including netsinkers, projectile points, plant-grinding tools, stone axes, bone awls, spear points, and pottery. Contact period sites have also yielded a number of European artifacts such as kaolin pipes, brass fragments, glass beads, gunflints, and ceramics.

Horticulture, centered on maize, beans, and squash, is documented for seventeenth-century Block Island in ethnohistoric sources. Maize has been recovered from several seventeenth-century sites on the island. No cultigens have been recovered from any sites dating earlier than the seventeenth century on the island, suggesting that intensive horticulture was not practiced prior to the contact period.

Seventeenth-century ethnohistoric sources indicate a settlement pattern characterized by villages (two are mentioned) comprised of thirty wigwams situated in the general area of the Great Salt Pond. These sources also mention corn fields, perhaps as large as 200 acres, associated with these villages.

Interior areas of the island are assumed to have been utilized, based on the turtles and terrestrial mammals found in archaeological sites. In addition, archaeological testing in the island's interior has located numerous small, temporary camps adjacent to fresh-water ponds and inland wetlands. The data indicate the presence of large permanent villages situated within one kilometer of the Great Salt Pond, and a number of smaller task-specific and temporary camps in interior areas.

Research Significance

Understanding the development and nature of the prehistoric maritime economy on Block Island is probably the most crucial element in

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understanding changes in the island's settlement and subsistence patterns. The data from the island are important for addressing several issues relating to prehistoric culture change in southern New England. These issues are discussed below.

(1) Sometime after 3000 B.P. archaeological evidence throughout southern New England indicates increased use of and settlement in coastal zones. Some (Cox and Thorbahn 1982) have hypothesized that an extended drought between 5000 and 3000 B.P. may have occurred, altering shellfish and mammal habitats and affecting human choices in land use and settlement location. An alternative hypothesis (McBride 1984) suggests that a decline in the rate of marine transgression after 3000 B.P. permitted conditions conducive to the creation of extensive estuarine, tidal, and salt marsh habitats. The end result in either case was changes in human settlement and subsistence strategies.

(2) The earliest dated cultigens in southern New England are from coastal zones: A.D. 1160 from Martha's Vineyard, and A.D. 1040 from Mago Point in coastal Connecticut (McBride & Dewar 1987). It appears, however, that intensive horticulture was not practiced in coastal zones until well into the sixteenth and possibly into the early seventeenth century A.D. Conversely, subsistence economies based on intensive maize horticulture can be demonstrated by the fourteenth century A.D. in the Connecticut River Valley. Understanding the development and the role of a horticultural economy and its subsequent effects on aboriginal political, economic, and social systems is one of the most important issues in southern New England.

(3) The existing archaeological data from Block Island indicate an emphasis on maritime resources, to a much greater extent than can be demonstrated for other coastal groups in the region. Subsistence data from several sites along the Connecticut and Rhode Island shores indicate that marine and terrestrial resources contributed equally to the subsistence economies of the Indians in the region. The data from Block Island indicate that only 10% of the subsistence economy was based on terrestrial resources, a significant difference when compared to mainland coastal sites. The regional data base suggests much more variability in the subsistence economies of Indian groups in southern New England than previously suspected, including riverine, upland interior, coastal, and maritime areas. The nature of the island's aboriginal economy is important for understanding the variation in prehistoric subsistence economies throughout the region.

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(4) European contact in the sixteenth century A.D. and the later establishment of trading places and permanent settlements had profound impacts on native life. Understanding pre-contact native lifeways and the subsequent alteration and change in native settlement, subsistence, economic, social, and political systems as a result of European contact is fundamental for understanding the area's Indian groups as they attempted to cope with the impacts of European colonization.

The information necessary for addressing all of the issues discussed above is present in the archaeological deposits within Block Island in general and the Great Salt Pond Archaeological District in particular. Studies of the island's archaeological sites should seek to address these issues of short-term and long-term change. Research topics listed below provide examples of significant research areas for sites within the Block Island context. Processual studies such as those discussed above require that these topics be combined and that research on the island be conducted within a regional context. Research topics are defined below.

