

137

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVED
FEB 02 1993
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 Herman Mound and Village Site
other names/site number 220k762

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>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>2</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. Paul

JAN. 27, 1993

Signature of certifying official Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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:)

Janet E. Townsend

3-17-93

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Funerary-graves/burials (burial mound)

Domestic-village site

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Landscape-forest

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

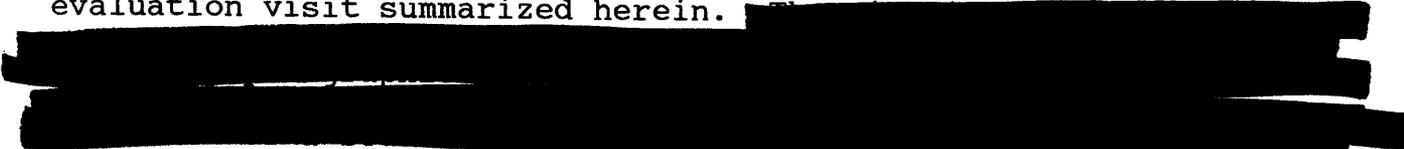
Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A

roof N/A
other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Herman Mound and Village archaeological site (220k762) consists of a small, conical burial mound and an adjacent, partially contemporaneous habitation area. Unrecorded until recently, the mound was reported to archaeologists at Mississippi State University in 1991 by the current landowner, Dr. Joan McCamish. The associated habitation area was discovered during the February 28, 1992 site evaluation visit summarized herein.



Most of the site is currently covered with a stand of mixed-sized trees, predominantly oak and hickory. The easternmost portion of the habitation area, comprising approximately 10% of the site, has been denuded and subjected to sheet erosion. Only a negligible surface scatter of artifacts was found here, and no midden or exposed cultural features were observed; therefore, this disturbed area has been excluded from the National Register property boundaries.

The Mound

The relatively small but well-preserved, dome-shaped mound is 1.6 m (5 ft) high and has a basal diameter of 17 m (55 ft). A small, shallow relic hunter's pit (depth 24 cm, diameter 1.4 m) occurs at the top center of the mound. During the February 1992 site visit, a 7-cm diameter core sample was taken from the mound to gain an indication of its internal stratigraphy and contents. The core column,

was extended downward until sterile, pre-mound subsoil was reached at a depth of 1.8 m. A buried humus horizon encountered at 1.6 m below the mound summit marked the original, pre-mound ground surface. The darkened band of soil comprising the old humus and underlying topsoil was found to be approximately 20 cm deep. Portions of the old humus layer were fire-hardened. The zone beneath the old topsoil was found to be composed of sterile sandy loam; no indicators of sub-mound cultural deposits were observed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Herman Mound and Village Site (220k762)

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi

Section number 7 Page 1

While offering only a limited glimpse of the internal composition of the mound, the coring operation did reveal two main stratigraphic zones overlying the original ground surface, suggesting two stages of construction. The segment of the core column from the zone rising from the premound humus to 0.7 m contained silt loam with inclusions of red, fired clay lumps and small charcoal fragments. In contrast, the upper 0.9 m of core fill was composed of comparatively sterile, homogeneous silt loam.

The hardened, fire-reddened lumps of soil and the charcoal occurring in the lower half of the core sample may represent habitation debris incidentally included in mound fill taken from the surface of the village area. Alternately, the possibility exists that this material represents debris produced by funerary activities involving the ritual use of fire. Excavated burial mounds often have been found to contain fire pits and burned wooden central structures such as crypts, crematoria, or charnel vaults; the charcoal found in the core sample may represent the remains of such an internal feature. The actual nature of this material, however, can be determined only through more extensive excavation. Although no direct evidence for the presence of burials (i.e., bone fragments) was recovered by the coring operation, excavated regional mounds of the conical configuration have almost invariably been found to contain human remains in some form. It can therefore be presumed that the mound is a funerary monument, built for the interment of the dead of a localized group. Judging from its small size, the mound probably contains the remains of only a few high-status individuals.

No chronologically diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the Herman Mound during the 1992 site visit, but all excavated conical mounds in northeast Mississippi which have yielded radiocarbon dates and/or which have been relative-dated by in situ artifact assemblages have been found to date to the Middle Woodland period (ca. 100 B.C. - A.D. 600 [Jenkins 1982; Walling et al. 1991]). No pre- or post-Middle Woodland conical mounds are currently known to exist in northeast Mississippi. In the absence of positive data to the contrary, the Herman Mound is therefore presumed to be of Middle Woodland origin.

During Middle Woodland times, unprecedentedly conspicuous mortuary ceremonialism characterized by the mound burial of select individuals marks the period of influence in northeast Mississippi of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Herman Mound and Village Site (220k762)

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi

Section number 7 Page 2

the so-called Hopewellian Interaction Sphere (Caldwell 1964). This rather vaguely defined and poorly understood phenomenon was characterized by the interregional spread of broadly similar ceremonialism involving burial mounds and exotic trade materials. It is probable that some common elements of a complex ideological-religious system diffused through this interaction network to take root, in varying degrees, among societies throughout much of what is now the eastern United States, including northeast Mississippi.

The Habitation Area

At the time of the February 1992 site visit, the presence of the habitation area adjacent to the mound could be discerned only by subsurface shovel testing as the ground surface was completely obscured by leaf litter and humus. About thirty small holes approximately 30 cm wide by 30 cm deep (deeper if midden was encountered) were dug and the soil from each hole passed through 1/4-inch diameter screen to ensure the recovery of small artifacts. The shovel testing revealed that the heaviest concentration of habitation debris occurs between 60 and 75 m [redacted] of the mound. The dark-colored, organic midden soil in this area is as much as 40 cm deep and contains a dense deposit of fired clay/daub, lithic chipping debris, and ceramic sherds. Smaller but notable quantities of subsistence remains in the form of burned animal bone fragments, charred hickory nut shells, and wood charcoal fragments are also present. This area of deepest cultural deposit coincides with the highest elevations on a slight rise on the terrace. [redacted]

[redacted], artifactual material is much sparser and midden is shallow to absent; however, every shovel test placed around the mound produced at least one lithic flake or a few small potsherds until the lower floodplain elevations were reached at a radius of ca. 25 m [redacted] and 50 m [redacted].

The dating of the habitation area of the site is based on a sample of 222 potsherds and 3 projectile points, all recovered by shovel testing. Over half of the sherds collected (n=143) are grog-tempered; 97 of these are plain and 46 are cordmarked. Ceramics tempered with grog (crushed potsherds or burned clay particles) constitute a chronological marker of the Late Woodland Miller III phase, ca. A.D. 600-1100 (Jenkins 1982). Diagnostics for an off-mound Middle Woodland (Miller I or II phase) component, while less

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Herman Mound and Village Site (220k762)
Oktibbeha County, MississippiSection number 7 Page 3

numerous, do comprise a sizeable minority of the collection. These consist of 24 sand-tempered plain, 5 sand-tempered cordmarked, 30 sand-tempered eroded, and 2 limestone-tempered eroded sherds. All three of the projectile points are specimens of the Madison type, a small, triangular form introduced during Late Woodland times and which continued in use through the succeeding Mississippian stage. A relatively minor Mississippian component (ca. A.D. 1100-1600) is confirmed by 18 shell-tempered sherds in the collection.

In summary, it is apparent that three successive components are represented in the habitation area. A Middle Woodland occupation is discernible and is probably coeval with the nearby mound. The artifact inventory enumerated above, however, suggests that the most intensive occupation of the habitation area occurred during the Late Woodland period. In contrast, the succeeding Mississippian presence appears to have been rather ephemeral. Indicators of the Mississippian occupation are too scarce to conclusively assess that component's significance under National Register Criterion D.

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-prehistoric

Period of Significance

100 B.C.-A.D. 600
A.D. 600-1100

Significant Dates

N/A
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Middle Woodland (Miller I - II phases)
Late Woodland (Miller III phase)

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 Herman Mound and Village archaeological site possesses significance under National Register criterion D, in that it is capable of yielding information important to knowledge of the prehistory of Mississippi. The potential of this well-preserved site to contribute to understanding of regional prehistoric chronology, ceremonial activities, and economic/subsistence patterns is substantial. The plentiful presence of chronologically diagnostic artifactual remains, and the minimally disturbed context of these materials, indicates the ability of this site to increase archaeological knowledge of smaller settlements of the Middle and Late Woodland periods (100 B.C. - A.D. 1100).

Present knowledge of the regional Middle Woodland Miller I and II cultural sequence is considerably biased due to the fact that the preponderance of available information pertaining to this period has been obtained from large burial mounds at major multimound centers (e.g., Bohannon 1972; Cotter and Corbett 1951; Jennings 1941). To gain a more comprehensive view of the nature and timing of the rise and decline of complex ceremonial expression over the course of the Miller I and II phases, much more investigation is needed at the less spectacular, but more numerous sites which feature small, solitary mounds (Morgan n.d.).

Knowledge of regional Middle Woodland settlement patterns remains quite rudimentary in scope. Small mound sites have been comparatively neglected by archaeologists in the construction of regional prehistoric settlement models. This situation has resulted from the fact that less conspicuous small mound/village sites are more likely to be unrecorded and thus are undoubtedly underrepresented in the state inventory of known sites. Consequently, knowledge of how single-mound sites were

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property _____

UTM References

Zone _____ Easting _____ Northing _____
C _____

B _____
Zone _____ Easting _____ Northing _____
D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

[REDACTED]

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

[REDACTED]

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Keith A. Baca, archaeologist
organization Mississippi Department of Archives and History date January 27, 1993
street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 359-6940
city or town Jackson state Mississippi zip code 39205

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Herman Mound and Village Site (220k762)

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi

Section number 9 Page 1

Bohannon, Charles F.

- 1972 Excavations at the Pharr Mounds, Prentiss and Itawamba Counties, Mississippi and Excavations at the Bear Creek Site, Tishomingo County, Mississippi. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

Caldwell, Joseph R.

- 1964 Interaction Spheres in Prehistory. In J. R. Caldwell and Robert L. Hall (eds.), Hopewellian Studies. Illinois State Museum Papers 12.

Cotter, John L. and John M. Corbett

- 1951 Archaeology of the Bynum Mounds, Mississippi. Archaeological Research Series No. 1. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

Jenkins, Ned J.

- 1982 Archaeology of the Gainesville Lake Area: Synthesis. Report of Investigations No. 23. University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Research, University.

Jenkins, Ned J. and Richard A. Krause

- 1986 The Tombigbee Watershed in Southeastern Prehistory. University of Alabama Press, University.

Jennings, Jesse D.

- 1941 Chickasaw and Earlier Cultures of Northeast Mississippi. Journal of Mississippi History 3(3):155-226.

McGahey, Samuel O.

- 1971 Archaeological Survey in the Tombigbee River Drainage Area, May-June, 1970. Mississippi Archaeological Survey, Preliminary Report No. 2. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Morgan, David T.

- n.d. The Post-Archaic Prehistory of Northeast Mississippi. Manuscript in preparation for inclusion in the State Plan for Historic Preservation in Mississippi. On file at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Herman Mound and Village Site (220k762)
Oktibbeha County, Mississippi

Section number 9 Page 2

- Rafferty, Janet E.
1986 Sedentary Hamlets in the Tombigbee River Valley: Evidence from the Gulf Formational and Woodland Stages. Paper presented at the fifty-first annual meeting, Society for American Archaeology, April 23-27, 1986, New Orleans.
- Walling, Richard, Robert C. Mainfort, Jr. and James R. Atkinson
1991 Radiocarbon Dates for the Bynum, Pharr, and Miller Sites, Northeast Mississippi. Southeastern Archaeology 10(1):54-62.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Herman Mound and Village Site (220k762)
Oktibbeha County, Mississippi

Section number 8 Page 1

integrated into a generalized settlement system context remains meager at best. More extensive investigation of the intersite distribution and intrasite layout of smaller ceremonial/village complexes like the Herman site will be necessary to increase knowledge of the currently little-understood economic and social organization of Middle Woodland period societies of the region.

Materials present in both the mound and habitation area could aid in the further refinement of the regional time scale spanning both the Middle and Late Woodland periods. As organic materials in the form of charcoal have been demonstrated to be present at both site loci, it is likely that both the mound and the habitation area can yield radiocarbon-assay absolute dates, while associated ceramic deposits may provide supplementary relative chronological data.

That most of the habitation area has never been subjected to destructive modern mechanized cultivation means that intact subsurface cultural features in the form of refuse pits and hearths are very likely to be present. Plant and animal food remains recovered from such features could provide seasonality data which could help resolve a debate over whether Woodland stage habitation sites were sedentary, year-round settlements as held by Rafferty (1986), or semi-sedentary, seasonally inhabited base camps (Jenkins and Krause 1986).

A final noteworthy consideration to be made in the assessment of this site's significance concerns the fact that small mounds such as the one present at the Herman site are inherently more vulnerable to destructive activities such as cultivation and unscientific digging than are the larger, better investigated mounds. An alarmingly large number of recorded small mound sites in northeast Mississippi have been severely damaged or completely destroyed by the plow and the looter's shovel (McGahey 1971). The recognition and preservation of such small monuments that remain is thus all the more imperative to ensure a representative picture of the region's prehistory.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Herman Mound and Village Site (220k762)

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

[REDACTED]