

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 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 Pocosabo Town

other names/site number 38BU1279, The Rule Site

2. Location

street & number [REDACTED]  not for publication

city or town Sheldon  vicinity

state South Carolina code SC county Beaufort code 013 zip code 29941

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. Edmonds 11/29/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S.C. Department of Archives & History  
State or 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 certifying 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

Date of Action

Janet E. Townsend

1-21-94

Pocosabc Town  
Name of Property

Beaufort, SC  
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	
0	2	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	2	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
Yamasee Indian Towns in the South Carolina  
Lowcountry, 1684-1715

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Village site

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof 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.)

- 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHAEOLOGY: Historic-Aboriginal

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Native American

**Period of Significance**

c. 1695-1715

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

Yamasee Indian

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

S.C. Institute of Archaeology & Anthropology,  
Columbia, SC

Pocosabo Town  
Name of Property

Beaufort, SC  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1   
Zone Easting Northing  
2 

3   
Zone Easting Northing  
4 

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**

name/title Dr. Chester B. DePratter / Research Associate Professor

organization S.C. Institute of Archaeology & Anthropology date December 9, 1992

street & number 1321 Pendleton Street telephone (803) 777-8170

city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29208

**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.)



**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.

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Pocosabo Town  
Beaufort County, SC

Narrative Description

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A  
1732 plat (Milner Plat, 1732, Colonial Land Grants, S.C. Department of Archives and History) identifies this bluff as "Pocosabo Bluff." Pocosabo was the name of the Upper Yamasee town located on this bluff from at least 1707 until 1715. The town may have been established at this location as much as a decade earlier.

Limited archaeological testing of the site (see attached site map) was conducted during the Spring of 1991 to determine whether there was evidence of a Yamasee occupation present. That testing found evidence of a scattered Yamasee occupation represented by Indian-made pottery of the appropriate types and forms (McKivergan 1991). DePratter (1992) returned to the site in Summer, 1991 with a larger crew, and more than 225 shovel tests were excavated over an [REDACTED] in an attempt to determine site limits. Concentrated deposits of Yamasee cultural material were encountered at three locations, and a total of seventeen one meter squares were excavated to investigate these deposits and other cultural features. The 1991 investigations were restricted to the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Subsurface testing indicated that the Yamasee occupation extended north and east of the tested area.

Archaeological research at Pocosabo Town indicates that the Yamasee occupation there consisted of widely dispersed households. Although spacing of household units is difficult to estimate given the limited data available, it is likely to exceed 100 meters (328 feet), a comparable spacing of households on other known Yamasee sites. Although the number of houses that once existed at Pocosabo is not known, an estimate of thirty to forty can be made based on documents previously described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form. If this estimate is correct, then the portion of Pocosabo town that is currently being nominated represents only a fraction of the total Yamasee occupation area. Additional archaeological testing will be necessary to more completely determine occupation limits.

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Pocosabo Town  
Beaufort County, SC

Although a scatter of prehistoric Indian-made pottery sherds were found during archaeological testing, there does not appear to have been any substantial occupation of this site by Native Americans prior to the arrival of the Yamasee. Testing of the site did uncover evidence of plantation period deposits dating to the late 18th and 19th centuries, but little is known about that occupation at present (McKivergan 1991; DePratter 1992).

In all areas of the site, the Yamasee component was buried beneath a plowzone approximately twenty-five to thirty centimeters thick. Absence of large trees and the presence of this consistent plowzone indicates that the entire site area was under cultivation during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Although plowing has caused a limited amount of disturbance to the site, archaeological testing indicated that Yamasee related features are preserved beneath the plowzone. Because no Yamasee houses were encountered and very few features were excavated during the 1991 field season, nothing is known concerning the structure types built on the site by the Yamasee.

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Pocosabo Town  
Beaufort County, SC

Narrative Statement of Significance

Pocosabo Town (38BU1279) is historically important because it was occupied by the Yamasee Indians, a group that played a crucial role in the early history of the state of South Carolina. This site may have been occupied by Pocosabo as early as 1695, but it was definitely the location of that town from 1707 to 1715. During the late 17th and early 18th centuries, the Yamasee--including those living at Pocosabo Town--served Carolina by defending the colony's southern frontier against Spanish attack, by participating in the trade in Indian slaves, and by killing large numbers of deer and trading their hides to Charles Town for export. The archaeological site of Pocosabo Town is extensive and well-preserved, and significant information concerning the Yamasee occupation of the Carolina frontier is buried in its fields and forests.

When the Yamasee began moving to Carolina in the mid-1680s, they were fleeing from what they saw as harsh treatment by the Spaniards of St. Augustine and Apalachee. In Spanish Florida, the Indians were forced to donate their labor for major construction projects such as mission stations and the Castillo de San Marcos at St. Augustine, and they were constantly pressured by missionaries to settle in permanent towns and become Catholics. In return, the Indians received only daily rations and an occasional trinket. By relocating to Carolina the coastal Georgia Guale and the interior Georgia people of Tama hoped to find a better life. They knew that the English of Carolina had much more liberal trade policies relating to Indians, and they expected to obtain guns and ammunition that were denied them by the Spanish.

