

PH 0501409

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED JUN 15 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 Rufus Davis Site (22-Co-525)
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER [REDACTED] NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY/TOWN [REDACTED] CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE [REDACTED] COUNTY [REDACTED]

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME James W. Smith
STREET & NUMBER Indian Mound Subdivision
CITY/TOWN Clarksdale VICINITY OF STATE Mississippi

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Coahoma County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY/TOWN Clarksdale STATE Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Mississippi Archaeological Survey
DATE 1968 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
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rufus Davis Site, [REDACTED] consists of a large, well-preserved Mississippi Period platform mound measuring 145 feet by 150 feet by 12 feet high. [REDACTED]

Calvin Brown, who first recorded the site (1926:106), found a large mound topped by a house, and a small tree-covered mound approximately 150 yards to the southwest. He found many potsherds between the large mound and the river bank.

Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951:53,323) recorded a ceremonial center consisting of a "village site with [a] large rectangular platform mound" 12 feet high and a small conical mound. Finding mostly Baytown Period potsherds, they suggested early to middle Baytown Period occupation of the site. Their seriation chart (1951:Fig. 19), however, records the presence of various ceramic types common to every cultural period from Tchula through Mississippi, as well as the presence of daub, a local characteristic of the Mississippi Period. Phillips (1970:Fig. 446) places the site in the Peabody Phase of the Coles Creek Period. Brain evidently considers it to be later (see statement of significance).

When the Mississippi Archaeological Survey visited the site in 1968, a house, then the residence of George McCaughn, was still standing atop the large mound. The small mound, measuring 20 feet by 30 feet by 2 feet high, could be seen in a cultivated field, the trees having been removed. A few Baytown Period sherds and some daub were found on this small mound, which was slowly being destroyed by cultivation.

In 1969 the present owner of the large mound, James Smith, bought the property on which it rests, tore down the old house on the mound, and built a new house about 40-50 feet south of the mound. Local collectors report that some daub was exposed in the toe of the mound during construction of a driveway between the mound and the house. This indicates the possible presence of burned Mississippi Period structures on or under the large mound. The small mound has apparently been destroyed in the construction of a subdivision [REDACTED]

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 Rufus Davis Site is archaeologically significant because it comprises a well-preserved Mississippi Period platform mound probably containing undisturbed structural remains and historically significant because of its possible connection with the 1541 DeSoto expedition through the present state of Mississippi.

Mississippi Period mounds in a good state of preservation are becoming increasingly rare [redacted] and those remaining should be preserved. This particular example does not appear to be endangered at present.

Brain indicates that Rufus Davis could be the second town of Quizquiz mentioned in the Ranjel narrative of the DeSoto expedition. Although very few potsherds of the DeSoto time period were collected there, its location with respect to other sites thought to be towns visited by DeSoto leads one to believe it may have been the Quizquiz town. Brain says that "Rufus Davis seems to satisfy the conditions dictated by the narratives. If occupied in 1541, it was a small village and not the type normally of interest to DeSoto. For this reason, Ranjel says they passed it by after collecting the maize to be found there, and other narratives forget it entirely" (Brain, Toth, Rodriguez-Buckingham 1974:260).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brain, Jeffrey P., Alan Toth, and Antonio Rodriguez-Buckingham
1974 Ethnohistoric archaeology and the DeSoto entrada into the Lower Mississippi Valley.
Conference on Historic Site Archaeology, Papers 1972, Vol. 7, pp. 260-62.

Brown, Calvin S.
1926 Archaeology of Mississippi. Mississippi Geological Survey, University,
Mississippi.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

	B										
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING								
C											

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the site is the outer limits of the mound.

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

John M. Connaway, Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION Clarksdale Archaeological Office
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE
June, 1977

STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 36

TELEPHONE
(601) 624-2550

CITY OR TOWN
Clarksdale

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 July 19, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *William Cole*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/15/78

DATE 6-6-78