

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

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

For NPS use only

received **OCT 14 1982**

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Claiborne Site (22 Ha 501)

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number [redacted]

not for publication

city, town [redacted] of

state [redacted]

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Unoccupied land

4. Owner of Property

name Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission

street & number P. O. Box 69

city, town Bay St. Louis N/A vicinity of state Mississippi

5. Location of Legal Description

Office of the Chancery Clerk
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hancock County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Bay St. Louis state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Journal of B. L. C. Wailes has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date August 16, 1852 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

7. Description

Condition Check one Check one
 excellent deteriorated unaltered original site
 good ruins altered moved date N/A
 fair unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Claiborne Site is situated atop a Pleistocene terrace formation

Marshes fill the estuary, except for the streams. This sandy terrace has some pine and oak trees around the margin.

Originally, the Claiborne Site consisted of a large, stratified horseshoe shaped midden composed of black earth and shells of the brackish water clam Rangia cuneata, with some oyster shells. In 1967 (Gagliano and Webb, 1977) the site had an outside diameter of approximately 660 feet and an inside diameter of 460 feet. Associated with this semi-circle, due east of its center at a distance of 1,060 feet, was a small conical sand mound, now destroyed.

Since 1967, the Claiborne Site has been subjected to clearing away of topsoil in preparation for land development by the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission. The site has also suffered at the hands of relic collectors who have carted much material off to be sold to antiquities dealers in New Orleans. Rumors of buried gold during the late 1960s and early 1970s further complicated this problem.

site.

The site today is considerably smaller than in 1967 when it was first mapped and tested. The present size and condition of the site have been partially determined by test excavations (1, 2 x 2 meter square; 3, 1 x 1 meter squares; and 15 deep augering to a depth of 2 meters) and an inspection of the surface manifestation of the black earth midden after the site had vegetation and underbrush cleared away by machinery. The site today runs nearly the length of the terrace bordering the gully; it is approximately 400 feet long and 75 feet wide. Black earth midden, exposed on the surface, runs from the surface to depths between 1-3/4 feet to 4 feet deep. This black earth midden contains tremendous amounts of faunal materials, artifacts, and features.

8. Significance

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1500 B.C.–800 B.C. **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Claiborne Site (22 Ha 501) still retains the potential to provide valuable information, especially as it relates to subsistence patterns during the Poverty Point Period in a coastal situation. Test excavations conducted during the late spring and early summer of 1982 (Lauro, n.d.) have provided a large sample of faunal materials from a black earth midden. Preliminary analysis of these remains indicate a variety of species being exploited in a riverine situation. These include white tail deer, squirrel, rabbit, crane, turkey, racoon, opossum, catfish, drum, clam, and oyster. Three pieces of human crania were also recovered. Further testing should be conducted utilizing water screening techniques through fine mesh screens to recover any floral remains that may possibly be located in the midden.

Several features were recorded that have been interpreted as cooking hearths or fire pits. This fact coupled with the evidences of butchering techniques and possibly food preparation (some bone is badly charred) strengthens the value of this site regarding several aspects of the subsistence system as it relates to the Poverty Point culture in a coastal situation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gagliano, Sherwood M. and Clarence H. Webb
1970 Archaic-Poverty Point Transitions at [REDACTED] Southeastern
Archaeological Conference, Bulletin 12.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property [REDACTED]

Quadrangle name [REDACTED] Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References [REDACTED]

A [REDACTED]
Zone Easting Northing

B [][] [][][][] [][][][][]
Zone Easting Northing

C [][] [][][][][] [][][][][]

D [][] [][][][][] [][][][][]

E [][] [][][][][] [][][][][]

F [][] [][][][][] [][][][][]

G [][] [][][][][] [][][][][]

H [][] [][][][][] [][][][][]

Verbal boundary description and justification

Test excavations reveal that the site is restricted to the Pleistocene terrace edge, directly east of Mulatto Bayou and is bordered on the north by a gully which has been dredged to provide deep water access for shipping to a plant on the opposite side of the

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James T. Lauro, Archaeologist

organization Mississippi Department of Archives and History date July 30, 1982

street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 354-7326

city or town Jackson state Mississippi

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *[Signature]*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date October 6, 1982

For NPS use only

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

date 11/19/82

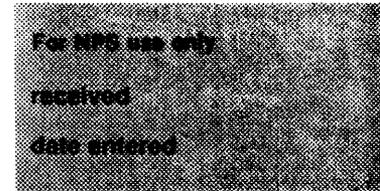
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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Claiborne Site, Hancock County,

Continuation sheet Mississippi

Item number 9 and 10

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9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lauro, James

n.d. The Claiborne Site: A Cooperative Effort in Conservation. Mississippi
Archaeology.

Webb, Clarence H.

1977 The Poverty Point Culture. Geoscience and Man, Volume XVII. School
of Geoscience, Louisiana State University.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

