

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only  
received NOV 14 1986  
date entered DEC 24 1986

## 1. Name

historic Nipper Creek (38RD18)

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number [REDACTED]  not for publication

city, town  vicinity of Columbia, SC

state South Carolina code 045 county Richland code 079

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Fallow

## 4. Owner of Property

[REDACTED]

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Richland County Judicial Center

street & number 1701 Main Street

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29201

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1985  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina

# 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Nipper Creek (38RD18) is a stratified archaeological site located in the Piedmont physiographic province

center of the site. Ground visibility is high in this open, sandy area and numerous lithic scatters can be seen. The southern part of the site consists of two old fields and woods (See attached map).

The South Carolina Piedmont lies within the oak-pine forest region (Kuehler 1964). Much of the vegetation at 38RD18 consists of old field succession growth (pine, sumac, persimmon), although mixed hardwoods (hickory, holly, cedar) are present along the creek. The site differs geologically from most Piedmont sites because it is buried in deep sand from an active colluvial system.

### Cultural Affiliation

Identification of the cultural periods represented at the Nipper Creek site is based on (1) the limited work previously done by SCIAA archaeologists, which included salvage of a colonial house midden (South 1977), seven auger tests, and surface collections; (2) the contents of private artifact collections; and (3) testing conducted during three weeks of field work in 1985.

Cultural periods present at the Nipper Creek site include the Historic period: (late eighteenth-early nineteenth century); the Mississippian period: (A.D. 900-1500); the Woodland period: (200 B.C.-A.D. 900); the Late Archaic period: Otarre phase (2,000-1,000 B.C.) and Savannah River phase (3,000-2,000 B.C.); the Middle Archaic period: Guilford phase (4,000-3,000 B.C.) and Morrow Mountain phase (5,500-4,000 B.C.); the Early Archaic period: Bifurcate phase (6,800-5,500 B.C.), Kirk phase (7,200-6,800 B.C.), Palmer phase (7,500-7,200 B.C.), Taylor phase (7,900-7,500 B.C.), and Dalton phase (8,500-7,900 B.C.); and the Paleo-Indian period (9,500-8,500 B.C.).

### Assessment of Integrity

Disturbance at 38RD18 has been primarily due to human agencies, and the heaviest impact was undoubtedly the commercial stripping of sand from approximately one-third of the site in 1970. Auger tests show that cultural deposits have been removed completely in some portions of the sand-stripped area and only shallow deposits remain in other places. The differential preservation of the stripped area is also indicated by the presence of fire-cracked rock and debitage concentrations, which appear to be the scattered and deflated remnants of Archaic features and activity areas. The recovery of a fluted point from this disturbed area suggests that cultural deposits of the earliest Indian occupations of the region may still exist at this site. Auger testing and test excavations indicate that in the old fields and woods, Archaic cultural materials are buried too deeply to be disturbed by the plow zone. The occupational levels or horizons are stratified, well preserved, and contain charred hickory nut shells.

# 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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates N/A

Builder/Architect N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Nipper Creek site, [REDACTED], is a deep, stratified, Piedmont site buried by colluvial sand. Artifactual evidence documents 11,000 years of human activity at the site, from the first Paleo-Indian occupants of the region to historic times. Cultural periods and phases represented at the site by diagnostic hafted bifaces are Paleo-Indian, Early Archaic (Taylor, Palmer, Kirk and Bifurcate), Middle Archaic (Morrow Mountain and Guilford), Late Archaic (Savannah River and Otarre), Woodland (Deptford and Yadkin), Mississippian, and Historic (late eighteenth-early nineteenth century).

