

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered.

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

1. Name

historic N/A
and/or common Duncan Island 36La60,61

2. Location

street & number Does not apply; an uninhabited island not for publication
city, town Martic Twp. N/A vicinity of congressional district 16
state Pennsylvania code 42 county Lancaster code 071

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input 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: recreation

4. Owner of Property

name Pennsylvania Power and Light Co. (George Aukamp, property mgr.)
street & number 1701 Manheim Pike
city, town Lancaster N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania 17601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds, Lancaster County Court House
street & number 50 N. Duke Street
city, town Lancaster state PA 17602

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
title Archaeological Site has this property been determined eligible? yes no
Survey Recording Program
date July 1982 federal state county local
depository for survey records William Penn Memorial Museum
city, town Harrisburg state PA 17120

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

Duncan Island is located in the Lower Susquehanna River between Lancaster and York Counties. [REDACTED]

Two spatially overlapping and registered (PHMC) sites are located on Duncan Island; 36La60 and 36La61. The former is on the upriver end of the island while the latter is on the northeastern half of the upriver side. Knowledge about the distribution of cultural deposits is imperfect, but according to collector informants and published accounts, it is known that prehistoric stone tools occur over the entire small island. Information derived from other small Susquehanna River islands (Bare, Piney, Poplar, etc.) shows that there are loci where the concentration of remains is the greatest, but generally the deposits are broadly and widely distributed. The whole island is a site.

Before construction of the power dams, the island was about 20 feet above water but with the present regulated water levels, it is usually only about three to five feet above normal water levels. Frequently, flooding occurs in late winter or early spring and the island shoreline is often scoured by ice. Duncan Island is wooded with scrubby stands of oak, hickory, silver maple, some conifers and dense understory of laurel, rhododendron and other woody plants. Soil zones are described by John Witthoft (1959). The uppermost level is the Plowzone of alluvial deposited silt. The A Zone is sandy loam, the B Zone is well compacted clay and iron salts while the deeper levels are Light Yellow uncompact sandy alluvium.

Over 50 years ago the island was farmed, but today there are no fields or permanent structures. Duncan Island is a popular spot for day and overnight camping by recreational boaters, fishermen and campers.

8. Significanc

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/		
<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

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Diagnostic Archaic artifacts (possibly 8000 B.C. to 1000 B.C.), predominantly in the form of spearpoints, were unearthed in the 1950s by John deBarbadillo of York, YMCA campers and other local collectors. John Witthoft (1959) visited the island and presented a generalized analysis. Barry C. Kent (1970) studied and reported on collections from the island. Witthoft's (1959) study holds the promise that the island is culturally stratified with multicomponent Archaic representations present. The Plowzone contains Woodland ceramics; A Zone, Laurentian-like Archaic tools in a variety of types and materials; B Zone, a Poplar Island complex similar to other local riverine manifestations consisting of broken river cobbles, other camp debris of siltstone, sandstone, quartzite, etc. and long, slender and thick spearpoints with tapered or stemmed bases; Yellow Sand Zone contains no camp debris and only finished tools that resemble upland and interior Archaic representations with large corner removed spearpoints (similar to the Long site near the Swatara Creek, Lebanon County) of Hardiston quartzite. Also present in this zone are thick long points of rhyolite and another series of small tapered stem or diamond-shaped points of deeply weathered argillite.

Kent's (1970) study of Archaic projectile points on the Northern Piedmont incorporates a typological and lithic analysis of the Duncan Island assemblage. Kent notes the presence and popularity of stemmed and tapered stem projectiles of siltstone, argillite and rhyolite.

Duncan Island has never been the subject of a professionally directed and controlled excavation. Intact and undisturbed cultural deposits are present to depths of at least 4 feet. Work on nearby river islands including Kent's (1970, in progress) work on Piney Island and Kinsey's (1959) excavation on Bare Island have provided a framework for the Piedmont Archaic. However, these two researchers are not in complete agreement. The former recognizes Early, Middle and Late Archaic components while Kinsey has argued that most of the representations belong wholly within the Late Archaic. The cultural sequence for the Lower Susquehanna Valley requires stratigraphy supported by radiocarbon dating. The Duncan Island site has the potential to shed light on the Piedmont Archaic sequence. Witthoft's hypothesis of an early inland and upland Archaic needs to be tested as does his hypothesis of a later Poplar Island riverine Archaic. Finally, Kent and Kinsey have recognized the base camp nature of certain river island sites such as Piney, Bare, Duncan and others. This concept requires amplification and study so as to place these island sites within the context of a total settlement system. Prehistoric cultural deposits on Duncan Island offer the prospect of contributing significantly to the understanding of these problems.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

- Kent, Barry C. Diffusion Spheres and Band Territoriality Among the Archaic Period...
1970 Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, PSU
- Kinsey, W. Fred Recent Excavations on Bare Island...Pa. Arch. 1959:29 (3-4).
- Witthoft, John Notes on the Archaic of the Appalachian Region. Am Antiquity 1959:25 (1)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 19 acres

Quadrangle name Holtwood

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A [REDACTED]
Zone Easting Northing

B [REDACTED]
Zone Easting Northing

C [REDACTED]

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See attached)

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

state PA code 017 county WA code 01A

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. W. Fred Kinsey, Director

organization North Museum, Franklin and Marshall College date July 1982

street & number P. O. Box 3003 telephone (717) 291-3943

city or town Lancaster state PA 17604

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Duncan Island, 36La60,61, Lancaster County

Continuation sheet

Item number

10

Page

1

For NPS use only

received

date entered

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION 10

4

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Prehistoric (predominately Archaic) American Indian artifacts are found throughout the island similar to nearby Piney, Bare and Poplar Islands. Undisturbed buried and potentially stratified cultural deposits are present.