- (1) **Technology:** The totality of the means used to provide objects and resources necessary for human sustenance and comfort.
- (2) **Exchange:** The process of reciprocal transfer of ownership (as between persons), including trade and barter; broadly, a complex of transactions that results in the actual interchange of goods and services even though any one transfer may be widely separated in time and space and may take place under the guise of presenting gifts or in consequence of traditional ceremonies.
- (3) **Social organization:** The system of relations between persons and among groups with regard to the division of activity and the functional arrangement of mutual obligations within society.
- (4) **Settlement pattern:** The distribution of sites across the landscape.
- (5) **Subsistence:** The means of obtaining the necessities of life.
- (6) **Demography and disease:** The study of human populations especially with reference to size, density, growth rate, and distribution, migration; and the effect of all these on social and economic conditions.

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- (7) Warfare: A military activity undertaken by a political unit to weaken or destroy another.
 - (8) Ideology: A systematic body of concepts about human life or culture; a manner or content of thinking characteristic of an individual, group, or culture.
 - (9) Environmental change: Studies pertaining to identifying and describing changes in the natural environment that have implications for the human occupation in the region.

These research topics are discussed in relation to property types, National Register criteria, and registration requirements below and in Section F.

Property Types

The land use activities that have occurred within Block Island can be used to construct four basic property types. These property types represent specialized uses of the island and thus embody the research values of the context. The property types are: (1) household settlements; (2) resource extraction, processing, and disposal areas; (3) burial places; and (4) trading places. Each property type can potentially contribute to a wide range of research topics (Table 1). These topics, taken singly or in combination, define the significance of the property type. Section F will provide a more detailed discussion of these property types and the basis of their significance.

Information Needs for Further Context Development

Information needs can be grouped into three major topics relating to the identification, evaluation, and protection of archaeological resources, discussed below.

- (1) Studies to determine locational attributes of different property types

Archaeological surveys of Block Island in general

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identified Indian sites on the island, approximately 45 (53%) are situated [REDACTED]. In addition, it is estimated that these 45 sites constitute over 75% of the estimated occupation area of all sites on the island. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Interior areas seem to be characterized by short-term specialized sites involved with the procurement of freshwater animal and plant resources.

Property types such as burials and trading places are documented at such low frequencies that statements concerning their locational characteristics are not possible.

[REDACTED]

(2) Diachronic studies

Evaluation and protection activities should be directed toward understanding and preserving property types that contain data pertaining to processual studies. Understanding the inception and role of horticulture, the development of a maritime economy, the emergence of permanent villages,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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and the effect of European trade and settlement on aboriginal cultures in the region requires a regional approach as well as multidisciplinary studies which employ a variety of analytical techniques.

Limited testing and excavation should be conducted at a representative sample of sites representing all property types. Burial sites are necessarily exempt from this program unless sanctioned by proper authorities of the Narragansett Indian Tribe.

A sampling program should be devised to collect data to assess the usefulness of the property typology. This would include information on site size, artifact density, the nature and variation of the artifact assemblage, season and duration of occupation, subsistence remains, and the nature and range of activities taking place. An important aspect of the sampling program would be to examine any changes in the nature of Indian land use between 500 B.C. and 1650 A.D.

This emphasis on solving diachronic problems through a program of testing and excavation will improve the efficiency of property type recognition. In addition, understanding the processes of change is essential to characterizing locational patterns. Processual studies are considered an important aspect in the development of a protection strategy because they allow the prediction of where specific property types are likely to be found through time, they require that all possible data pertaining to a wide range of research topics will be used, and when based upon limited samples, data is left in the ground for future investigations.

(3) Characterizing the condition of known property types

In a significant number of cases the only way to protect an archaeological site in coastal areas is by excavating it. Rising sea levels, ocean storms, and eroding soil represent serious threats to many of the properties identified on Block Island. Approximately 20% of the island's sites have been impacted by natural beach erosion. This information on site endangerment requires constant reassessment and updating and should be supplemented with information on other social and natural forces that threaten the preservation of sites.

Within the Block Island context, residential development is a significant problem both within the salt ponds area as well as in the interior. Fortunately, this development is structured through a state

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review process, part of which has involved establishing high priority preservation areas based upon historical, recreational, and natural values. This review process is critical because many of the attributes required for the locations of archaeological property types (e.g., southern exposure, proximity to fresh-water and/or salt ponds, well-drained soils) are similar to modern needs.

Both the Block Island Conservancy and the Nature Conservancy have incorporated archaeological concerns when reviewing properties to be acquired for conservation. In this instance preservation concerns on both the local and state levels have enabled significant archaeological properties to be preserved.

Registration priorities

Registration priorities are guided by survey and planning strategies and by opportunity. First, survey efforts have concentrated on the Great Salt Pond and adjacent salt ponds, areas undergoing the most rapid development. Registration of the Great Salt Pond Archaeological District, based upon the results of several survey and planning grants, is a high priority registration activity. As additional areas are surveyed, they will be added to the high priority list. At the same time, the state historic preservation office is receptive to working with local conservation groups, town governments, and land owners who wish to develop protection strategies for significant properties requiring registration. These activities are high priority registration activities.

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Property Types	Research Topics							
	Technology	Exchange	Social Organization	Settlement & Subsistence	Demography	Warfare	Ideology	Environmental Change
Resource Processing & Disposal	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Household Settlements	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Burial Places	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Trading Places	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Table 1: Property Types and Possible Research Topics in the Block Island Context.

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Associated Property Types

I. Name of Property Type Household Settlements

II. Description

It is not clear the degree to which the domestic settlement types described for mainland Rhode Island would be similar to those on Block Island. In the 1630s Roger Williams observed that during the summer growing season Narragansett Indians settled in family units along the coast where they cultivated maize, beans, and squash. The ethnohistoric sources suggest a dispersed settlement strategy which would have produced many single household sites. The ethnohistoric data from Block Island suggest more nucleated household settlements (i.e., villages) of approximately 30 wigwams and concentrated cornfields, perhaps as large as 200 acres per village. It is not clear whether Block Island settlement patterns consisted of seasonal movements, aggregations, and/or concentrations. The archaeological data collected to date suggest more nucleated settlement types, clustered around the salt ponds. Such sites may be expected to contain several dwellings, associated internal features (hearths, etc.), and resource processing, consumption, and disposal areas. Because the household settlements were occupied throughout the year, a wide range of resource acquisition and processing activities would have taken place. Evidence for storage facilities would also be expected as would associated burials. Diverse floral and faunal (both terrestrial and marine) resources indicative of all four seasons should be represented. By the end of the sixteenth century the sites should demonstrate increased reliance on horticultural products.

Archaeological visibility of such sites is expected to be high, although abandonment and reuse of a particular area over time might be expected, contributing to the high visibility of such sites. Because of the nature of the sites, a wide range of features and activity areas are expected, including living areas, as indicated by wigwam post holes, resource processing areas (i.e., fish, marine mammals, stone tool production, cooking, etc.), large refuse areas (middens), and storage facilities. A rich diversity of plant and animal remains is also expected, with a greater emphasis on marine resources such as shellfish, finned fish and marine mammals like seal. A high density of artifacts related to household tasks is also expected, such as grinding tools, projectile points, net sinkers, knives, scrapers, etc.

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The visibility of these sites is linked to locational characteristics.



Although the high visibility of these sites makes them easy to detect using standardized shovel test pits, 1 by 1 meter or larger excavation squares are necessary to obtain information on the precise nature of the sites.

