National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

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I, hereby, certify that this property						
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See continuation sheet.						
determined eligible for the Natio						
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Signature of the Keeper

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Hills are a relatively narrow (8-48 km-wide) strip of uplands that stretch from the northwestern to the southwestern borders of the state (Morgan n.d.:1). The Loess Hills area lies to the east of the Mississippi River alluvial valley and rises abruptly at the eastern edge of the floodplain.

The Loess Hills are composed of loess, a tan-colored calcareous silt that forms a continuous deposit draped over the underlying topography. The accumulation of loess in this mantle is the thickest at the edge of the floodplain, as much as 30 m in some places, and gradually thins out toward the east.

The Loess

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It is generally agreed that the Loess Hills were formed during the Late Pleistocene (20,000 to 18,000 years ago), but the nature of their origin has been the subject of debate. Some geologists believe the Loess Hills were formed by colluvial transport, while others believe them to be of eolian origin.

Loess soils have a great deal of strength due to their calcareous nature. The lime within the soil cements individual particles together and gives the loess soils the ability to form steep angles of repose. Leaching, however, serves to weaken this cohesiveness through the removal of the lime, leading to erosion and severe gullying.

This erosive process is evident at the Anna Mounds Site where deep ravines have formed near some of the mounds. This natural process has caused the topography in areas of thick accumulation to become extremely rugged, commonly having 20 to 30 m of local relief. Soils derived from loess parent materials of the Loess Hills have a high fertility and are easy to work. If the problem of erosion is kept under control, such soils are capable of producing high crop yields (Steponaitis 1974:6-8).

<u>Previous Archeological Investigations</u>: The Anna Site has been known by several different names during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. During the nineteenth century, it was named the Voucherie Site, and later the Lewis Site after the families that owned the site. About 1900, Anna and Henry Robson acquired the site.

It has also been called the Robson Site. The site is sometimes called the Stowers Site after the present owners of the land. In recent years, Anna has become the name most commonly applied to the site in the archeological literature (J. Barnett, personal communication 1990).

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The Anna Site has also had different site numbers assigned to it in the archeological literature. It was originally listed by John Cotter as MAd-2 (1951:25), when he studied the site as a National Park Service archeologist. The Lower Mississippi River Valley Survey, directed by Harvard University, has published the designation for the Anna Site as 26-K-1 (Brain 1978:341). The current site number for the Anna Site, as designated by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, is 22-Ad-500.

The first archeological investigation of the Anna Site occurred in 1843 when a Dr. M. W. Dickeson, an amateur archeologist, visited the site. At that time, the site was called the Lewis Mounds, after the antebellum landowner. Dickeson dug into the side of a ravine at the site and found numerous human burials that contained grave goods, such as ceramic pottery, projectile points, and shell ornaments. The human burials were decomposed and fragile, but Dickeson noted that the skulls exhibited evidence of intentional deformation or head flattening. He also noted that some of the skeletons had been burned. Dickeson did not describe the mounds or other features of the site (Culin 1900:124-127).

The first physical description of the Anna Site was accomplished by the archeologist Calvin Brown, of the Mississippi Geological Survey, who visited the mounds in 1917. Brown produced the first map of the site which only pictured four of the eight mounds

. He described the largest mound (designated Mound C on his map) as being 15 m high and shaped like a truncated pyramid. Brown noted the remains of an earthen ramp on the east side of this mound. Of the other three mounds Brown described, Mound A was found to be 8 m, Mound B 4 m, and Mound D 2 m in height. Brown also mentioned the presence of two other mounds east of Mound A, but did not describe or map these features. Brown conducted excavations in the sides of some of the mounds and reported finding fragments of pottery, stone tools, and bones (Brown 1926:40-42).

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Calvin Brown returned to the Anna Site in 1924, with Warren K. Moorehead of Yale University. They conducted a surface survey of the site and excavated a trench into one of the mounds. In this excavation they noted fired clay daub, probably from the wattle and daub remains of a prehistoric structure, and pottery fragments (Moorehead 1932:162-163).

