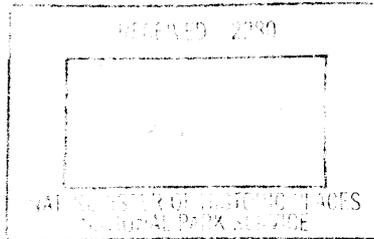


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Parker-Summerfield Mound Archaeological Site

other names/site number 22Hu510

2. Location

street & number [REDACTED] not for publication

city or town [REDACTED] vicinity

state [REDACTED]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Kenneth H. P. Paul FEB. 11, 1997
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:) _____

Wilson A. Beall Signature of the Keeper 3/21/97 Date of Action

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
1	_____	sites
2	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
3	_____	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: ceremonial site

Domestic: habitation site

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture: agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: platform mound

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other Earth

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Parker-Summerfield Mound Archaeological
Site (22Hu510), Humphreys Co., Mississi

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DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The Parker-Summerfield Mound Archaeological Site (22Hu510) consists of three contributing elements: a large earthen rectangular platform mound, a nearby borrow pit from which fill was taken for the mound's construction, and an adjacent habitation area. For the purposes of this nomination, the mound and borrow pit constitute contributing structures, and the occupation area is a contributing site.

The site was originally recorded on April 17, 1941 as site 20-N-2 by James B. Griffin during the extensive archaeological survey [redacted] then being conducted by the Lower Mississippi Survey (LMS). The site was named by Griffin after Cal Summerfield, a renter who farmed the property and informed the LMS survey party of the site's location; as a result, it is referred to as Summerfield in published works (Brain 1978:341; Phillips et al. 1951:58; Phillips 1970:446-448). The site is herein designated the Parker-Summerfield Mound to properly reflect its longtime ownership by the Parker family, who held title to the site at the time of its initial recording, and who have requested its nomination to the National Register in recognition of its significance.

Two smaller rectangular mounds reported by Griffin [redacted] have been completely leveled by cultivation in the years since 1941. The following dimensions were recorded for the remaining mound in 1941: 7.5 m high, with a basal diameter of 40 m, and a platform summit diameter of about 20 m. These figures are at significant variance with those recorded in 1993: 5 m high, and a basal diameter of 30 m X 35 m (Chapman et al. 1995:49). However, the latter figures are estimates, not direct measurements, and the 1941 data may be only estimates as well. Whether the significant 2.5 m height discrepancy and 5 to 10 m diameter difference between 1941 and 1993 indicates mound deflation from erosion, or is due merely to inaccuracy resulting from estimation error is unknown. Whatever the case, a height of about 6 m and diameter of ca. 36 m can be inferred by averaging the aggregate data. It is worth noting that the dense, almost impenetrable cane thicket presently covering the mound probably serves as an effective check against erosion, and should be left in place for the mound's continued protection.

The off-mound occupation area, as indicated by surface artifactual debris, is [redacted] (Chapman et al. 1995:49-50). Within this area, a slight rise in the field some 50 m east of the mound has noticeably darkened midden soil, indicating concentrated use of this spot.

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The borrow pit, [REDACTED] is a shallow depression about 1.5 m deep by 20 m in diameter, filled with a dense overgrowth of trees and brush. The current size of the borrow pit does not match the volume of fill in the mound; however, the pit has likely been silted in by repeated overflows of Straight Bayou over the centuries, thereby reducing it from its original dimensions.

The initial component of significance at the Parker-Summerfield site dates to the Coles Creek period. The Coles Creek culture, which occupied most of the Lower Mississippi River Valley between A.D. 700 - 1200, was a regional variant of the Late Woodland societies that inhabited much of what is now the eastern United States during the late first millennium A.D. The Coles Creek culture is notable in that, unlike most contemporaneous Late Woodland variants, it is characterized by the widespread construction of platform mounds. Although not the first culture to build flat-topped mounds in the Lower Mississippi Valley (a few such mounds are known for the earlier Marksville and Troyville cultures), their construction became much more prevalent during Coles Creek times.