III. Significance

A household settlement or aggregation of household settlements of the kind described for the island in seventeenth-century ethnohistoric sources would contain information important for understanding several processes of aboriginal culture change in the region. The development and nature of the maritime economy hypothesized for the island would be an important issue in terms of regional economic diversity and comparisons of the nature of economic and social patterns between the mainland and the island.

Household settlements of this kind would contain information important for understanding the processes that underlie the introduction, use and intensification of cultigens in Indian life in coastal regions. Lynn Ceci (1977) suggested that in coastal New York, prior to European contact and settlement, the role of maize was relatively unimportant in the subsistence economies of coastal groups. McBride (1984) suggested that intensive maize horticulture was late in coastal regions, but nonetheless may have occurred independent of European influence. The question of whether the development of intensive maize horticulture was the result of European contact or purely indigenous processes is an important issue. The lateness of the process may be tied to the productivity of coastal economies as compared to riverine or interior zones.

Using household settlements to investigate the origins, role, and intensity of a maritime economy and horticulture and the role they played in coastal economies would involve a wide range of research topics, including subsistence, settlement and social organization. Significant questions include: When was the earliest year-round occupation of the island? Was the development of year-round occupations a result of a reliance on marine resources, cultigens or both? When were cultigens introduced into the region? What effect did intensive maize horticulture have on the island's social and economic patterns? After contact with Europeans, what were the impacts of European contact and settlement upon native society?

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IV. Registration Requirements

a) National Register criterion: D

b) Areas of significance: archaeology, prehistoric archaeology, historic aboriginal

c) Data requirements:

Table 2 presents the research topics pertaining to the significance of this property type and the data required to address these research topics. Table 2 sets a minimal level that a property must achieve to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A property must satisfy the data requirements of at least one research topic. It is possible that other conditions not listed can be used to refine or supplement these requirements.

I. Name of Property Type Resource processing and disposal areas

II. Description

This property type includes those sites where resources of the salt ponds, beach zones, and interior freshwater sources were collected, processed and waste materials disposed. Examples of these sites include: (1) lithic procurement and reduction areas, (2) shell middens, and (3) task-specific locations.

(1) Lithic procurement and reduction areas

The Block Island region contains an abundance and variety of glacially deposited cobbles that were used by the Indian inhabitants to produce a variety of flaked and ground stone tools. In general the sites are located on bluffs above beaches that contain an abundance of cobbles. The sites are generally small (not in excess of 2500 m²) and usually contain large amounts of cores, primary flakes, tertiary flakes, shatter, and broken tools. Temporal indicators such as diagnostic artifacts or charcoal for radiocarbon dating are generally lacking. Such sites also generally do not contain evidence of habitation such as hearths, food remains, utilized tools, etc.

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IV. Registration Requirements

(a) National Register criterion: D

(b) Areas of significance: archaeology, prehistoric archaeology, historic aboriginal

(c) Data requirements:

Table 3 presents the research topics pertaining to the significance of this property type and the data required to address these research topics. Table 3 sets a minimal level that a property must achieve to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A property must satisfy the data requirements of at least one research topic. It is possible that other conditions not listed can be used to supplement or refine these requirements.

I. Name of Property Type Burial Places

II. Description

This property type includes those sites that contain the skeletal remains and possible grave associations of one or more individuals. Examples include cremations, secondary burials and primary burials. Burials can occur in shell deposits and middens or in a soil matrix. Single interments, small groups of less than ten individuals, and larger burials containing over ten individuals can occur. Cremation burials apparently are restricted to the Terminal Archaic period: two cremation features outside Block Island on Conanicut Island have been radiocarbon-dated to 3280 +/- 90 B.P. and 3225 +/- 110 B.P. (Simmons 1970). Isolated individuals and small groups of primary burials occur in the Late Woodland, with large burial places or cemeteries of more than ten individuals developing in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Mortuary practices for the time period between the Terminal Archaic cremations and the Late Woodland primary interments are poorly documented, with the exception of occasional isolated primary burials in shell middens. This lack of sites may be due to low soil pH levels which hinder bone preservation outside the alkaline environment of shell deposits.