In 1931, James Ford, then an archeologist with the University of Michigan, made a surface collection of pottery sherds at Anna and several other sites in Mississippi and Louisiana. From his study of these collections, Ford attempted the first designation of pottery types from prehistoric sites as a means of establishing a cultural chronology. Ford identified three major pottery types which he called Natchez, Tunica, and Coles Creek (Ford 1936:111, 114). Several years later, John Cotter, archeologist with the National Park Service, re-evaluated Ford's surface collections. Cotter was able to identify the ceramic types of Plaquemine Brushed, Manchac Incised, and Anna Interior Engraved among Ford's specimens from the Anna Site (Cotter 1951:24-25).

In 1940, a detailed topographic map was made of the Anna Site by Jesse D. Jennings and C. A. Wagner, archeologists with the Jackson Field Office of the National Park Service, as part of their study of archeological sites along the proposed Natchez Trace Parkway Market Market This map showed for the first time all eight mounds. Jennings's and Wagner's numbering system for the mounds has become the standard terminology for discussion of the site. This map recorded the presence of a silo trench through Mound 5, and earthen ramps were shown on the two largest mounds, Mounds 3 and 6. The old county road through the site was shown hitting the edges of Mounds 4 and 7. However, the route of the road has since been moved away from these features (See Figure 4).

When Philip Phillips, of Harvard University's Lower Mississippi River Valley Survey, visited the Anna Site in 1947, he noted the silo trench Jennings and Wagner had plotted in Mound 5. Phillips also noted another silo trench in Mound 1 (Brain et al. n.d.; Ian W. Brown, personal communication 1990).

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The most extensive archeological program at Anna was carried out by John L. Cotter in 1948. Cotter excavated a 1.8 m x 3 m trench into Mound 5, along the southern wall of the silo trench the owners of the site had cut into this earthwork. This excavation was carried down in c. 10 cm arbitrary levels to a depth of 5.5 m. Analysis included study of 13 whole prehistoric vessels discovered by the site's owner, Colonel John H. Stowers, when the silo trench was excavated.

Cotter's excavation of Mound 5 identified a substantial basal midden covered by at least four stages of mound construction. From this excavation, Cotter found that the dominant ceramic types were an unspecified "clay grit plain ware" (now identified as Addis Plain), Bell Plain, Plaquemine Brushed, and Anna Interior Engraved. Also found in the midden deposits were small amounts of Australia Incised, L'Eau Noire Incised, Troyville Stamped, and Evansville Punctate (1951).

Cotter's study of Mound 5 revealed that it had been constructed in four stages following the midden occupation (See Figure 5). The dominant ceramic types from all construction stages were Addis Plain and Plaquemine Brushed. In the upper two stages of mound construction, decorated sherds of Hardy Incised, Fatherland Incised, Maddox Incised, and Anna Zone Incised were found by Cotter.

The decorated sherds from the excavation of Mound 5 were re-sorted by the Lower Mississippi River Valley Survey in 1976. Their analysis indicates that the basal midden and the first episode of mound construction date to the Anna phase (A.D. 1200-1350); that the second and third mound construction episodes date to the Foster phase (A.D. 1350-1500); and that the final stage of this this mound was constructed during, or at least occupied by the beginning of the Emerald phase (A.D. 1500), as indicated by a single sherd of Fatherland Incised. Only three sherds of the earlier Coles Creek, and Tchefuncte Traditions have been recovered, suggesting the possibility of Gordon (c. A.D. 1200) and Panther Lake (c. 100 B.C.) phase components in the vicinity of the Anna Site, but not at the site (Brain et al. n.d.).