Because of the regionally unprecedented investment in mound construction at many sites, it has been postulated that the Coles Creek culture had developed an incipient ranked social organization, in contrast to earlier egalitarian groups in the region, among which mound construction was not nearly as intensive (Steponaitis 1986:385-386). Such social stratification presumably would have been required to direct and allocate the communal labor for the large-scale, institutionalized moundbuilding projects which characterized Coles Creek.

Occupation of the Parker-Summerfield site during the successive Kings Crossing and Crippen Point phases of the Coles Creek period (ca. 900 - 1200 A.D.) is indicated by characteristic marker types in the inventory of ceramic sherds collected from the surface of the occupation area (i.e., Beldeau Incised, *var. Beldeau*, Coles Creek Incised, *var. Mott*, Mazique Incised, *var. Manchac*), as well as the triangular arrangement of the extant mound and the two destroyed mounds around an open plaza (cf. Phillips 1970:447-448; Williams and Brain 1983).

A significant Mississippian period component (ca. 1200 - 1650 A.D.) is also represented at Parker-Summerfield. The chronological/cultural term Mississippian designates the late prehistoric climax of cultural complexity across much of the Southeast, and is characterized by such material traits as shell-tempered ceramics, rectangular wall-trench houses and platform mounds. Also defining Mississippian is the predominance of agriculture in the economic - subsistence system, as well as the consolidation of regionally centralized sociopolitical organization with distinctly hierarchical, hereditary leadership (Steponaitis 1986:387-392). The Mississippian

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component at the site is indicated by the occurrence of shell-tempered pottery in the site's ceramic inventory. Although these Mississippian ceramics are among the most abundant to have been collected from the occupation area of the site, and the construction of platform mounds typified the Mississippian period as well as Coles Creek, Phillips (1970:448) states that the Parker-Summerfield mounds were most likely the product of the Coles Creek occupation, citing the square shape of the mounds and their triad layout around a plaza as typical Coles Creek characteristics. As such, Phillips seems to imply that the subsequent Mississippian inhabitants of the site did not continue mound construction there. (See also Brain 1978:342 for a similar suggestion for this and other Coles Creek/Mississippian sites [REDACTED]). However, these are untested assumptions, as no excavations have been conducted at Parker-Summerfield.

The possibility therefore exists that the construction and use of the mounds at the site may have begun during Coles Creek times and continued into the subsequent Mississippian period. Indeed, there is little indication for much cultural discontinuity between the Coles Creek and Mississippian periods in general; the prevailing model for the Lower Mississippi Valley holds that indigenous Coles Creek populations readily adopted material culture traits from the Mississippian core area to the north (i.e., shell-tempered ceramics, rectangular wall-trench buildings), in effect creating a regional cultural hybridization known as Plaquemine Mississippian (Brain 1978:345; Williams and Brain 1983).

Excavations of Coles Creek and Mississippian platform mounds elsewhere have revealed that they typically are composed of multiple construction stages, with foundation remains of log-post structures often present atop the successive strata. These buildings served primarily as ritual temples and/or as residences for elite members of the population, although some functioned as charnel houses where the bundled, disarticulated bones of the dead were deposited. Whatever their particular function, Coles Creek and Mississippian mound sites are seen to represent centers of political and economic authority over regional populations, which were dispersed across the landscape in small settlements (Brain 1978; Steponaitis 1986; Williams and Brain 1983).

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Archaeology: Prehistoric

Period of Significance

A.D. 900-1600

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Coles Creek

Plaquemine Mississippian

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Parker-Summerfield Mound archaeological site is significant under National Register Criterion D, in that it has yielded, and remains capable of yielding, information important to knowledge of the prehistory of Mississippi. Although two mounds formerly present on the site have been destroyed, the remaining mound, the associated borrow pit, and the adjacent occupation area retain a high degree of integrity. As such, the site represents an invaluable resource for the investigation of the timing and nature of the increase in sociopolitical complexity in the Lower Mississippi Valley as signified by the multi-mound centers that proliferated in the region during the Coles Creek and Mississippian periods.

