

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

For NPS use only

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

received JAN 27 1987
date entered

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

FEB 26 1987

1. Name

historic Raymond Bass Site (22-Hr-636)

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town

state

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Raymond Bass

street & number 229 Kensington Drive

city, town Biloxi

N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi 39533

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Post Office Box 544 101 East Washington Street

city, town Biloxi

state Mississippi 39533

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Archaeological Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date November 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson

state Mississippi

7. Description

Condition
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one
 unaltered altered

Check one
 original site moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Raymond Bass Site (22-Hr-636) is a small oyster and clam shell midden, approximately 100 feet [redacted] x 150 feet [redacted] in size, [redacted]

[redacted] The site is also composed of a coal black earth midden that extends from at, and just below the ground surface, to a depth of 1-1/2 to 1-3/4 feet. The midden has a heavy concentration of faunal remains (especially fish and turtle), whole and pulverized oyster and clam shell, human skeletal remains, and bone tools (awls). The ceramics are of the shell tempered variety indicating an occupation sometime in the Mississippian Period (1100 A.D.-1450 A.D.). They consist primarily of plain types and would fall into either the Mississippian Plain or Bell Plain varieties especially common in this portion of the Gulf Coast (Fuller and Stowe, 1985). A small amount of incised ceramics are present but appear to differ somewhat from decorated types recovered at the Deer Island Site (22-Hr-500), a barrier island Mississippian Period shell midden [redacted]

[redacted] Heavy amounts of faunal remains are present in the black earth midden and some human teeth and as yet unidentified human skeletal elements have also been recovered from the surface of the site, the single meter test pit, and from the area exposed by the uprooting of a large tree by Hurricane Elena in 1985. A [redacted] house [redacted] sits atop a portion of the site but has apparently done little damage to the site's integrity. The test pit, which was excavated under the raised front porch of the house, revealed undisturbed cultural midden to 1-3/4' below the surface. A small strip of the site was destroyed by the construction [redacted] this probably amounted to less than 20% of the total site area. A small area approximately 6' x 6' was disturbed by the tree fall resulting from Hurricane Elena in 1985. Aside from this two disturbance factors most of the site appears to be in a good state of preservation.

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 1100-1450 A.D. **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Raymond Bass Site (22-Hr-636)

The site dates to the Mississippian Period (1100-1450 A.D.) and is composed of a black earth clam and oyster shell midden rich with ceramics, faunal remains (fish, turtle, bird, deer) and bone tools. Though less than one acre in size, the site extends from at and just below the surface to a depth of 1-3/4' and the deposit appears to be rather substantially intact except for several disturbances. The Raymond Bass Site is one of the few recorded Mississippian Period sites from the Mississippi Gulf Coast and is the first site of this period recorded from the Back Bay area (an estuary type environment). Ceramics at the site differ from ceramics from a site dating to the same period.

Late prehistoric ceramic chronologies for the Mississippi Gulf Coast are presently lacking and the Raymond Bass Site has the potential to provide preliminary information needed to begin to understand this. Excavations should be aimed at attempting to pick up any possible ceramic stratification in the midden, perhaps utilizing 5 cm. levels instead of the usual 10 cm. levels that might be utilized in a given situation. Efforts should be made in order to recover as large a faunal sample as possible, including water screening (fine mesh) to pick up small fragments. Further, the possibility exists that floral remains may be present and, if possible, these should also be recovered. These two classes of information could provide valuable insights into not only the subsistence patterns, preferences, and techniques, but seasonality as well. The faunal remains should be compared to those from the Deer Island Site to see if any differences exist between subsistence preference for Mississippian Period estuary sites versus barrier island sites of the same period. The recovery of some human skeletal remains indicates the possibility that burials may be present in the midden as well. If so, this class of information could provide insights into other non subsistence/settlement pattern types of activities. This could include methods of the disposal of the dead, possible social differentiation (as per grave furniture, etc.) and perhaps physical characteristics of a sample of the group that once occupied the site.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lauro, James
forthcoming: Coastal Archaeology and the National Register of Historic Places, the Deer Island Site (22-Hr-500) Harrison County, Mississippi, Journal of the Mississippi Archaeological Association, scheduled for publication in January, 1987

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property [redacted]

Quadrangle name [redacted]

Quadrangle scale [redacted]

UTM References

A	[redacted]	B	[redacted]
Zone	Easting	Zone	Easting
C	[redacted]	D	[redacted]
E	[redacted]	F	[redacted]
G	[redacted]	H	[redacted]

Verbal boundary description and justification

The site is roughly rectangular in configuration, [redacted]

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 James Lauro/Archaeologist

organization Mississippi Department of Archives & History date November 1986

street & number P. O. Box 571

telephone (601) 354-7326

city or town Jackson

state Mississippi 39205

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

Kenneth H. P. Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 23, 1987

For NPS use only

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

Alvin G. [redacted]
Keeper of the National Register

date 2-26-87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration