

National Register Criteria, Archaeology Gets an A not a D

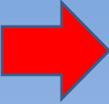
For many decades, archaeology sites, with few exceptions, have been determined eligible to the National Register under criterion D. We propose that Cultural Resource managers at state DOT's, FHWA, SHPO's, THPO's NPS, and the ACHP should encourage archaeologists to utilize criterion A in addition to criterion D, for a number of reasons:

1. Engaging the research via criterion A, in addition to criterion D, will help flush out why the site is important to history / precontact, in terms of what events associated with the site make it significant.
2. Historic and precontact contexts at the local, state, and national level will be more thoroughly considered, utilized, updated, etc... when considering criterion A along with D. By only using criterion D, we are leaving too many gaps in our research agendas that get us fundamentally away from the importance contexts have for Archaeology.
3. By considering sites to be potentially eligible under criterion A, inter and intra site research will be looked at from a different vantage point than just under criterion D, which will more fully assess a holistic series of cultural resource questions directed at an entire cultural landscape.

A Delaware DOT example,
The Gray Farm Site
7K-F-11



The National Register Bulletin Guidelines for registering Archaeological properties states:

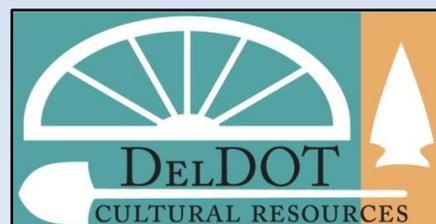


The Gray Farm Site (5,000 B.P. – present) is a multicomponent site, that is eligible under both criterion A and D because the precontact events that occurred there, will make a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our local and regional history, in terms of what we know about precontact tidal river use, stemmed projectile points, micro lithic tools, shaft abraders, precontact ceramics, and paleoenvironmental events that affected native populations cultural evolution.

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TRB Winter Meeting 2010

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

What are the Criteria for Listing?

The National Register's standards for evaluating the significance of properties were developed to recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have made a significant contribution to our country's history and heritage. The criteria are designed to guide federal, state, and local governments, agencies and others in evaluating potential entries in the National Register.

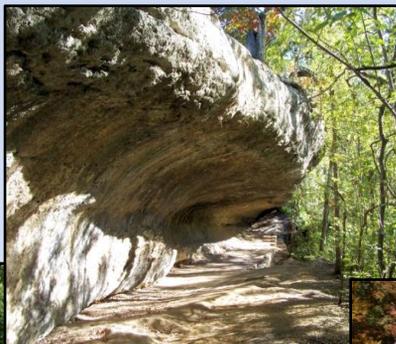
Criteria for Evaluation

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

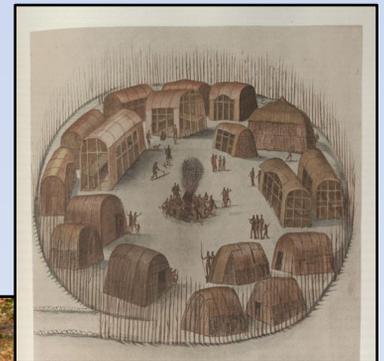
- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

HOW WOULD YOU APPLY CRITERION A TO THESE ARCHAEOLOGY SITES?

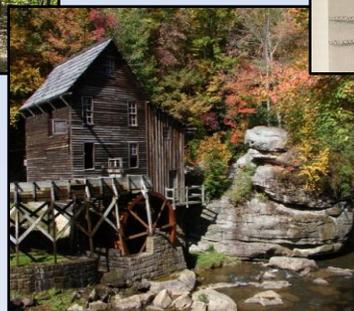
CIVIL WAR
BATTLE FIELD



LATE 1800'S
GRIST MILL



PALEOINDIAN
ROCKSHELTER



LATE
WOODLAND
VILLAGE

