

**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 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 any 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street & number In Catawba River approximately 1,200' upstream not for publication
from Nation Ford Railroad Trestle
city or town Rock Hill vicinity X
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 of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

I, hereby certify that this 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

Nation Ford Fish Weir
Name of Property

York County, 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)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
1	_____	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)

Category: AGRICULTURE

Subcategory: SUBSISTENCE

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: VACANT/NOT IN USE

Subcategory:

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.)

Nation Ford Fish Weir
Name of Property

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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)

- X 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.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
b removed from its original location.
c a birthplace or a 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)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/NATIVE AMERICAN

Period of Significance

ca. 1650-ca. 1750

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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
X Local government
University
Other
Name of repository:
Catawba Regional Planning Council.

Nation Ford Fish Weir
 Name of Property

York County, South Carolina
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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 17 <u>503760 3869280</u>	3 17 <u>503530 3869080</u>
2 17 <u>503580 3869350</u>	4 17 <u>503720 3869000</u>

___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 Paul Gettys, Senior Planner
 organization Catawba Regional Planning Council date 4 January 1999
 street & number P.O. Box 450 telephone (803) 327-9041
 city or town Rock Hill state SC zip code 29731

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name State of South Carolina
 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 the 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

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Nation Ford Fish Weir
Name of Property
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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Nation Ford Fish Weir is a double “V”-shaped fish trap or weir, constructed of rock, located in the channel of the Catawba River approximately 1,200 feet upstream from the railroad trestle at Nation Ford in York County. Shoals on the Catawba were ideally suited for the construction of weirs because they provide areas where shallow water flowed over bedrock. The weir was formed by the placement of long rows of rocks 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 end of the “V.” The current, flowing into the trap, would bring fish into the basket, from which they could not escape.

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 the formation is remarkably intact.

The age of the weir and the identity of the builders is unknown. The Catawba Indians inhabited the area surrounding the weir for some time prior to the arrival of European settlers. The weir is in close proximity to Nation Ford, a favorite crossing point of the river for the Catawbas, and to several documented Catawba villages.

When the first Europeans arrived, fish weirs were already in use by the Native Americans. Several reliable accounts describe the use and construction of these weirs. Fish weirs are documented in a variety of rivers in eastern states, and are known in South Carolina on the Savannah, Broad, and other rivers.

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Nation Ford Fish Weir

Name of Property

York County, South Carolina

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nation Ford Fish Weir has significance as a physical evidence of Native Americans during the period prior to European settlement in South Carolina. It is eligible to be placed in the National Register under Criteria 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 weirs were of necessity located at shoals areas, many have been destroyed in the development of dams for hydroelectric production, bridges, and other development practices. The condition and location of the weir make it a significant resource in understanding Native American culture.

The fish weir, because of its proximity to Nation Ford, is related to the historic context of the Resources of the Nation Ford Road Area multiple property submission. The ford was a major crossing point for the Catawbas and other Native American groups. Several of the principal Catawba villages were located in close proximity to the ford. It is likely that the fish weir was located in this vicinity because of the presence of Nation Ford and the access it provided.

The Catawbas and other Native Americans along the Atlantic Coast employed weirs along a number of streams. 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. Catawbas 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 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

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

²Speck, p. 25.

³Robert Beverley, The History and Present State of Virginia, in Four Parts (London, 1705; reprint ed., Chapel Hill:

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Nation Ford Fish Weir

Name of Property

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James Adair provided a similar description of the weirs in 1775:

The Indians have the art of catching fish in long crails, made with canes and hiccory splinters, tapering to a point. They lay these at a fall 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

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.

It is impossible to accurately date the construction of the weir. Archaeological 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. Meriwether wrote that Patrick Calhoun reported that settlers had repaired and were using an Indian fishdam across Little River in western South Carolina in 1765.⁵

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 localities.

University of North Carolina Press, 1947), p. 148.

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

⁵Robert L. Meriwether, The Expansion of South Carolina 1729-1765 (Kingsport, Tennessee: Southern Publishers, Inc., 1940), p. 169.

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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.

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Nation Ford Fish Weir

Name of Property

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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.

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Name of Property
York County, South Carolina
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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.