

PH0509281

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 25 1977
DATE ENTERED	JUN 23 1978

# 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

Bayou Pierre Site

AND / OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF  
CODE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Fourth

COUNTY

CODE

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

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

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

L. B. Allen

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Chancery Clerk  
Claiborne County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Port Gibson

STATE

Mississippi 39150

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Archaeological Survey of Claiborne County, Mississippi

DATE

1972

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
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bayou Pierre Site was first recorded in 1971-72 by a Harvard University survey team, which was studying the [REDACTED] in an effort to define settlement patterns and establish a chronology based on ceramics. A team from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, surveying Claiborne County in 1973 to determine the effects of the construction of a nuclear generating facility at [REDACTED] visited the site but gave it only cursory attention, since it would not be adversely affected by the project. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was entered in the National Register of Historic Places as a result of the same survey.

[REDACTED] the Bayou Pierre Site comprises four mounds and a village area [REDACTED]. The mounds are arranged in an irregular pattern, mounds B, C, and D forming a triangle south of mound A, which is approximately 5 meters high and which was probably the dominant mound of the group. Mound A was damaged by an old road, which cut through its northeast portion (existing F.A.S. 1302); the other three mounds have been plowed down and are visible only as slight rises. The mounds lie in the center of an approximately 3-acre cultivated area.

Cultural material, thinly scattered over the site, is most plentiful on the [REDACTED] an indication that this open area roughly bordered on three sides by mounds was a village and plaza area. Ceramics are most abundant on the mounds. Just how the village and plaza were laid out in relationship to the mounds cannot be determined because of the irregular mound arrangement. As was the case with most such structures, the mounds probably served as platforms for important buildings. Houses of lower social classes usually surrounded the plaza.

The Harvard ceramic analysis (Brown 1973) indicates that initial occupation of the site took place during the Sundown Phase of the Coles Creek Period (A.D. 800-900). It remained a small village from that time until the Anna Phase of the Plaquemine Period (A.D. 1200-1500), when mound construction began and Bayou Pierre became a regional center. During the Natchez Phase of the Plaquemine Period (A.D. 1500-1700), the site suffered the same fate as many other large centers, which were reduced to small villages when the population of the region shifted. The site was later abandoned.

Current highway construction plans call for a new road that will cut through the village and plaza area, to the southwest of mound A. The road will not affect any of the mounds. Archaeologists from the Mississippi State Highway Department will be at the site during construction and will take whatever measures may be necessary to protect the site.

# 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bayou Pierre Site, once one of the most impressive mound groups in Claiborne County, is significant because of its potential for the study of prehistoric settlement patterns and artifact distribution patterns within the site itself.

The exact nature of and reason for aboriginal population shifts within the area have never been fully explained. Excavation at the Bayou Pierre Site could help determine why certain sites became regional centers and why they were subsequently abandoned. It is not known why some sites were multi-component and others were not, and why some locations were favored over others by people of successive cultures. Since Bayou Pierre is a multicomponent site, changes in village layout could be useful in suggesting patterns of cultural change. Almost nothing is known about the use of activity areas at sites in the Bluff District. Concentrations of artifacts about the major mound at Bayou Pierre suggest that certain areas of the site were used for specific activities. Excavations there could lead to an increased understanding of activity patterns and social organization. Finally, as is the case with most other sites in this region, no lithic study has been undertaken at Bayou Pierre. Such a study could reveal much about specific functions of tools and sources of lithic materials.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brookes, Samuel O. and Byron Inmon  
 1973 Archaeological survey of Claiborne County, Mississippi. Mississippi Archaeological Survey, Report 3. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 

UTM REFERENCES

A   
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C 

--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--

  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D 

--	--	--	--	--	--

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION



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. Brookes, Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

September 27, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 36

TELEPHONE

(601) 624-2550

CITY OR TOWN

Clarksdale

STATE

Mississippi 38614

# 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

*Elmer R. Hilliard*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 16, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

*Walter Cole*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6-23-78

DATE 6-6-78

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Ian W.

1973 Settlement patterns in the bluff area of the [REDACTED].  
Unpublished honors thesis, Harvard University.