

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 698181

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RECEIVED FEB 26 1978  
DATE ENTERED APR 24 1979

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bass Pond Site (38CH124)

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Kiawah Island

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

1st.

STATE

South Carolina

CODE  
045

COUNTY  
Charleston

CODE  
019

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: Forrested

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY



## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charleston County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

STATE

South Carolina

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Environmental Inventory of Kiawah Island

DATE

1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Institute of Archeology and Anthropology

CITY, TOWN

University of South Carolina

STATE

South Carolina

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bass Pond site (38CH124) was originally discovered by Mr. John Combes (1975), formerly associated with the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, during a reconnaissance survey of Kiawah Island. The project was funded by the Kiawah Island Company to assess not only the cultural resources, but the environmental resources as well. Although there may be other sites reported in this survey that meet the criteria of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places, the significance of those sites cannot be determined until intensive testing is conducted. Unfortunately, the dense forest cover has not allowed visual assessment.

In 1978, the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology was informed by the Kiawah Island Company that planned construction [redacted] would impact one of the prehistoric sites found by John Combes. At the request and funding of the Kiawah Company, the Institute conducted an archeological program of intensive testing to determine: 1) the size and extent of the site, 2) the cultural periods represented and 3) the significance of the site. The testing program was implemented during July and August of 1978.

The Bass Pond site is located [redacted]

The immediate environment is characterized by mixed forest containing palmetto and various species of oak, all of which appear to represent a secondary growth rather than that of a mature forest. [redacted]

[redacted] supports a transitional floral community adjusting to a salt marsh environment. This ecotone features a thick community of willow that blends with [redacted]

The faunal community is represented by many species of mammals, birds, and reptiles, occurring throughout the island. Immediate to the site are white-tailed deer, raccoon, opossum, squirrel, rabbit, mice, forest birds and water fowl, and reptiles which include alligator and various species of snake, and turtle. (Pelton 1975, Chamberlain and Chamberlain 1975, and Gibbons and Harrison 1975).

In order to obtain geological and cultural information from the site, a [redacted]

[redacted] At the intersection of the grid lines, one-meter squares were excavated to a depth of at least sixty centimeters by removing soil in levels of fifteen centimeters and sifting it through  $\frac{1}{4}$ " screen. A total of twenty six squares were excavated, three of which occurred on the small shell midden [redacted] The shell midden is composed mainly of oyster, is oval in shape, and is approximately one hundred feet by fifty feet. It is elevated about two feet above the forest floor.

The results of the excavation indicate that at least two separate human occupations are represented: 1) a Formative Period settlement (ca. 3,800 B.P.) and 2) a Middle Woodland settlement (ca. 2,500 B.P.). Both of the occupations occur

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Over a period of time prior to thirty-five hundred years ago, coastal sea levels of Georgia and South Carolina had peaked at an elevation approximately ten feet lower than at present (DePratter 1977). With the stabilization of the ocean, oyster beds flourished in the estuaries and tidal flats, where human populations began to exploit them. The results of their labor are manifest in the large shell midden accumulations located contiguous to the salt marshes. These large and impressive middens are represented either by oval, amorphous mounds of oyster shell or by rings of oyster shell (Crusoe 1974).

Found within the shell middens, which are assigned to the Formative Period, are faunal and floral remains that represent many terrestrial and marine species. Although oyster constitutes the overwhelming majority of shellfish remains, periwinkle, quahog, razor clam and whelk are found in smaller quantities. Cultural material also occurs throughout the middens, consisting of fiber and sand-tempered pottery, engraved bone pins, socketed antler projectile points, and the occasional occurrence of baked-clay objects and scattered human remains (Crusoe 1974; Waring 1964).

For many years archeological attention has been given to these impressive middens, with little regard for associations with a larger cultural system. As Michie (1976) has pointed out, there are contemporaneous sites in the vicinity of the large middens and shell rings that have been overlooked. These sites yield not only a parallel assemblage to the material culture found in the rings and middens, they also yield a more diverse assemblage. Included in these small shell middens, many of which are covered by salt marsh and inundating seas, is a complex assemblage of lithic bifaces, by-products of bone pin manufacture, human burials, food processing items such as grinding stones, quartz hammerstones, perforated steatite discs, and flake debitage resulting from biface reduction. Such items are not often found in the shell ring or large shell midden assemblages.

Based on the differing types of cultural materials present, Michie (1976) argues that the large shell middens (Type A) reflect intensive food gathering during a short period of occupation, while the small middens (Type B) reflect a long term habitation of diversified activities. In this model, Type B shell middens represent base camps from which people radiated out to hunting camps, while during specific seasons they congregated at the shell rings and middens located on the barrier islands.

The Type B middens, located in estuarine systems, are few in number and presently at least two of them are being eroded by tidal fluctuations. The Bass Pond site is the only known Type B shell midden not being affected by natural erosion and its

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY [REDACTED]

UTM REFERENCES

A [REDACTED]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [REDACTED]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [REDACTED]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION [REDACTED]

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James L. Michie

ORGANIZATION

Institute of Archeology and Anthropology

DATE

December 30, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

University of South Carolina

TELEPHONE

(803) 777-8170

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Charles E. Lee*

TITLE

Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2/9/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles E. Lee*

DATE

4-24-79

ATTEST:

*Bill Labovich*

RECORD ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

April 23, 1979

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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in the shell midden, as well as in the adjacent site area. The cultural materials representing the Formative Period occupation are bone pins manufactured from deer metapodials, finger-pinched Awendaw pottery, a lithic assemblage composed of bifaces, flake debitage, quartz hammerstones, shell beads, and by-products of bone pin manufacture. The Middle Woodland occupation is represented by fabric-impressed Cape Fear pottery.

Faunal remains found throughout the site consist of white-tailed deer, raccoon, turkey, rabbit, catfish, drumfish, turtle, and human skeletal material. Also included are the remains of shellfish, particularly oyster, with smaller incidences of whelk and quahog. Floral remains are represented by charred hickory nut fragments. These food remains, although occurring throughout the site, seem to cluster with the shell midden in greater frequency.

The Formative Period cultural material appears to cluster within the thirty to forty-five centimeter level, although it is found throughout all levels. The Cape Fear ceramics, which are later in time, are found in the upper levels of the site. Both of these ceramics appear greatest in number within the shell midden, and the midden refuge probably resulted from both occupations.

[REDACTED]

ed  
ary

Presently, the site is protected by an oak/palmetto forest, but with the increasing development of the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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significance to understanding human cultural processes during the Formative Period cannot be overstated.

Prior to the discovery of Bass Pond, the Daw's Island shell midden (38BU9) and the Vinning Creek shell midden (38CH121) represented the only Formative Period base camps known within South Carolina and Georgia. Unfortunately, these sites have nearly been destroyed because of their location in active estuarine systems. Also because of their location, excavation of what little may be left is extremely difficult. What these two sites have provided is the knowledge that smaller sites existed contemporaneously with the large, impressive shell middens and that these small shell middens reflected different patterns of human behavior.

In sum, the Bass Pond site has the potential to yield information about specific behavioral patterns within a Formative Period base camp. Through appropriate research design and implementation, the archeologist can learn something about such things as settlement and subsistence patterns in the estuarine environment, Formative Period population levels and social organization, the acquisition, manufacture and use of bifacially flaked lithic artifacts, and the technology involved in bone pin manufacture.