

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mississippi
COUNTY: Coahoma
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: MAY 12 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Humber Site (22-Co-601)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
[REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN:
[REDACTED]

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
[REDACTED]

STATE CODE: [REDACTED] COUNTY CODE: [REDACTED]

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
J. F. Humber; Gary McWilliams; Chicago Mills; USG Levee

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Farrel

STATE:
Mississippi

CODE:
38630 28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Coahoma County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Clarksdale

STATE:
Mississippi

CODE:
38614 28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Division of Historic Sites and Archaeology, Department of Archives & History

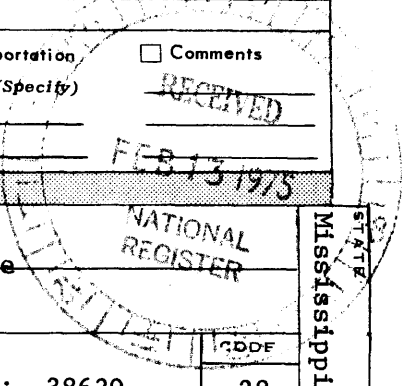
STREET AND NUMBER:
Post Office Box 571

CITY OR TOWN:
Jackson

STATE:
Mississippi

CODE:
39205 28

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Partially	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Humber Site (22-Co-601) represents the remains of a Late Mississippian Period village and cemetery complex [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Early two-thirds of this site is presently under cultivation. In an effort to minimize the amount of plow-related alteration, the owners are plowing less deeply than they ordinarily would. Nevertheless, sheet erosion related to farming activities, in addition to past river flooding, has served to remove an estimated two to three feet of protective topsoil, thus exposing the midden on the higher ground to plow disturbance. On the west side of the levee and crossing over to Island 63, the site is for the most part overgrown. This section of the site has suffered the most disturbance of all [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Even so, the very extensiveness of this site has served to insure that a representative portion yet remains sufficiently intact for excavation and meaningful analysis.

Judging from the reports of local informants and the data derived from recent excavations, the site originally had what must have been a main ball-field plaza flanked by several ceremonial mounds for temples and chiefs' houses. [REDACTED]

The excavation related to [REDACTED] construction, however, also exposed the extensive cemetery which occupies the entire site. The quantities of whole ceramic vessels, including Avenue Polychrome, present at the site, brought the location to the attention of area-wide pothunters who vandalized the site for the next forty years. Even though the landowners have refused them permission to excavate during the last few years, many amateur archaeologists have persisted. It is not yet known if the site, or at least its main ceremonial area, was palisaded. The extensive village itself appears to have been dispersed and consisted of clusters of families or dwellings spread out along the ridge levee. Ongoing excavation indicates that houses were of wattle-and-daub and were somewhat oval to rectangular in shape. Much more excavation will be required before a complete appraisal of the site's original appearance can be offered.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Ca. 1400-1700 A.D.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>All aspects of the cultural heritage of Native American peoples during this time frame.</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Humber Site (22-Co-601) is a Late Mississippian Period (ca. 1400-1700 A.D.) village and cemetery complex [redacted] side from the impressive size of the site itself, it is notable that this site lies well within the corridor and time frame of the passage of the DeSoto expedition during its famous crossing of the Mississippi River in 1541 A.D. It is generally agreed that DeSoto stopped at nearby Clarksdale before moving west to cross the river. Even if DeSoto or any of his expedition did not ever see this site, it represents the florescence or apex of native American cultural achievement north of Mexico, as well as being a prime example of the Late Mississippian Interaction Sphere as manifest through the Southern Cult (a native American religious movement with strong Middle American overtones). Recent excavation has established that at least two native American populations are represented at the site. One, possibly the older of the two, is represented by primary, semiflexed burials of narrow-headed individuals with which no ceramic or lithic grave goods have yet been discovered. The other is characterized by secondary bundle burials of round-headed individuals usually accompanied by ceramic grave goods. It is possible that a period of contemporaneity between these two populations existed, but this period of coexistence has not yet been definitely demonstrated. Although over 200 of the bundle burials have been disturbed by pothunters seeking the ceramic vessels for which this site is famed, much of the extensive cemetery yet remains. Analysis of the remains of a population of this size will add much to our knowledge of native American peoples in this area. The occupants of this site were primarily farmers--the charred remains of corn, beans, a melloon-like seed, and persimmon have been recovered. At least two basic types of house patterns appear to be represented, oval and rectangular. The excavation and analysis of the manner of construction, organization, and use of these will add much to our knowledge of the lifeways of these people. Trade items have been recovered and offer further clues to the workings of the Late Mississippian Period Interaction Sphere. Lastly, and that which has led to the extensive looting of this site, is the presence of numerous whole ceramic vessels of excellent quality and a variety of forms and techniques, not the least among which is the type known as Avenue Polychrome. These are ceremonial ceramics, and their analysis, along with that of everyday types, is perhaps one of the most significant features of the site.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Tesar, Louis Daniel and Donna L. Fichtner
 1974 "A Preliminary Report on Archaeological Investigations Conducted at the Humber Site (22 Co 601) in Westcentral Coahoma County, Mississippi", in Cottonlandia Notes, Volume 1, No. 1 (August). Greenwood, Ms.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		0	0	
NE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				
SE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				
SW	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 200 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Louis Daniel Tesar, Anthropologist/Curator

ORGANIZATION Cottonlandia Educational and Recreational Foundation, Inc. DATE Feb. 11, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:
Fld. Hdqtrs, Rt. 3, Box 95

CITY OR TOWN: Clarksdale STATE Mississippi 38614 CODE 28

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Elmer B. Millward

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date February 11, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Conwell
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/12/75

ATTEST:
Ronald M. Humberg
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5/9/75

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