



206

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: Grace Archaeological Site
other names/site number: 22 IS 500

OK

2. Location

not for publication X

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul

JAN. 23, 2002

Signature of certifying official

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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

- 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
- other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Enita Martin Seibert 3/21/02

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Number of Resources within Property:
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Category of Property: Site

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	1	buildings
1	0	sites
3	1	structures
0	0	objects
4	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Domestic/*village site*
Religion/*religious facility, ceremonial site*
Funerary/*graves/burials*

Current Functions: Agricultural/*agricultural field*
Domestic/*single dwelling, secondary structures*

7. Description

Architectural Classification(s): N/A

Materials: N/A
foundation:
roof:
walls:
other

Narrative Description:

See Continuation Sheets

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Narrative Description

This is a relatively well-preserved mound group reported by Phillips (1970:511-513) in some detail. His description, based on a visit in the late 1940s, is partly repeated below (see Attachment Aa):

[REDACTED] The site consists of two large platforms, a slightly smaller structure of indeterminate shape, and one or more small remnants reduced by cultivation. Mound A, roughly circular and flat on top, is 60 meters in diameter and 12 meters high. Its original (assumed) rectangular shape has been obscured by erosion, and for the same reason the position of the ramp, if there was one, cannot be ascertained. Mound B, 45 by 35 meters by 5 meters high, has retained its rectangular shape somewhat better, but no ramp can be observed. Mound C is at present only a high spot in the field. Mound D, 45 meters in diameter and one-and-a-half meters high, is a doubtful structure. According to local information it was built in recent times. A through search under excellent conditions netted only half a dozen tiny sherds of Baytown Plain. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is a slight rise in the field that probably marks the location of a former mound. The condition of the field at the time of our visit, recently planted and very wet, made it impossible to check this. In general our investigation of the site was incomplete on account of unfavorable weather and crop conditions, and as usual the admonition set down in the field notes as to the advisability of another visit was not heeded.

Phillips' (1970:512) analysis of his ceramic collections indicated a major occupation during the Deer Creek phase (now Lake George and/or Wasp Lake phases), and a minor occupation related to the Mayersville phase (now Crippen Point and/or Winterville phases), altogether representing an occupation extending from about A.D. 1000 to possibly A.D. 1650.

The same year that Phillips presented the first formal description of Grace, Jeffery P. Brain authored a short article detailing early sites [REDACTED] (in 1970). Brain notes that a Scottsbluff point had earlier been recovered at the Grace site by a local amateur archaeologist.

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The presence of the point indicates that Grace may have been the scene of a minor Early Archaic occupation dating to ca. 7000-6500 B.C. (McGahey 2000: 76). Why such an early point was found adjacent to abandoned Mississippi River channels dating to the modern meander belt (Fisk 1944) was something of a puzzle.

Weinstein next examined the Grace site in 1978 and a discussion of it was included in the resulting survey report (Weinstein et al. 1979). Basically, the site was little changed from Phillips' visit in the late 1940s, and is illustrated in Attachment Ab. Specific comments noted that: (1) Mounds A and B (see attached photographs) were as described by Phillips, although there was one pothunting hole atop Mound A and seven atop Mound B; (2) Mound C was only about 0.5 m high rather than the 1.5 m reported by Phillips (see attached photograph of Mound C); (3) the probable mound reported by Phillips [REDACTED] still was represented by a slight elevation, but it lacked any evidence of midden or artifacts and may be a natural rise; (4) Mound D was as described by Phillips, but almost certainly is not an aboriginal structure.

Ceramics collected by Weinstein in 1978 confirmed the late prehistoric sequence recognized by Phillips. However, a collection obtained by the landowner of the site also was examined and revealed that the site indeed had a much greater time depth than previously recorded by Phillips. Numerous dart points related to a Late Archaic, Poverty Point, and/or Tchula period (ca. 3000 B.C. to A.D. 1) occupation were recognized (Weinstein et al. 1979: Fig. A-11). It was hypothesized that these points, along with the Scottsbluff point earlier noted by Brain (1970), actually were associated with a relict [REDACTED] channel that could be traced through the Grace site area on aerial photographs (Weinstein et al. 1979: A-19).

Although Weinstein did not conduct subsurface testing at the site, he recovered a sample of burned thatch from a plow furrow atop Mound C. That thatch obviously had come from an aboriginal structure that was being exposed by plowing. The sample yielded an uncorrected radiocarbon age of 260 ± 70 years B.P.: A.D. 1690 (UGa-2399). The date is quite late, but does fall within the range of occupation suggested by a reinterpretation of the site's ceramics offered by Brain (1989) and Williams and Brain (1983), to be discussed below. Also recovered by Weinstein was a cache of two pebble celts and a pebble celt blank uncovered by the plowing atop Mound C (Weinstein et al. 1979: Fig. A-10). Apparently, the plow had cut into a possible lithic workshop area.