Locational patterns are poorly understood, although after King Philip's War in 1676 more marginal lands seem to have been chosen for burial plots.

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This trend may be related to colonial land encroachment (Cook 1985). Archaeological visibility is generally very low. Burial places, except for those of the eighteenth century, are unmarked, small and difficult to detect. Subsurface testing with shovel tests, auger cores and trenches is required. Remote sensing devices such as ground-penetrating radar, magnetometers and electrical resistivity are highly recommended when soil conditions permit. Moreover, mechanical stripping of the top soil layer may be necessary to expose grave shafts. Recent archaeological investigations at the West Ferry Site, a seventeenth-century Narragansett cemetery in Jamestown, Rhode Island, located 195 burials through mechanical stripping, where previous attempts to locate burials through shovel test pits and remote sensing failed to locate all of the burials. Because of the importance of these sites to the Narragansett Indian Tribe, any identification and evaluation activities should be conducted in consultation with tribal authorities. In addition, data recovery should occur only after all in-place preservation options have been thoroughly considered.

III. Significance

Burial places contain information important to the study of a wide range of research topics (table 4). Osteological analysis can determine dietary and nutritional status and disease patterns. Archaeological analysis of burial type, grave associations, and spatial attributes can contribute to an understanding of social organization, settlement patterns, subsistence and ideology. When grave associations are present, additional insights into technology and exchange are possible. In rare cases, skeletal remains may also provide clues about warfare-related trauma. If the sample is large enough and regional comparisons possible, in-depth demographic studies can be conducted.

Burial places are significant in their own right, but when combined with other contemporaneous property types, they become an extremely powerful tool in the study of past societies. The effects of dietary change, detected in resource disposal areas or household settlements, can be directly measured with skeletal remains by using techniques such as trace element analysis and by examining skeletal and dental tissue for stress. Similarly, the ambiguities of culture contact, whether European-Indian or the hypothesized contact related to the Iroquoian intrusion during the Terminal Archaic Period, can be more fully described by examining ideological responses in mortuary practice and economic-ideological responses at settlements.

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IV. Registration Requirements

(a) National Register criterion: D

(b) Areas of significance: archaeology, prehistoric archaeology, historic aboriginal

(c) Data requirements:

Table 4 presents research topics pertaining to the significance of this property type and the data required to address these topics. A property must satisfy the data requirements of at least one research topic. Table 4 sets a minimal level that a property must achieve to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It is possible that other conditions not listed can be used to supplement or refine these requirements.

I. Name of Property Type Trading Places

II. Description

This property type includes only those places that were used during the period of contact and trade between Europeans and Indians, ca. 1524-1676. Trading places were established by either Europeans or Indians in an effort to focus and regularize trading efforts. Although trade items can occur at all property types, a trading place was a unique site that emerged during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in an attempt to regularize trading activities between Europeans and Indians.

Only one trading place is documented on Block Island, operated by a Dutch captain, Kempyo Sybada. In 1653, Captain Edward Hull sent men to Block Island to seize the trading stock, valued at 100 pounds. Shortly thereafter, the post was operated by an Englishman, a William Baker. These men are considered the first white inhabitants of the island. The location of the trading post is noted on a 1661 map of the island.

III. Significance

Trading places contain information important to the study of a wide range of research topics (table 5). Information on changes in Indian technology, exchange systems, social organization, settlement patterns and

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subsistence strategies, warfare and ideology can be obtained from these sites. Wampum manufacturing areas, food refuse, shell middens, trade items, and earthen embankments/palisades contain data that can contribute directly to these research topics. Important questions include the following: Did increased male participation in trade and wampum production alter settlement and subsistence strategies? Does the appearance of fortified sites during this period indicate increased conflict and competition among Indian groups? In combination with burial places and household settlements, a trading place can provide insights into the complex strategies used by Indians during this period: How were strategies of resistance, accommodation, and acceptance blended into an overall strategy? What ideological implications did this position have for religious, social and economic aspects of Indian society?

