

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB - 7 1984  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Salomon (Salmon) Site

and/or common N/A

2. Location

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 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military

4. Owner of Property

name W.T. Salmon

street & number Salmon Planting Company

city, town Coahoma N/A vicinity of state Mississippi

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number First Street

city, town Clarksdale state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Lower Miss. Survey, Harvard U.  
title Miss. Archaeolog. Survey, A.&H. has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1940-1947 Harvard; 1968 Archives & Hist.  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Peabody Museum, Harvard; Miss. Dept. Archives & History  
city, town Cambridge Mass.  
Jackson state Miss.

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The site was first reported by Calvin Brown, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The group has not yet been surveyed and studied" (1926:106). The "recent burials" are referred to as Hull Cemetery on the 1932 Marks quadrangle. This cemetery still exists atop Mound A (see sketch map #1), but is overgrown and uncared for, many of the stones being broken and overturned. The earliest death date observed in the most recent visit to the site (November 1983) was 1855, but earlier dates may have been obscured by brush or overturned stones.

Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951:51) described the site as a "large village site with large rectangular platform mounds and small mounds in plaza arrangement." They surveyed the site in 1947 and prepared the appended sketch map #1. In their publication (1951), it was misnamed "Salomon", even though the correct name "Salmon" is used on the sketch map, and it has been recorded incorrectly ever since. They go on to give the following information (1951:320): the plaza length is approximately 400 feet (122 m); the large rectangular Mound A is 27 feet (8.2 m) high, has a ramp and apron, and is oriented southeast; there are four other rectangular and six square mounds; refuse on the site is scanty; the site type is considered a small ceremonial center; and the cultural time range is Baytown through Early Mississippi periods.

In light of recent (November 1983) observations, some discrepancies in the foregoing data should be pointed out. As indicated on sketch map #2, adapted from map #1, the plaza area, which is essentially devoid of cultural material, is surrounded by heavy concentrations of finely broken (by plowing) daub, an indication of rows of structures. [REDACTED] southeastern limit of the plaza, since daub is abundant on the opposite side of it. Thus, the plaza is no more than about 225 feet (68.6 m) long, not 400. Mound A remains essentially unchanged, but has an apron on both flanks, not just one as shown on map #1. The ramp is still visible, but is steep, having suffered some erosion, and the lower end is partially plowed away. Of the 11 mounds mentioned, only 5 are shown on map #1, and Mounds B and E no longer exist. Scantiness of refuse is debatable. There are very heavy concentrations of daub over much of the site, but potsherds and lithics are scattered and in no great abundance. Faunal remains are only found in a few small areas. The time range is more extensive, as indicated by Phillips (1970:Figures 444-447), who places it in the Marksville, Baytown, Coles Creek, as well as Mississippi periods.

The site suffered the loss of Mound B, the second largest, in 1959 when the county road department hauled it off completely for road fill, with the owner's consent. A dragline operated atop the mound, removing it into dump trucks and, in the process, uncovered (according to local collectors who were on-site) numerous human burials, as well as a number of artifacts. One burial, near the northeast side, reportedly consisted of a flexed child with a Baytown Plain pottery disc, drilled through the center, resting on its chest just below the chin, indicating a pendant. Other artifacts reported included about 20 large chunky stones, all indented on both sides; a large, ground and polished stone celt; a Carson Red-on-Buff ceramic human foot effigy; and, oddly, a collection of 23 projectile points, 3 preforms, 3 point distal ends, and one blade-like flake, all but two of which were made of Fort Payne chert.