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Weinstein revisited the site once more in the summer of 1989. Although Mounds A and B still were in excellent condition, a large two-story home had been built by the landowner between them, and the area south of Mound B had been land leveled for drainage purposes. This leveling had uncovered numerous post holes, trash pits, and several house patterns, along with a tremendous quantity of midden and artifacts. The landowner, James R. Wade, Jr., had attempted to record and map the features as they were being uncovered as he was cognizant of the importance of the locale. These features have since been covered by a cotton field, but their locations are roughly known and they should be available for future investigation.

Cliff Jenkins and Rob Morgan of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History revisited Grace in September 2001 to evaluate the present condition of the site. The site has changed little from the conditions reported by Weinstein in the 1970s and 1980s with the exception of the increased growth of vegetation on Mounds A and B (see attached photographs of mounds). The site area was in active cultivation with the exception of Mounds A and B and the lawn surrounding the two-story house constructed in the late 1980s (see attached photograph of house and Mound B). The depressions from the pothunting holes noted by Weinstein in Mounds A and B were still evident, but no additional damage has occurred to these mounds. The back lawn of the 1980s house now covers Mound C. The structure near Mound D (shown in Attachments Aa and Ab) had been razed and the mound was recently plowed, but no artifacts were observed on the surface. The land-leveled area [REDACTED] was in a recently harvested cornfield at the time of the site revisit. Therefore, ground surface visibility was minimal in this portion of the site. However, additional disturbances to this area appear to be confined to annual cycles of cultivation.

In addition to the research by Phillips (1970) and Weinstein et al. (1979), the Grace site has been briefly noted in other studies of the region. The earliest of these is perhaps the most interesting, as it entails a nineteenth-century description of what has since become a relatively famous artifact: the so-called "Lake Washington" or "Issaquena Disc." An illustration of this artifact was used for years as the logo of the Mississippi Archaeological Association, and it is included here as Attachment B after an illustration by William H. Holmes which was reproduced by Calvin Brown (1926: Fig. 182). Sir Daniel Wilson (1876: 318) first described the disc and noted that it was made of fine-grained sandstone and measured 8.5 inches in diameter and was 3 inches thick [Holmes (1906) later reported that the disc was one inch thick]. Wilson also illustrated the disc (1876: Fig. 73) and mentioned that it "... was found in two pieces, near Lake Washington, Issaquina [sic] County, Mississippi (Wilson 1876: 318).

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Marshall W. Anderson of Centerville, Ohio, also described the disc in a letter to James R. Gage of Mississippi. Anderson had previously dug in Mississippi in the early 1870s, and while there had stayed at Gage's home. Gage (1878:231) included the letter in his subsequent publication on mound investigations:

I also send for your acceptance and consideration the photographs of Two carved stones, the one is a copy of the disc obtained for me by my friend Dr. Robinson, of Lake Washington, Miss., and which was taken out of an Issaquena mound.... The first one, with its birds, serpents, and pipe border, was the moving cause of my subsequent investigations in Issaquena. The contemplation of this stone excited in me an archaeological interest I had never known before

Another important reference to the disc can be found in a book published by J. P. MacLean (1879: 110): "In 1870 there was found a tablet in a mound near Lafayette Bayou in Issaquena County, Mississippi." Significantly, the disc's location in a mound near Lafayette Bayou indicates that it almost certainly came from the Grace site, as Lafayette Lake once was known as Lafayette Bayou.

Phillips and Brown (1978: 203) subsequently illustrated and discussed the disc in their study on engraved shell artifacts and related "Southern Cult" material from the Spiro Mounds in Oklahoma and other areas of the eastern United States. Although those authors recognized the probable location of the disc find as the Grace site, they suggested that it may have been created at Moundville, Alabama, and then traded to Mississippi.

The most recent references to Grace can be found in several illustrations occurring in synthesis sections at the conclusions of the Lake George and Winterville site reports (Brain 1989; Williams and Brain 1983) and a study on Tunica Indian archaeology (Brain 1988). Those specifically naming Grace (Brain 1988: Figs. 190 and 194, 1989: Figs. 83 and 84; Williams and Brain 1983: Figs. 12.14 and 12.19) include a map illustrating early Mississippian contact in the Yazoo Basin (see Attachment Ca), another identifying the locations of Southern Cult artifacts from the Lower Mississippi Valley (see Attachment Cb), and maps showing settlement patterns in the Yazoo Basin during the Lake George and Wasp Lake phases. Other maps illustrating the distribution of different components throughout the history [REDACTED] based on a

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reinterpretation of the artifacts collected at the sites, also apparently include Grace, although the site is not named. Components of the Crippen Point, Winterville, Lake George, and Wasp Lake phases (Brain 1989: Fig. 82; Williams and Brain 1983: Figs. 11.15, 11.17, 11.18, 11.19, and 11.21) are illustrated, thereby substantiating the earlier estimates, based on recovered ceramics, that the Grace site was occupied almost continuously, albeit at different levels of intensity, from ca. A.D. 1000 to A.D. 1650.