IV. Registration Requirements

(a) National Register criterion: D

(b) Areas of significance: archaeology, prehistoric archaeology, historic aboriginal

(c) Data requirements:

Table 5 presents research topics pertaining to the significance of this property type and the data required to address these topics. A property must satisfy the data requirements of at least one research topic. Table 5 sets a minimal level that a property must achieve to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It is possible that other conditions not listed can be used to supplement or refine these requirements.

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Data Requirements

Research Topics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Technology	X		X					X		
Exchange			X					X	X	
Social Organization	X	X	X				X	X		
Settlement Patterns/ Subsistence Strategies	X	X	X	X			X	X		
Ideology	X		X	X				X		
Demography	X	X	X				X	X		
Environmental Change			X					X		X

Table 2 : Registration Requirements for Household Settlements

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Research Topics	Data Requirements									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Technology	abc		abc					abc		
Exchange	ab							abc	abc	
Social Organization	abc	b	abc	bc				abc		
Settlement Patterns/ Subsistence Strategies	abc	b	abc	bc				abc		
Ideology	abc		abc					abc		
Demography	abc	b	abc	bc				abc		
Environmental Change								b		b

Table 3 : Registration requirements for resource processing and disposal areas (a - lithic procurement and reduction; b - shell midden; c - task-specific location)

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Data Requirements

Research Topics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Technology	X		X					X		
Exchange	X		X					X	X	
Social Organization	X		X		X			X		
Settlement Patterns/ Subsistence Strategies	X		X		X			X		
Ideology	X		X		X			X		
Demography	X		X		X			X		
Disease	X		X		X	X		X		
Warfare	X		X		X	X		X		

Table 4: Registration Requirements for Burial places.

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Data Requirements

Research Topics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Technology	X		X					X		
Exchange	X		X					X	X	
Social Organization	X	X	X					X		
Settlement Patterns/ Subsistence Strategies	X	X	X	X				X		
Ideology	X		X					X		
Demography	X	X	X					X		
Environmental Change										
Warfare	X		X					X		

Table 5: Data Requirements for Trading Places.

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Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

During the spring and summer of 1986 the Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. (PAST, Inc.) conducted Phase I and II archaeological surveys of Block Island. The purpose of the surveys was to continue archaeological reconnaissance surveys of the island conducted in 1975 by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and in 1985 by Rhode Island College (Morenon 1985). The purposes of the PAST surveys were: (1) conduct an archaeological survey to verify or refine the archaeological site distributions described by Morenon (1985); (2) conduct limited site excavations at locations of exceptional sensitivity; and (3) [REDACTED]

Based on the distribution of sites located during the Rhode Island College reconnaissance survey, Morenon concluded that the prehistoric record on Block Island [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Morenon also noted that the prehistoric record on the island is in general relatively late, postdating A.D. 1000. The Phase I and II surveys by PAST, Inc. generally confirmed Morenon's conclusions regarding the density and lateness [REDACTED]

The survey by PAST was accomplished by dividing Block Island into two strata: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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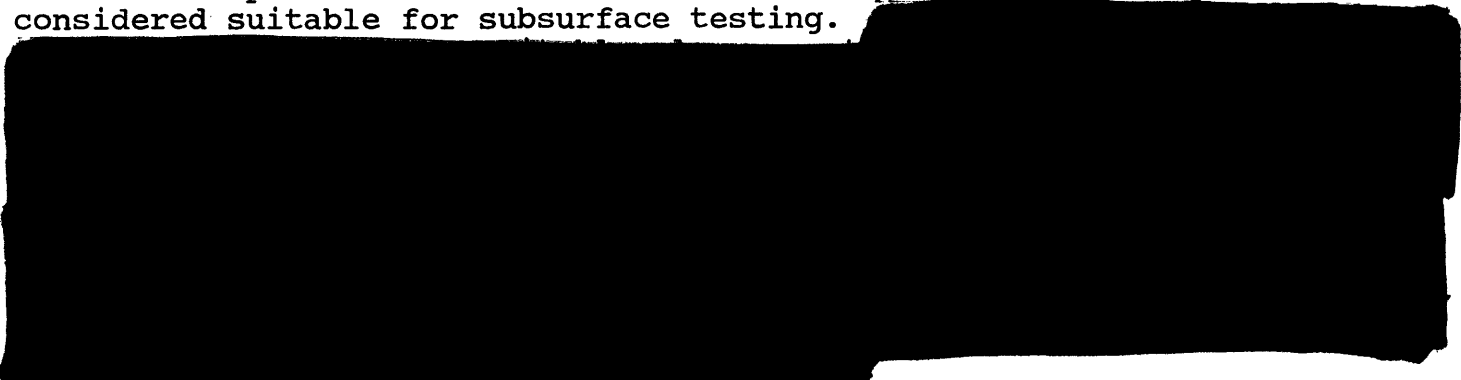
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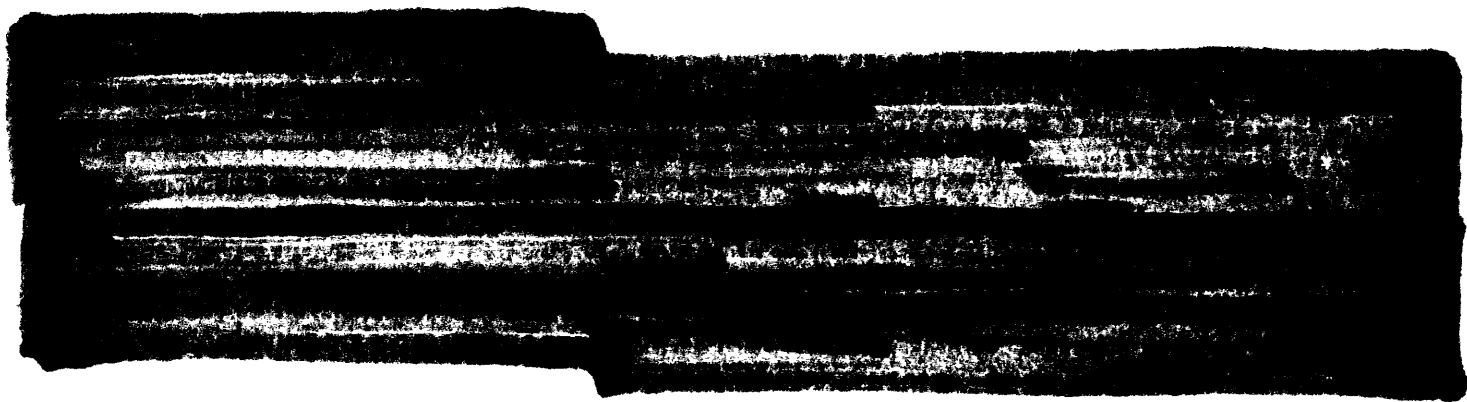
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The first step included defining the locational parameters of prehistoric site distributions on the island. Field methods were designed to locate sites in a variety of environmental contexts while at the same time making as few assumptions as possible about the distribution of sites across the island. A stratified random sample was employed, consisting of arbitrary 1 km by 1 km (.6 mile) units rather than stratifying the study area by environmental criteria. The island was divided into 47 blocks using the 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks on USGS topographic maps. Each of the study blocks was subdivided into forty 50-meter wide transects, oriented east-west. The blocks were then numbered consecutively from 1 to 47, and fourteen of them randomly selected. One transect was then randomly selected from each 1 km by 1 km block. A walkover inspection of the transects was conducted to identify land areas considered suitable for subsurface testing.





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