The Nipper Creek site (38RD18) is significant under Criterion D of the National Register criteria for evaluation: "...have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history." This fall-line site contains stratified Archaic assemblages, and appears to have been a habitation site fairly continuously during Archaic times (8,500-2,000 B.C.). The stratified record covering more than 6,000 years of human occupation provides a valuable framework for studying cultural change among extinct hunter-gatherer societies. Datable quantities of charcoal are present, and the five dates obtained from the 1985 test excavations range in sequence from 2,200 B.C. to 5,590 B.C. The geological processes at Nipper Creek are also relatively unique. A colluvial system produced the deep sand in which the artifacts at this Piedmont site are buried, and Nipper Creek is the first prehistoric site of this kind reported in South Carolina. The presence of a datable colluvial deposit provides a unique opportunity to reconstruct variation in soil movement and buildup related to climatic and floral changes in the past 12,000 years, including the change from Pleistocene to Holocene conditions.

### Research Potential

The site's primary value lies in the information potential of the dense prehistoric archaeological remains. Diagnostic artifacts from all major archaeologically known cultures in South Carolina are present, and are particularly abundant for the Early, Middle, and Late Archaic periods (8,000-2,000 B.C.). In the area of chronology building and the reconstruction of cultural history, this site can provide data for the following specific research questions:

1. Clarification of the positions of several Middle-Late Archaic cultures in South Carolina, specifically those represented by Brier Creek, Guilford, and Otarre bifaces, with respect to the currently known Southeastern sequence as reported by Coe (1964), Broyles (1971) and Chapman (1976).
2. The abundance of stone tools and lithic debris can be expected to expand our knowledge of tool assemblage content for different cultural phases, identify specific activities carried on at the site, and provide a basis for studying diachronic change in activities and site use.
3. This site exhibits a wide variety of lithic raw materials, with evidence for differential use of specific materials over time. Analysis of raw material availability and use can provide useful information on diachronic resource selection and procurement patterns, mobility, and curation.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property [redacted]  
Quadrangle name [redacted] Quadrangle scale 1:24,000  
UTM References

A	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	B	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	D	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
E	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	F	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
G	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	H	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

Verbal boundary description and justification

[redacted]

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth Y. Wetmore and Albert C. Goodyear  
organization S.C. Institute of Archaeology & Anthropology date July 7, 1986  
street & number 1321 Pendleton Street - U.S.C. telephone 777-8170  
city or town Columbia state S.C.

# 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.

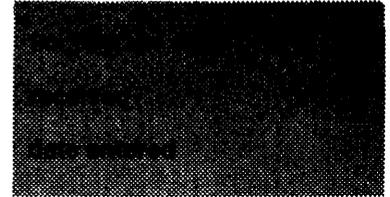
State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Charles E. Lee* 10/31/86  
Charles E. Lee  
title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
*John P. [unclear]* date [unclear]  
Keeper of the National Register  
Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration



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Continuation sheet 3

Item number 8

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4. An understanding of prehistoric cultures depends upon knowledge of the range of activities and site types associated with each phase. Less attention has been devoted to the study of fall-line sites than Coastal Plain and Piedmont sites. Data from Nipper Creek can be used to explore differences between the utilization of these three distinct environmental zones.

5. At a more general theoretical level, the Nipper Creek site can contribute to understanding processes of change in prehistoric societies. Several models of hunter-gatherer subsistence and settlement strategies have been proposed for the Southeast in general and the Carolina Piedmont in particular. One model (House and Ballenger 1976; Goodyear et al. 1979) proposes that riverine and (upland) interriversine areas were utilized in different ways for habitation and resource extraction purposes. An alternative model (Claggett and Cable 1982) hypothesizes that hunter-gatherer strategies were linked to environmental and climatic changes. Archaeological and geological data from Nipper Creek can be used to empirically test these models.

6. Finally, 38RD18 has great potential for providing information about past climates and vegetation as reflected in soil changes and geological processes. The charred plant remains present may provide data pertaining to past plant resources and to prehistoric subsistence or plant exploitation strategies. Such interdisciplinary studies are needed to show how this portion of the Southeast was affected by the major environmental changes which have taken place over the past 12,000 years.

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