Overall, the Grace site offers evidence of minor occupations during the Early Archaic period (ca. ca. 7000-6500 B.C.) and the Late Archaic, Poverty Point, and/or Tchula periods (ca. 3000 B.C. to A.D. 1), along with more substantial occupations during the late Coles Creek through late Mississippi periods (ca. A.D. 1000 to 1650). In the later case, the middle to late Mississippi period's Lake George and Wasp Lake phases apparently were the most prevalent occupations, at least in terms of artifact density.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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:

Property is:

- 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

Archaeology - Prehistoric

Period of Significance

ca. 7000 to 6500 B.C., to ca. 3000 B.C. to A.D. 1, and ca. A.D. 1000 to 1650

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation(s)

Early Archaic period, Shaw phase (ca. 7000 to 6500 B.C.); Late Archaic period, Old Basin phase (ca. 3000 B.C.); Late Coles Creek period, Crippen Point Phase (ca. A.D. 1050) through Late Mississippi period, Wasp Lake phase (ca. A.D. 1500 to 1650)

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance: See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet.**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
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Harvard University

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Statement of Significance

The Grace site is considered significant under Criterion D as it is likely to yield information relative to a number of important topics or historic contexts concerning both intrasite and intersite prehistoric settlement, prehistoric subsistence and exploitation patterns, prehistoric chronology, and late prehistoric culture contact. Each is reviewed below.

The Grace site contains the remains of at least three aboriginal mounds, two of which (Mounds A and B) clearly are pyramidal structures that served as the base for either a temple or chief's house. An extensive village area, marked by midden and artifacts, has been exposed by plowing and land leveling and indicates that occupation was not confined to the tops of mounds. Thus, different settlement and social patterns may be discerned for those people who occupied the tops of the mounds, the so-called village elite, as opposed to the more common folks who lived in the village area below the mounds.

This site was probably a prominent village of the Upper Steele Bayou region during the Lake George and Wasp Lake phases of the middle to late Mississippi period, and as such probably had contact with other similar sites in the area, such as Law, Arcola, Leland, and possibly Winterville. Extraregional contact also can be recognized by the Issaquena Disc, which may have originated in the Moundville, Alabama area.

Although subsurface testing was not conducted at Grace by any of the previous investigators, recent land leveling indicates that intact midden is present beneath the plow zone, and that features, such as trash pits, burials, and house patterns, are present. The pits in particular will allow for the identification of both floral and faunal remains, and aid in reconstructing the aboriginal diet of the site's inhabitants. It also is likely that well-preserved subsistence remains will be found along the edge of the Lafayette Lake swamp where boat landings and fish processing stations almost certainly were located. Recent excavation of an aboriginal canoe from a similar setting along Swan Lake (Fuller 1991) indicates that anaerobic peats and clays are present within such filled lakebeds and these provide an excellent medium for the preservation of perishable remains.

The site has an extremely long history of aboriginal occupation, beginning with the Early Archaic period and lasting almost to historic contact, and it is likely that careful excavation will

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allow for a more-through elucidation of its history. Particularly important will be excavations into the mounds and the midden areas beneath them, as these features may have been built up or accumulated during different occupation periods. The presence of unmixed assemblages from sealed contexts is of paramount importance to archaeologists who are concerned with fine-scale chronological and cultural studies, and Grace almost certainly will provide the opportunity for such research. Identification and analysis of the Early and Late Archaic, Poverty Point, and/or Tchula period components also are important topics for future research.

Lastly, the site has produced a small quantity of ceramics related to initial Mississippian cultural intrusion into the region (Brain 1989; Williams and Brain 1983), and further research at the locale may help to better understand this dynamic phenomenon of the late Coles Creek and early Mississippi periods. Thus, the Grace site may be able to complement the data acquired by Brain (1989) at the nearby Winterville site.

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Fisk, H. N.

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McGahey, S. O.

2000 *Mississippi Projectile Point Guide*. Archaeological Report No. 31. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Phillips, P.

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Phillips, P. and J. A. Brown

1978 *Pre-Columbian Shell Engravings from the Craig Mound at Spiro, Oklahoma*. Paperback edition, part 1. Peabody Museum Press, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge.

Weinstein, R.A., W.P. Glander, S.M. Gagliano, E.K. Burden, and K.G. McCloskey

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property [REDACTED]

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	D	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.**Boundary Justification:** See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Richard A. Weinstein/Senior Archaeologist	[Revised by Cliff Jenkins, Archaeologist, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, October, 2001]
organization: Coastal Environments, Inc.	date: August 20, 1991
street & number: 1260 Main Street	telephone: (504) 383-7451
city or town: Baton Rouge	state: LA
	zip code: 70802

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(s)

name: James R. Wade

street & number: P.O. Box 117

city or town: Grace

state: MS

telephone: (662) 873-2944

zip code: 38745

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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of the property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the UTM coordinates listed

Boundary Justification