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<u>Site Analysis</u>: As Cotter worked on the Anna Site, he also conducted excavations on a number of other sites, including Emerald Mound (designated an NHL in 1989), in conjunction with the development of the Natchez Trace Parkway. One of the major goals of Cotter, and other archeologists studying the prehistory of the Lower Mississippi River Valley in the 1950s, was the development of a prehistoric cultural chronology (See Figure 6). The present sequence of late prehistoric cultures was developed from the study of the superposition of ceramic types from a variety of type sites, including Anna.

From c. A.D. 600-1200, a prehistoric culture, known as Coles Creek, dominated the entire area of the Lower Mississippi River Valley. Beginning with the Anna phase (c. A.D. 1200), Mississippian influences emanating from the Middle Mississippi area appear to have caused a change in the Coles Creek culture. The most visible result of this cultural interaction was the construction of major earthworks throughout the Lower Mississippi River Valley. The combination of two cultures formed a hybrid culture--Plaquemine. The Anna phase, as exemplified by the Anna Site, represents the beginning of this new culture.

The Anna phase of the Plaquemine Tradition is restricted

Other areas of the Lower Mississippi River Valley area once dominated by the earlier Coles Creek culture assumed different characteristics of the succeeding Plaquemine culture. For example, contemporary with the Anna phase (A.D. 1200-1350) in the Yazoo Basin of Mississippi, there arose a ceramically distinct Plaquemine prehistoric phase, called the Winterville phase.

There is no archeological evidence of any earlier Coles Creek occupation at the Anna Site, although analysis of the decorated ceramics from this site does demonstrate a later Foster phase (A.D. 1350-1500) occupation (Brain et al. n.d.). The Anna Site is the largest Anna phase site within the cultural boundaries

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<u>Site Integrity</u>: The Anna Site experienced some erosion in the past from the clearing of the site for agriculture. However, most of the erosion is limited to the plaza area around the mounds, and not the mounds themselves.

found to be relatively intact while erosion had deflated the ground around these earthworks.

James Barnett, the Director of the Grand Village of the Natchez, who visited the Anna Mounds Site in 1990, found that in the 50 years since the Jennings and Wagner map was made, soil erosion has not increased significantly. He noted that the area appears to have stabilized due to the heavy vegetation that covers the site

As noted in the previous section, Mounds 1 and 5 were altered by the excavation of silo trenches, and Mounds 7 and 4 were slightly damaged by a county road. All of this occurred over 40 years ago and these features are now stable. The landowner,

has kept vandalism of the site to a minimum by his interest in the preservation of the site.



8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in	relation to other properties:	
I nationally state	wide locally National Hist	toric Landmark
Applicable National Register Criteria A B C X D	Criterion (5
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	E F G	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Thematic Framework	Period of Significance Anna phase	Significant Dates A.D. 1200-1350
I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous		and the second
American Populations		
B. Post-Archaic & Pre-Contact Developments		
12. Post-Archaic Adaptations of the	Cultural Affiliation	
Mississippi Valley	Plaquemine (Anna phase)	
C. Prehistoric Archeology: Topical Facets		1.
21. Major Contributions to the		
Development of Culture Histories		
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	S. D.S

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

<u>Summary Statement of Significance</u>: The Anna Site is a major prehistoric Plaquemine culture ceremonial center. The construction of the ceremonial mound complex at the site coincides with the florescence of the Plaquemine culture (c. A.D. 1200), when the indigenous Lower Mississippi River Valley Coles Creek culture began to interact with the Mississippian culture of the Middle Mississippi River Valley to form a hybrid culture--the Plaquemine-one of the major mound building prehistoric cultures in the United States.

The Anna Site is considered nationally significant under Criterion 6 of the National Historic Landmark Criteria for its contribution in defining the beginning of the Plaquemine culture in the prehistoric chronological sequence.

X See continuation sheet

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THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

- I. CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS: INDIGENOUS AMERICAN POPULATIONS
 - C. Prehistoric Archeology: Topical Facets 21. Major Contributions to the Development of Culture Histories

The Place of the Anna Mounds Site in the Plaquemine Culture

The current interpretation of the Anna Site is that the occupation of the site began with the Anna phase of the Plaquemine culture, continued on through the Foster phase, and ended about A.D. 1500, with the beginning of the Emerald phase (See Figure 7). There is no evidence of any earlier Coles Creek occupation at this site. This analysis of the cultural sequencing of prehistoric cultures is based on the pioneering work of archeologists like Jesse D. Jennings, John L. Cotter, Warren K. Moorehead, Calvin Brown, James Ford, and Philip Phillips. During the first half of the twentieth century, these scientists were involved in developing a cultural sequence for the Lower Mississippi River Valley from the study of a myriad of prehistoric sites and artifacts.

The major contribution by these individuals to archeological investigation in the Lower Mississippi River Valley has been the development of a relative sequencing of prehistoric cultures based upon the detailed study and analysis of artifacts from a large number of sites through decades of work. Ceramic analysis demonstrated the connection between the earlier Coles Creek culture and the later Plaquemine culture. This work has been extended into the historic period by using ceramics to demonstrate the relationship between the late prehistoric Plaquemine and the historic Natchez culture encountered by the French explorers of the late seventeenth century.

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Through the gathering of information and artifacts from the Anna Site, the beginning of the Plaquemine, in the Natchez Bluffs of the Loess Hills--the Anna phase--was first identified. The Anna phase, for which the Anna Site is recognized as the type site, represents a major departure from the earlier Coles Creek culture as indicated by the construction of major ceremonial mound complexes, a trait usually associated with the Mississippian culture of the Middle Mississippi Valley region. However, this new culture--Plaquemine-continues to demonstrate linkage with its Coles Creek past through the similarity of some ceramic assemblages, and a settlement pattern at Plaquemine mound complexes stressing usage by only a minority of the population.

In addition to the development of extensive earthwork complexes this change is indicated by the adoption of Mississippian ceramic technology, including shell tempering and a variety of Mississippian vessel forms. Further work is needed to assess the Plaquemine culture at sites, such as Anna Site, in order to more fully comprehend the dynamic interaction that produced the Plaquemine culture.

THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

- I. CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS: INDIGENOUS AMERICAN POPULATIONS
 - B. Post-Archaic and Pre-Contact Developments
 12. Post-Archaic Adaptations of the Mississippi Valley

The Plaquemine Culture

Plaquemine denotes a particular florescence in aboriginal culture of the Lower Mississippi River Valley. Generally dated between A.D. 1200 and 1680 (See Figure 6), it marks a period of massive mound building activity over a large portion of Mississippi and Louisiana. The first description of Plaquemine culture was based on the Medora Site excavations, located in Plaquemine Parish, Louisiana, which gave the Plaquemine culture its name.

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The Plaquemine culture represents a major increase in activities at ceremonial centers. Ceremonial centers existed in the earlier Coles Creek culture, but only after c. A.D. 1200, with the Plaquemine culture, did the pyramidal platform mounds become so immense, as illustrated by the size of Mounds 3 and 6 at the Anna Mounds Site. The Plaquemine peoples constructed mounds by applying thick mantles of earth and debris upon existing village sites, and natural landscape features. The Plaquemine people also increased the numbers of mounds built at ceremonial centers.

Major sites like Winterville and Holly Bluff (Lake George); (the latter was designated an NHL in 1964), erected by the Plaquemine people in the Yazoo Basin of Mississippi, had 23 and 30 mounds, respectively. The construction of large ceremonial mound centers was a trait of the Mississippian culture. However, unlike the Mississippian pattern of population nucleation around these mound centers, the Plaquemine mound sites seem to have had a relatively small residential population. The large scale earthwork center is a Mississippian culture trait. The "vacant" or ceremonial center designed for an elite minority is a continuation of the Coles Creek settlement pattern.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet				
Primary location of additional data:				
			Other State agency	
Event agency Local government				
			University Other Specify repository:	
Dep't of Archives & History, PO Box 571				
Jackson, Mississippi 39205				
B Laboration Laboratio Laboration Laboration Laboration Laboration Laboration Laboration				
See continuation sheet				