Although numerous Coles Creek and Plaquemine/Mississippian mound sites have been recorded in the Lower Mississippi Valley, very few have ever been excavated. A primary research objective of pan-regional relevance which could be addressed through archaeological investigation of this site would be to determine whether the mound was the product of the Coles Creek occupation, the succeeding Plaquemine Mississippian occupation, or both. As previously discussed in Section 7, a general pattern of cultural stability and continuity has been postulated for the Coles Creek - Plaquemine Mississippian transition, although Brain (1978:342) has suggested the possibility of an occupational hiatus or abandonment of numerous Coles Creek mound sites [REDACTED] (including Parker-Summerfield), which were then "reoccupied" by later Mississippian groups, who may not have enlarged the mounds at all (Brain 1978:341-342). Brain's hypothesis could be confirmed or refuted only through excavation of mounds at some of the sites indicated in Brain's 1978 paper, but little such work has been accomplished. As such, whether mounds at sites with both Coles Creek and Mississippian components represent continuity, i.e., were expanded and used by descendants of Coles Creek predecessors, or reflect a trend of a shift of ceremonial activity or elite residential use to newer mound sites during the Mississippian period, has not been addressed. A site such as Parker-Summerfield, with components of both periods present, would be ideal for investigating this question, through stratigraphic testing of the mound.

The particular functional relationship of the occupation area with the mound has not been determined at this site, nor at many sites [REDACTED]. The intensity of occupation at the site seems not to have been particularly great throughout its span of use, given the rather sparse artifact density. Although a midden concentration is present in one section of the occupation area east of the mound, it is not large compared to the midden deposits at many other sites. A number of scenarios are possible, including the following: 1) the mound and occupation area may have been inhabited and used primarily by relatively few high-status individuals responsible

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for ceremonial and leadership roles involving the mound, and perhaps their relatives; 2) both the mound and the surrounding occupation area may have been essentially vacant much of the time, being used as a ceremonial encampment by the surrounding population only periodically; or 3) the occupation area may have been an ordinary small domestic settlement with no direct functional association with the mound. Resolving the largely unascertained relationship of mounds with nearby occupation loci [REDACTED] thus remains a major question regarding the settlement system of the region during late prehistory. The well-preserved Parker-Summerfield site has high potential to yield relevant data to address the problem.

Some evidence for the apparent trend toward increasingly hierarchical social organization from Coles Creek through Plaquemine Mississippian times has been obtained from analysis of subsistence remains, especially faunal material, from a few mound sites, including nearby Lake George (Steponaitis 1986:386; Williams and Brain 1983:457). Analysis of discarded food bones found on and near mounds at these sites has revealed that a significantly higher quantity and quality of deer meat was consumed there than was typical at most non-mound sites, suggesting status-related differences in diet (Steponaitis 1986:386). Confirmation of the validity of this apparent pattern, however, will require investigation at a much more extensive sample of sites than has so far been accomplished. Another major subsistence-related issue is the question of whether agriculture played a significant role in the economy of the Coles Creek culture (Steponaitis 1986:386). Again, however, excavation-based studies have been few and far between, so confident generalizations cannot be made given the underdeveloped current state of archaeological knowledge. The midden deposit adjacent to the Parker-Summerfield Mound is a promising source of such subsistence information.

In summary, the Parker-Summerfield site is an important repository of data which could help to eventually clarify questions pertaining to the rise of complex social organization and political centralization [REDACTED] in particular and the Lower Mississippi Valley in general. The value of Parker-Summerfield as a relatively well-preserved site is magnified given the rampant ongoing site destruction which unfortunately is so prevalent in the region.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

[REDACTED]

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

[REDACTED]