

PH0501824

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 2 1977
DATE ENTERED	APR 14 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Sturdivant Fishweir

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

[REDACTED]

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Rosetta

STATE

CODE

[REDACTED]

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. Sidney Johnson

STREET & NUMBER

Route #1

CITY, TOWN

Crosby

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Mississippi

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Amite County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Liberty

STATE
Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Mississippi Archaeological Survey

DATE

September, 1975

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE
Mississippi

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sturdivant fishweir consisted basically of two rows of pine stakes converging in a "V" shape, with the wide end of the "V" upstream (see map and photograph no. 1). The area covered by the recorded remains is approximately ninety by seventy-five feet, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The weir was constructed by driving pine poles approximately three inches in diameter into the river bottom after first sharpening them by splintering, chopping, or burning and abrading. Whole canes, possibly in bundles, were placed erect just inside the poles. Inside the whole canes were placed split cane mats which were attached to the whole canes and the poles (see photograph no. 2). Apparently, repairs were made occasionally, as evidenced by the radiocarbon dates (see statement of significance) and the fact that earlier mats were penetrated by a later series of poles which in turn had their own associated canes and cane mats (see photograph no. 3).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sturdivant fishweir is a remarkable example of the natural preservation of a prehistoric structure of perishable materials. As far as the writer is aware, this structure is only the second prehistoric wooden fishweir reported in North America, the Boylston Street fishweir being the first (Johnson:1942). It is possible that other parts of the weir, yet undiscovered, remain buried in the river bank.

When a severe flood [REDACTED] caused some channel realignments, the site of the fishweir was exposed. The tops of most of the stakes were snapped off as the upper strata of the river bank slid into the stream.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History made an extensive effort in 1975 to record as much of the structure as possible and to obtain a large sample of the stakes and some of the cane matting for preservation and study. Samples of both of these items have been treated with polyethylene glycol and appear to be stabilized. The preserved wooden material has revealed much concerning woodworking techniques of the period in which the weir was made. Sections of certain stakes of pine were also retained for a dendrochronological study. It may be possible to ascertain for the site a floating chronology that will enable the accurate relative dating of certain segments of the structure, which, according to radiocarbon dates and evidence of repairs, seems to have been used for a long time. Investigation of a nearby stand of virgin pine may then tie down the chronology. Radiocarbon samples yielded dates of 1460+ 65 A.D. (UGA 1115), 1480+ 65 A.D. (UGA 1114), 1615+ 65 A.D. (UGA 1142), and 1630+ 60 A.D. (UGA 1141).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Johnson, Frederick.
1942 The Boylston Street Fishweir. Papers of the Robert S. Peabody
Foundation for Archaeology. Andover, Massachusetts.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____
UTM REFERENCES

A _____
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C _____

B _____
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Since much of the site is under the water table, the exact boundaries cannot
be determined. _____

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Samuel O. McGahey, archaeologist

ORGANIZATION
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE
March, 1977

STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE
(601) 354-6218

CITY OR TOWN
Jackson

STATE
Mississippi

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____ STATE X 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 *Elmer R. Hilliard*

TITLE **State Historic Preservation Officer** DATE **May 30, 1977**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST: *Nathaniel Cole*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *4/14/78*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE *4.12.78*