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the Anna Mounds Site have been establish by over 100 years of archeological investigations at this site. The ceremonial complex of eight manmade earthworks on the edge of the Loess Hills represent the entire resource as identified by the past archeological work and the site.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Mark R. Barnes, Ph.d, Senior Archeologist	(Original Draft by James Barnett)
organization National Park Service - SERO	dateJuly 24, 1990
street & number _ 75 Spring St., SW	telephone (404) 331-2638
city or townAtlanta	

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Jennings, J. D. and C. A. Wagner

1940 Sketch Field Map of the Anna Mound Group, Anna, Mississippi. On file with the Natchez Trace Parkway, National Park Service, Tupelo, Mississippi.

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Figure 3. The first scale map of the Anna Mounds Site, as drawn by Calvin Brown in 1917. From Brown (1926:40).



To correlate this map with the 1940 Jennings and Wagner (See Figure 1) note the following:

Brown Map

Jennings and Wagner Map

Mound	A	Mound	6	
Mound	В	Mound	5	
Mound	C	Mound	3	
Mound	D	Mound	4	

Brown noted, but did not draw in two mounds to the east of the main group, probably Mounds 7 and 8 on Jennings and Wagner Map. Brown also missed Mounds 1 and 2

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Figure 5. Cross-section of the excavation by Cotter of Mound 5, showing construction stages. From Cotter 1951:22.



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Figure 6. Prehistoric chronology of the cultural sequence of the archeology for the Natchez Bluffs, showing the position of the Anna phase. From Morgan MS.



PROPERTIES STUDIED FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

ANNA SITE Natchez,

WINTERVILLE SITE Greenville, Mississippi

In commenting on the possible designation of the properties identified above, you may find guidance in Section 65.5(d)(4) of the enclosed regulations.

The History Areas Committee of the Secretary of the Interior's National Park System Advisory Board will evaluate these properties at a meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 7, 1992, at 9:00 a.m. in the Director's Conference Room (#3119) in the Main Interior Building at 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC. The History Areas Committee evaluates the studies of historic properties being nominated for National Historic Landmark designation in order to advise the full National Park System Advisory Board at their meeting on Monday, August 10, 1992, at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the Many Glaciers Hotel at Glacier National Park, West Glacier, Montana, and will recommend to the full Board those properties that the Committee finds meet the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

Should you wish to obtain information about these meetings, or about the National Historic Landmarks Program, please contact Senior Historian Benjamin Levy at the National Park Service, History Division (418), P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; or by telephone at (202) 343-8164; FTS 343-8164.

If you have questions concerning the studies, which were prepared by Archeologist Mark Barnes of the National Park Service's Southeast Regional Office, you may contact Dr. Barnes at NPS/Southeast Regional Office, 75 Spring Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, or by telephone at (404) 331-2638; FTS 841-2638.

PROPERTIES STUDIED FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

ANNA SITE Natchez, Mississippi

As a private owner in the property identified above, you may concur in or object to its designation. Your comments may govern whether or not the property will be designated. You can find guidance for your comments in Section 65.5(d)(4-5) of the enclosed regulations.

The History Areas Committee of the Secretary of the Interior's National Park System Advisory Board will evaluate this property at a meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 7, 1992, at 9:00 a.m. in the Director's Conference Room (#3119) in the Main Interior Building at 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC. The History Areas Committee evaluates the studies of historic properties being nominated for National Historic Landmark designation in order to advise the full National Park System Advisory Board at their meeting on Monday, August 10, 1992, at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the Many Glaciers Hotel at Glacier National Park, West Glacier, Montana, and will recommend to the full Board those properties that the Committee finds meet the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

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