(see continuation sheet)

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

Specific dates N/A

Builder/Architect N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Information potential lies in the undisturbed large mound and the smaller mound [redacted] as well as in sub-plowzone features beneath the small house mound and other disturbed house sites surrounding the plaza area, as evidenced by large concentrations of daub and other refuse. Faunal remains, concentrated in the house mound and in an area between it and the large mound, indicate a potential for significant data recovery pertaining to local food resources and procurement. Since it is believed that this site was essentially a small ceremonial center, rather than a village (Phillips, Ford, & Griffin 1951:316), it is significant in its potential for yielding data on socio-religious activities as a major site function, rather than on ordinary village activities. In this respect, the relationship between the large, undisturbed ceremonial mound and the layout of the various houses surrounding the plaza, along with their functions in the socio-religious framework, becomes of prime importance. Though much of the upper portions of these house sites has been destroyed by plowing, there are most likely subsurface postmold patterns and other features remaining, as witnessed at other such sites after excavation, from which data can be extracted and cultural inferences can be made. Phillips, Ford, & Griffin state that such sites are:

...primarily...ceremonial centers rather than actual village sites; This is indicated by the paucity of refuse and the fact that most of the material found has come down from the houses that stood on mound tops or on low elevations around the plaza area. Not enough houses are indicated for the substantial populations which must have constructed and used these centers. Probably the people who used each of these mound groups lived scattered through the surrounding country ... (1951:316).

Small Mississippi period farmsteads have been recorded in this general area and, in this respect, the Salomon site presents an opportunity for study of the inter-relationships between a ceremonial center and various small settlements supporting it. Phillips (1970:Figure 447) places the site in the Parchman Phase of the Mississippi period. Excavations at Wilsford, a nearby ceremonial site, also of this phase, have yielded unusual house styles, all supported on platforms. Investigations at Salomon could show if such houses are also present there, and might thus provide data on their construction techniques and purpose that were incomplete at Wilsford, as well as any inter-relationship between the two supposed ceremonial centers. Other phases to which Salomon is assigned by Phillips (1970:Figures 444-446) are Dorr (Marksville), Coahoma (Baytown), and Peabody (Coles Creek), based on surface sherd collections. Thus, other minor comparative data may also be available for studies of local cultural systems of these periods. Finally, there are few such sites with intact, large mounds remaining [redacted], many having succumbed to the bulldozer for expansion of agricultural lands. Salomon provides one of these few sites where there remains any potential at all for cultural data extraction, and in this respect, it should be preserved.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property [REDACTED]

Quadrangle name [REDACTED]

Quadrangle scale [REDACTED]

UTM References

A [REDACTED]  
Zone Easting Northing

[REDACTED]  
Zone Easting Northing

C [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

G [REDACTED]

F [REDACTED]  
H [REDACTED]

Verbal boundary description and justification

(see continuation sheet)

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Connaway, Survey Archaeologist

organization Miss. Dept. of Archives & History date November 18, 1983

street & number 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  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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Kenneth H. P. Pool*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date FEB. 1, 1984

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

*John Melvyn Byers* Entered in the National Register date 3/8/84  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Chief of Registration date

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The points include Pontchartrain, Mud Creek, Pickwick, and several unidentified types, ranging in time between c. 2,000 B.C. and 400 A.D., appearing somewhat out of place in this mound. Many such points are found in northeast Mississippi and Alabama with cremations, none of which were reported from Salomon.

The size, shape, and contents (except for the Fort Payne artifacts) of Mound B would indicate a Mississippi period occupation. Earlier occupations of the Marksville, Baytown, and Coles Creek periods are suggested by Phillips (1970:Figures 444-446), but other than Mississippian, Baytown seems most prevalent. The Fort Payne artifacts are the only indication of Archaic at the site, but may have been curated or collected elsewhere by the later inhabitants

Mound E, [redacted] is also gone, apparently plowed away, eroded, or hauled off. This was noted when archaeologists with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History's archaeological survey visited the site in 1968. The site has remained relatively unchanged since then, with the exception of some erosion of Mound C from cultivation. Only Mounds A, C, and D were still present (see sketch map #2). Mound A measured approximately 325 x 220 feet (99 x 67 m) at its base. Adjoining its southwest and northeast ends are low aprons about 4 feet (1.2 m) high, possibly house mounds, shown in photos #1 and #2 and on sketch map #2.

