

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **AUG 15 1986**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Posey Site (22-Qu-500)

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number [REDACTED]  not for publication

city, town [REDACTED]

state [REDACTED]

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" 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 Self & Co.

street & number N/A

city, town Marks N/A vicinity of state Mississippi 38646

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number P. O. Box 100, Pecan Street

city, town Marks state Mississippi

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Lower Mississippi Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1940-1947  private  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Peabody Museum, Harvard University

city, town Cambridge state Massachusetts

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Posey site and mounds are [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951:52), in their 1940-1947 survey, described it as a "large village site with large rectangular platform mound and small mounds." It was listed in their Table 12 (1951:324) as a small ceremonial center with a 15 foot high large mound, moderately abundant refuse, and some daub in the village area. The "small mounds" are not described. There is no sketch map available and thus little other information for that time. The attached sketch map (Figure 2) was made in January, 1986, by John Connaway, Mississippi Department of Archives & History archaeologist, during the most recent visit to the site.

M.D.A.H. archaeologists visited the site in 1968 and recorded the smaller Mound B (see Figure 2) as being 50 feet in diameter and 2 feet high. This mound has been cultivated for many years [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Photo #3, center background). At that time, it was also noted that the somewhat eroded Mound A (see Figure 2) had been gouged out on one side by a bulldozer. At present, Mound A has been cleared, smoothed over, and planted in grass (Photos #1 & 2), except on the west side where it drops very steeply off into the river bottom. Apparently, in the process of stabilization, some of the original height and shape of the mound has been lost. Although still somewhat flattened on top, the overall mound now appears more rounded (Photo #2) than originally described and stands about 12 feet high, with basal dimensions of ca. 114 feet east-west by 174 feet north-south.

Surface collections made in 1986 revealed that within the larger site limit (Figure 2), all of which includes a Baytown period occupation, there is a smaller area of Mississippian occupation centered around Mound A. This was revealed by scattered daub, daub concentrations (house sites), and the distribution of shell-tempered ceramics. A number of boreholes were placed in three areas of the site (Figure 2) in an attempt to establish not only midden depth, but some clue as to the relationship between Mound A and the two major occupations, resulting in only limited success. The following list summarizes the borehole findings.

- BH-1: Disturbed midden to 2 feet; midden hard packed to 3 ft., 3 in., then becomes hard packed, dry, yellowish color mixed with clay to 3 ft., 9 in. where sterile yellow clay begins.
- BH-2: Disturbed midden in a burned Miss. period house site to 18 in.; then hard, more yellow, becoming sterile hard packed yellow sandy loam at ca. 2 ft. [REDACTED]
- BH-3: Disturbed midden to ca. 18 in.; then very dark midden to 3 ft.; then abrupt change to sterile yellow sandy loam.
- BH-4 & 5: (on Mound B site) Disturbed midden to ca. 16 in. where sterile begins, all in plowzone.
- BH-6: (top of Mound A) Loading and occasional small amount of burned clay to 8 ft. (extent of coring device). Inconclusive as to cultural component.
- BH-7: ([REDACTED]) Same as above.

(see continuation sheet)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Posey Site, Quitman County, Mississippi

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet    Description    Item number 7    Page 1

The only conclusions that can be reached from the borehole tests are as follows: (A) In the area [redacted] of Mound A, where several burned Mississippian house sites are apparent, the midden extends to a sufficient depth (up to 3 ft., 9 in.) to suggest the presence of a significant area of undisturbed features. Evidence of buried features in this area is further indicated by a freshly plowed up refuse pit in the edge of a shallow drain [redacted] of the site (see Figure 2). A small sample recovered from it included bone fragments of fish, bird, and mammal, along with charred fragments of hickory, acorn, and pecan shells. (B) There is no undisturbed midden remaining at the site of Mound B. There are several human burials plowed up around this mound, suggesting that it may have been a small burial mound and that there may still be some undisturbed burial pits intrusive into sterile soil in the Mound B area. (C) Deep cores in Mound A only showed soil changes due to loading and were inconclusive with regard to cultural affiliation of the mound.

Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951:52) give the time range at Posey as periods F-D, which include the early through middle Baytown periods. They suggest that Mound A, though rectangular in shape, is of Baytown origin, the idea being based on surface collections alone and therefore presenting a "reasonable doubt" (1951:337, 439). Our 1986 boreholes neither support nor refute this.

Phillips (1970: Figures 445, 447) shows the site with two components, the Coahoma phase of the Baytown period<sup>1</sup> and the Parchman phase of the Mississippi period.<sup>2</sup> He defines the Coahoma phase as "the main representative of the Baytown culture in the Upper Sunflower region...carrying on through the entire Baytown period" (1970:905). Since Posey is only marginal to and not actually associated with the Upper Sunflower River, it follows that a more thorough analysis of site Baytown ceramics is needed to ascertain its true relationship to or position within this phase. Starr's discussion (1984: 192-193) of the questionable inclusion of Posey in the later Parchman phase tends to support the need for a similar re-evaluation of the problem with Baytown described above.

As for Phillips' placement of Posey in the Mississippian Parchman phase, Starr points out in her analysis of Mississippian sherd counts that there "seems a greater difference than is permitted in the definition of Parchman as having nearly equal Bell to Mississippi rim counts, particularly since this criterion seems to be holding up well for the larger collections" (1984: 192). Other problems she encountered include marginally acceptable Bell Plain type pastes, inadequate sherd collections, [redacted] away from the core of Parchman phase sites. Altogether, this led to her conclusion that "if the logical geographical integrity and the defined range of variability and similarity of ceramic assemblages are to be preserved for the Parchman Phase, the Posey Mound site should be excluded from it, or at least considered as belonging to a marginally similar border area" (1984:192).

1. AD 400 - AD 850
2. AD 1000 - AD 1200

## 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** see Description      **Builder/Architect** American Indian

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of the Posey site lies in three main areas of archaeological research. First, it has been pointed out that its inclusion in the Parchman phase of the Mississippi period is questionable. Exactly where it and other similar sites [REDACTED] fit into the Mississippian pattern depends on future intra-site analyses and inter-site comparisons. Posey represents one of the key sites for establishment of a more concise definition of this phase pattern. Second, a Baytown origin has been suggested for Mound A, but not substantiated. If this is true, it is very unusual since mounds for this period in northwest Mississippi are virtually unknown. Not only does this present an important problem, but the relationship between the mound, the site's Baytown occupation, and the position of this occupation in the regional phase pattern for the period pose a complex set of research questions for which Posey has the potential of contributing at least some of the answers. Its marginal position, geographically, in the phase pattern, like that mentioned above for Mississippian, again makes inter-site comparisons necessary for a more concise definition. Third, the possibilities for the study of house remains and other features in undisturbed context are present just to the south of Mound A. If this mound turns out to be Mississippian after all, then its potential is no less important for contributing significant data to the study of Mississippian settlement and ceremonial concepts in this little-understood region.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Phillips, Philip  
1970 Archaeological survey [redacted] Mississippi, 1949-  
1955. Papers of the Peabody Museum 60.  
(see continuation sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property - [redacted]

Quadrangle name [redacted] Quadrangle scale [redacted]

UTM References

A	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	B	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	D	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
E	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	F	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
G	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	H	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

Verbal boundary description and justification  
(see continuation sheet)

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 John Connaway, Survey Archaeologist

organization Miss. Dept. of Archives & History date March, 1986

street & number P.O. Box 571 telephone 601-354-7326

city or town Jackson state Mississippi

# 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 August 8, 1986

For NPS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*J. Alvarez Bryan* date 9-11-86  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Posey Site, Quitman County, Mississippi

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet References

Item number 9

Page 1

Phillips, Philip, James A. Ford, & James B. Griffin  
1951 Archaeological survey [REDACTED]  
1940-1947. Papers of the Peabody Museum 25.

Starr, Mary Evelyn  
1984 The Parchman phase [REDACTED]: a preliminary  
analysis. Appendix in The Wilsford Site (22-Co-516), Coahoma County,  
Mississippi, by John M. Connaway. Mississippi Department of Archives  
& History Archaeological Report 14.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Posey Site, Quitman County, Mississippi

Continuation sheet Boundary Description

Item number 10

Page 1

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

