

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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FEB 29 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Belzoni Mound

other names/site number 22-Hu-500

2. Location

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Kenneth H. P. Pool

2/24/88

Signature of certifying official

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Mississippi Department of

State or Federal agency and bureau Archives and History

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

John J. Knael

4/13/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/subsistence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Residential

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls \_\_\_\_\_

roof \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Belzoni Mound (22-Hu-500)

The site today is a flat topped mound approximately eight feet in height and approximately 150 x 100 feet in size at the base. Initially recorded by C. B. Moore in early-20th century, the mound at that time was approximately eleven feet in height and 165 x 125 feet at the base. In 1941 the Lower Mississippi Survey visited the site and made collections and again visited the site in 1951 making collections once again. They refer to "the vestigial remnant of a smaller mound, and a large shell midden."

However, cultural material collected at the time in that part of the site indicated the shell midden belonged to the Deasonville Culture (350-600 A.D.). The vestigial remnant of a smaller mound was not tested and at the time of the Archives and History 1987 visit, it was no longer present. The 1941 and 1951 Lower Mississippi Survey collections on the extant pyramidal mound indicate a Wasp Lake Phase (1550-1650 A.D.), Mississippian period dating. Two or three sherds dating to the Marksville Period (1 A.D.-400 A.D.) were also recovered in 1951 indicating a third cultural utilization/occupation of the site.

The 1987 Mississippi Department of Archives and History field visit documented the presence of the pyramidal mound which had been slightly reduced in height and basal size since 1951. The mound is in a private residential setting and is grassed over by a well manicured front lawn. It appears to be in good shape as the current landowners have encouraged preservation of the mound and will not allow relic collectors or others to dig into it. At the time of the 1987 visit no materials were collected as the area is a front lawn of a private residence. A single auger hole (3" diameter) was placed down on the summit to a depth of five feet. This revealed several soil horizons and some burning as evidenced by charred soil (probably the result of the burning of some type of structure built atop the mound and later covered over by sterile soils). The Belzoni Mound, unlike most Mississippian Period mounds has not been ravaged by the effects of deep chisel plowing and the activities of ambitious relic collectors due to the fact that it is situated on the front lawn of a residence whose owners protect the site from damage.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

archaeology/prehistory

Period of Significance

Wasp Lake Phase

Significant Dates

1550-1650 A.D.

Cultural Affiliation

Mississippian

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Belzoni Mound (22-Hu-500)

[REDACTED] eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. Occupied during the Wasp Lake Phase (1550-1650 A.D.) of the Mississippian Period this flat topped mound is likely to provide valuable information important in the area of prehistoric archaeology.

[REDACTED] (350-600 A.D.) shell midden was present on the site. The remainder of the area around the mound is [REDACTED] hence no testing could be conducted to determine if any portion of the Deasonville shell midden remains. Due to this fact the Wasp Lake Phase component of Site 22-Hu-500 is considered in the nomination. Flat topped pyramidal mounds built during the Mississippian Period [REDACTED] that have been archaeologically tested (Williams and Brain, 1983) reveal burnt floors and architectural feature remnants (post molds, wall trenches, etc.) indicative of religious/ceremonial structures. These mounds can be built in stages with several structures, perhaps stratigraphically separable from each other being contained within the mound.

The Belzoni Mound is likely to produce valuable information regarding construction techniques of Wasp Lake Phase mounds. At least three soil strata were apparent in a single 3" diameter solid core taken to a depth of five feet below the surface of the mound indicating perhaps successive stages of construction. A lens of burnt material may represent the remnants of a structure built atop the mound at some point in time. It is possible that valuable architectural data are present in the mound that would provide information relevant to the nature and construction techniques of these religious ceremonial structures. Burials may be present and the nature of Wasp Lake Phase burial practices could be greatly enhanced through scientific excavations at the Belzoni Mound. Williams and Brain (1983; 44-45) indicate burials of single to multiple numbers of individuals in irregularly shaped pits at Mound C at the Lake George Site [REDACTED] Comparisons should be made with Lake George Mound C burials and those recovered at the Belzoni Mound.

See continuation sheet