Mound D, [redacted], was smaller, measuring approximately 150 x 120 feet (46 x 37 m) at its base and c.7 feet (2.1 m) high. These two mounds are largely undisturbed and can be seen clearly in the photos.

About 100 feet (30 m) to the east of Mound A is a low house mound (Mound C on sketch maps #1 and #2) that is heavily disturbed by cultivation. It is covered with a heavy concentration of daub, along with scattered potsherds and lithic fragments. As shown on sketch map #1, there was a tenant house atop the mound, but it is now gone. Large quantities of recent historic artifacts can be found there now. Mound C was 6 feet (1.8 m) high in 1947, but has been plowed down to a present height of c. 3 feet (0.9 m). It is about 90 feet (27 m) in diameter. In photo #1, it is scarcely visible as a low rise in the plowed area between the large mound and the tuft of light colored grass to its right.

Ian Brown (1977:29-31) visited the site in 1977 during a survey conducted by the Lower Mississippi Survey, Peabody Museum, for Cottonlandia Museum of Greenwood, Mississippi. He observed only the single large Mound A, adding that its height had remained apparently unchanged since the 1947 survey, and that it was covered with thick underbrush, precluding adequate survey. He prepared sketch map #3, appended to this form. His four surface collections in the area north of the paved road, shown on map #3 as C27, C28, C29, and C30, are described as follows:

[redacted]

There is a medium scatter of pottery in this area, almost all of which is of the Mississippi period. A solid blanket of daub also occurs. Lithics, however, are not well represented, much like the rest of the site. There is a marked gap between the C27 and C28 collection areas corresponding with the highest part of the mound and the area which was most certainly the plaza. This is the same

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arrangement observed at the Parchman Site (15-N-5). A heavy concentration, although not as heavy as seen in C27, again picks up [redacted] Tiny flecks of daub continue along the length of the ramp for about 40 meters and then pottery and daub continue together for an additional 80 meters until the land falls off toward Hull Brake. Pottery in this area is primarily Mississippian, but Baytown types have a considerable representation. The C29 area is almost entirely Baytown, only one sherd of Mississippi Plain, var. Neeley's Ferry being found. Daub scatter is very light. A similar situation occurs in the C30 area. At the time of my survey, the whole surface of the gently sloping levee in this area was uncultivated and cultural features were readily observed. Round pockets of daub-reddened earth and dark highly organic wash mark individual Mississippi period houses. Daub and pottery of the period stretch for a distance of about 50 meters northeast of the C27 area and then abruptly stop. Some fragments of human bone, probably a burial, are washing out of the slope at the termination point. Only Baytown period ceramics were picked up beyond this 50 meter stretch (1977:29, 31).

The foregoing description by Brown presents his impressions of surface scatter locations and densities, which basically coincide with the findings of the most recent visit to the site (November 1983) by M.D.A.H. archaeologist John Connaway, except that Brown mistakenly identifies the southwest apron of Mound A as its ramp. Suggested boundaries for the site, along with areas of highest daub density, are shown on sketch map #2. The site had been plowed and rained upon, so surface features were plainly visible. Mound A, its aprons, and Mound D are all completely overgrown with weeds, brush, and some trees of various sizes, as seen in the photos.

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1926 Archeology of Mississippi. Mississippi Geological Survey.  
University, Mississippi.

Brown, Ian W.  
1977 An archaeological survey of Mississippi period sites in  
Coahoma County, Mississippi. Cottonlandia Museum. Greenwood,  
Mississippi.

Phillips, Philip  
1970 Archaeological survey [REDACTED], Mississippi,  
1949-1955. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and  
Ethnology 60.

Phillips, Philip, James A. Ford, and James B. Griffin  
1951 Archaeological survey [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 1940-1947. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology  
and Ethnology 25.

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Verbal boundary description:

