

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0683167

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RECEIVED AUG 28 1978
DATE ENTERED FEB 2 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Denton Site
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" 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 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 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 Mrs. J. E. Furr
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Marks

VICINITY OF

STATE Mississippi 38646

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Office of the Chancery Clerk
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Quitman County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 100

CITY, TOWN

Marks

STATE Mississippi 38646

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Mississippi Archaeological Survey

DATE 1969

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE Mississippi 39205

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Denton, a Middle Archaic Period site [REDACTED] is composed of four mound-like occupation areas. [REDACTED]

The dimensions of the occupation areas are as follows:

Southern Mound
Diameter 60 M.
Height 3 meters

Northern Mound
Diameter 30 M.
Height 1 1/2 meters

Eastern Mound (Denton Site B)
Diameter 45 M.
Height 1 meter

Northeastern Mound
Diameter 25 M.
Height 1/2 meter

The most comprehensive description of the Denton Site is that found in the introduction to The Denton Site: A Middle Archaic Occupation in [REDACTED], Mississippi by John Connaway (Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi, 1977):

The site was first reported by Phillips, Ford, and Griffin in 1951, but no cultural data were recorded other than two "mounds" (Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1951:54). It was revisited by the writers of this report in 1969 during a survey of sites in Quitman, Coahoma, and Tunica counties.

The . . . site has been in cultivation for many years. In recent years the two "mounds, [REDACTED] were leveled, along with a portion of the knolls themselves. The "mounds" are referred to here with some reservation because their exact nature is unknown. In 1972, Mississippi State University excavated a 12-foot-deep backhoe trench across the southernmost knoll. Stratigraphic layers of sterile sand and thin midden deposits indicated that the site had been occupied intermittently between natural levee buildups, apparently for a long period of time. It is thus possible that the "mounds" could

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| <input 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/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES _____ BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Denton Site is primarily the fact that it is the only well-documented Middle Archaic Period site with deeply buried undisturbed midden [REDACTED] (Connaway, 1977). Surface collections from sites in the area indicate that Early and Middle Archaic Period components do exist (Brain, 1970), contrary to previous theories that the Archaic was absent or deeply buried in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley due to geological activity (Haag, 1961).

Another unique aspect of the Denton Site is the large number of zoomorphic effigy beads found on the site, as well as a variety of other beads in different stages of manufacture. Finished zoomorphic effigy beads and a variety of other beads in different stages of manufacture indicate that an advanced lapidary industry of rare status objects with connections to other sites in the Southeast was present at Denton.

In addition, floral and faunal remains are present, but as yet these have not been thoroughly investigated (Connaway, 1977). Because of its great depth of deposit and the density of floral, faunal, and artifactual remains, the site has a potential for yielding data concerning the chronology, subsistence, and social systems of the Middle Archaic Period in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley.

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7 - DESCRIPTION

have been built at a later time by the occupants or that they could have been a continuation of this intermittent levee and midden accumulation. The relative chronological data obtained from the excavation and surface collections, as well as the physiographic and stratigraphic evidence, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] levee accumulation took place during its occupation.

The light tan levee soil upon which occupation debris is found on the site is known as Dundee fine sandy loam (USDA 1958). A very dark black midden soil is evident within this area, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in contrast, lower areas [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] consist of heavier soil known as Dowling clay or silty clay. No midden debris is found in these areas other than those artifacts carried in by erosion or cultivation.

[REDACTED], a mound of Dundee soil approximately 4 feet high has scattered lithic debris and artifacts on the surface. The internal nature of the mound [designated Denton Site B] has not yet been investigated, and it is slowly dwindling under constant cultivation. . . .

Occupational debris is scattered [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Scattered lithic debris and projectile points have been found here, but as yet no lapidary items. Surface collections from this area have been included in the general site collection, since there is no real break in debris scatter.

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9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Haag, William G. The Archaic of the Lower Mississippi Valley. American Antiquity, Vol. 26, No. 3, 1961.