Once these Guale and Tama refugees settled on the southern frontier of Carolina, they became known as the Yamasee. These Yamasee immediately began raiding Spanish Florida and returning with Indian captives that they in turn traded to the Charles Town traders for guns, metal implements, trinkets, and rum. Over the next two decades, the Yamasee made repeated raids into Florida, and by 1707 there were only a few hundred Indians remaining in all of peninsular Florida. This depopulation of Florida reduced the threat of Spanish and Indian invasion of Carolina from the south, and at the same time the Indian slave trade grew to be an important component of the Carolina economy. The Yamasee, living more than fifty miles from Charles Town, were visited only by traders and an occasional missionary in their early years in the colony.

As time passed and the population of Carolina grew, more and more land was granted on the fringes of the Yamasee towns. Cows from these nearby settlements were allowed to wander freely, and they frequently destroyed Yamsee corn fields.

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Pocosabo Town  
Beaufort County, SC

After repeated complaints about these encroachments, the Yamasee were finally granted a reserve in 1707. This reserve included a vast tract of land stretching from the Combahee River in the north to the Savannah River in the south.

Within this reserve were at least ten Yamasee towns divided into two groups—the Upper Towns and the Lower Towns. These two groups represented, in part, the major ethnic groups of which the Yamasee were composed. The Lower Towns, occupying the mainland fringe south of the Broad River, were mainly remnants of the interior Georgia Tama. The Upper Towns, on the other hand, were primarily occupied by Guale peoples who had been interacting with the Spanish and their missions along the Georgia coast since the 1580s. Pocosabo Town was one of the Upper Towns of the Yamasee.

The relationship between the English of Carolina and the Yamasee appears to have served both groups well, although the Yamasee constantly complained to the Indian agent and to the Indian Trade Commissioners about abuses by traders. These complaints continued throughout the time that the Yamasee were in Carolina, and the abuse by traders ultimately played a great role in the uprising that soon became known as the Yamasee War. Tired of their mistreatment by traders and deeply in debt, the Yamasee realized that their own population was diminishing at the same time that the population of Europeans and African slaves in Carolina was burgeoning. In a plot that involved not only the Yamasee but also the Creeks, Cherokees, Apalchee, and most of the indigenous groups still resident in Carolina, the Indians rose against the English in the Spring of 1715. The Yamasee, because of their proximity to English settlements, delivered the most devastating blow to the isolated settlements south of Charles Town, but they were soon repulsed. The final peace was not made until 1717, but only the Creeks remained hostile during that entire period.

Driven from Carolina, the Yamasee moved south to take up residence at St. Augustine among their former enemies, the Spaniards. Harrassed by other Indian groups allied to the English, especially the Creeks, the Yamasee population fell rapidly after the Yamasee War. When St. Augustine was surrendered to the English in 1763, many of the remaining Yamasee departed with the Spaniards as they withdrew to Cuba, Mexico, and other Spanish strongholds.

The archaeological remains of Pocosabo Town (38BU1279) possess a great potential for providing important information about this lost group of people. Pocosabo was occupied for a maximum of twenty years, and perhaps as few as ten years. This brief period of occupation means that the archaeological remains there should present a concise, almost snapshot view of the Yamasee way of life during their residence in Carolina. This is important because the Yamasee were trapped in a cycle of conflict between the two warring nations, the Spanish and the English. The Yamasee were first Spanish allies and then English allies

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and then they returned to the Spanish side. They were missionized early-on by the Spanish, but when they moved to Carolina no permanent missionaries were assigned to them. They were Indians, but they made their living in part by warring against other Indians and selling their captives through the Charles Town markets. The Yamasee were trapped between two powerful nations that were in constant and repeated conflict with with one another. The Yamasee switched their allegiance time after time, but in the end they were trapped in the shrinking Indian landscape between the English and Spanish colonial efforts.

Archaeological research at Pocosabo Town and the other Yamasee town sites should record the impact of this harsh period in the lives of southeastern Indian societies. Contained within the buried remains of the Yamasee is the record of the disruption of their traditional religion, trade goods acquired to replace traditional tools and implements, new house styles, changes in pottery vessel forms and decoration, perhaps crude churches or other non-traditional religious structures. It is for this reasons that Pocosabo Town and the other contemporary Yamasee towns are worthy of inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. They contain information that will divulge the full impact of English and Spanish colonialism on the Native American peoples of the southeastern United States.

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Major Bibliographic References

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Hann, John H., "Twilight of the Mocamo and Guale Aborigines as Portrayed in the 1695 Spanish Visitation." Florida Historical Quarterly 66 (1987): 1-24.

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Lanning, John T., The Spanish Missions of Georgia. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1935.

McKivergan, David A., Jr., "Migration and Settlement among the Yamasee of South Carolina." M.A. thesis, Department of Anthropology, University of South Carolina, 1991.

Milling, Chapman, Red Carolinians. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1940.

Snell, William R., "Indian Slavery in Colonial South Carolina; 1671-1795." Ph.D. dissertation, Department of History, University of Alabama, 1972.