

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received REC 9 1987  
date entered JAN 14 1987

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

1. Name

historic Steep Mound Site (22LK526)

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input 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
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: forestry

4. Owner of Property

name International Paper Company (John Nugent) Natchez Regional Office

street & number Post Office Box 999

city, town Natchez N/A vicinity of state Mississippi 39120

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Post Office Drawer 72, North Pearl Street

city, town Carthage state Mississippi 39051

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date May, 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

# 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	date <u>      N/A      </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Steep Mound Site (22LK526)

[REDACTED] A small creek runs [REDACTED] draining the immediate proximity of the site [REDACTED]. The area at and around the mound is a thick, basically pine forest with some mixed hardwoods. Underbrush is thick in the area making accessibility difficult except in the winter months. The land is presently used to grow timber and is managed on a large scale by International Paper Company.

The Steep Mound is approximately 9-10 feet in height and is covered in pine and hardwoods. It is approximately 60-65' feet in diameter and is in a good state of preservation. Some minor erosion may be partially responsible for the steep nature of the mound and at the time of the field visit (July 1986) a single pothole about 3' x 2' was dug from the surface down about 1'-1 1/2'. Chunks of charred wood and fragments of burnt human bones were found in the pothunters back dirt. This may have represented a cremation placed near the summit of the mound. Several sherds of Marksville ceramics were found eroding out of the mound and in the pothunters backdirt along with some fragments of ground stone. Shovel testing conducted in the vicinity of the mound failed to reveal the presence of any buried cultural midden and the extremely heavy undergrowth of vegetation made surface survey impossible.

[REDACTED] More detailed investigations utilizing test pits and extensive soil augerings should be conducted to determine the extent of the archaeological deposit around the mound. This should be done in the winter when vegetation is at the yearly minimum.

# 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 0 A.D. - 400 A.D. Builder/Architect N/A

**Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)**

The Steep Mound Site, 22LK526, is a small, conical burial mound [redacted] Dating to the Middle Woodland Period (50 A.D. - 350 or 400 A.D.) the site is affiliated with the Marksville Culture and typically Marksville type ceramics (cross hatched rims) including Marksville incised varieties have been found in pothunters backdirt and eroding out of the side of the mound. Not many Marksville sites have been located to date in the Upper Pearl drainage and few burial mounds anywhere in the state of Mississippi are in such a fine state of preservation adding to the importance of the site. Fragments of human bone along with pieces of charred wood were exposed and destroyed by a relic collectors hole dug in the summit of the mound indicating the potential for locating burials within the mound. These burials will probably be found with grave offerings (ceramic vessels, ground stone implements) and these grave offerings may very well reflect social stratification within the culture responsible for its construction. The presence of charred wood fragments may provide extremely valuable information on the Marksville period in an upland situation. Careful excavation of the mound should provide us with information on how the mound was constructed and whether or not it was constructed in single or multiple stages. Further upon completion of investigations at the upland Steep Mound Site comparisons should be made with other Marksville period mounds [redacted] in the Lower Mississippi Valley. This may indicate differences in construction and usage between upland and bottomland sites of the Marksville Period.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

N/A

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property [redacted]

Quadrangle name [redacted]

Quadrangle scale [redacted]

### UTM References

A [redacted] 0  
Zone Easting Northing

B [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
Zone Easting Northing

C [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

D [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

E [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

F [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

G [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

H [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The site is restricted to the point where the man made mound rises abruptly out of the natural topography and continues to the apex of the mound.

### 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 Jim Lauro/Archaeologist

organization Mississippi Department of Archives and History date July 1986

street & number Post Office Box 571 telephone 601/354-7326

city or town Jackson, Mississippi 39205 state

# 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 December 5, 1986

### For NPS use only

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

John J. [signature] date 1/14/87  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration