

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Spanish Fort Site other names/site number 22-Sh-500

2. Location

[Redacted location information] not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [] public-local, [] public-State, [] public-Federal. Category of Property: [] building(s), [] district, [X] site, [] structure, [] object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 2, Noncontributing 0. Total 2. 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 [X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Kenneth H. P. Pool, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Date: 2/17/88.

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: State or Federal agency and bureau: Date:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: [X] 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:). Signature of the Keeper: John J. Knoert, Date of Action: 4/6/88.

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Agricultural field

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

N/A

foundation N/A

walls _____

roof _____

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Spanish Fort Site (22-Sh-500)

[REDACTED]. The site is approximately 45 acres in size and consists of a large half circular embankment with ditch and black midden area. The embankment, in its highest portion, is approximately 4-5 meters tall and approximately 8 meters wide. The ditch that lies on the outside embankment is about 2 meters deep today and considering the amount of slumping off of dirt from the embankment into the ditch, it is likely that at one time the ditch was probably considerably deeper (Phillips, 1970). The form of the embankment is slightly more than half a circle [REDACTED]

The diameter of the embankment circle is 570 meters (measured from center to center of the top of the embankment), almost exactly the same size as the innermost octagonal embankment at the Poverty Point Site in Epps, Louisiana. A portion of the wall [REDACTED] was leveled in the mid-20th century and the area put into cultivation. As late as 1960 or so, the outline could still be recognized on the ground. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case. An interesting aspect of the site is the limited extent of cultural remains within the 45-acre tract of land encompassed by the embankment. Also present, but since destroyed, was a small earthen mound in the eastern portion of the site [REDACTED]

A total of eight solid core augerings were placed across the site in an effort to detect the presence of any buried cultural deposits; none were found. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is a 8-9 acre black earth midden deposit characterized by dark, greasy soil, shell, lithics, ceramics, and faunal remains. Excavations in 1949 by Harvard University's Lower Mississippi Survey in this midden revealed a deep deposit of ash, pottery and some shell at the lowest levels of the pits stratigraphically separate from an upper rich midden containing heavy amounts of shell and ceramics. The deposit extends from the surface of the site to a depth of approximately one meter. According to Phillips (1970) the lowest levels contain basically pure Issaquena materials (200-400 A.D.) as per the ceramic type and varieties Churupa Punctated var. Churupa, Evansville Punctated var. Braxton, Marksville Incised var. Newsome and Manny, all of which are good Issaquena markers. The upper most level (Deasonville, 400-600 A.D.) is clearly represented by

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)
Prehistoric archaeology

Period of Significance
Middle Woodland
Late Woodland

Significant Dates
200-400 A.D.
400-600 A.D.
800-900 A.D.

Cultural Affiliation
Issaquena Phase
Deasonville Phase
Aden 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 Spanish Fort Site (22-Sh-500) is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D as the site is likely to produce valuable information regarding prehistoric archaeology in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Presently the origin of the semicircular earthworks is unknown. By comparing the size, shape, and configuration of this earthwork with the large one at the Poverty Point Site, Phillips (1970) suggests the possibility of a Poverty Point Period component (2000-500 B.C.). Excavations in and adjacent to the earthworks should provide the information not only to determine when it was constructed but to also shed light on the construction methods. Until this is done we are not in good position to assign any cultural or chronological position to this element of the site. Further additional excavations should be conducted in the apparently culturally "sterile" portions of the site despite the fact that eight solid core augerings placed randomly in this area failed to reveal any soil abnormalities. These augerings reached depths of eight feet below the surface. Dr. Roger Saucier, Geomorphologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, Mississippi, has indicated that any potential cultural horizons would in all likelihood be within four feet or so of the present ground surface.

In the 8-9 acre black earth/shell midden deposit exhibiting Middle Woodland (Issaquena Phase 200-400 A.D.) material on the bottom stratigraphically separable from an upper most level exhibiting Late Woodland (Deasonville 200-400 A.D. and Aden 800-900 A.D.) excavations should be geared towards attempts to recover any potential floral/faunal remains which may also be present in the black earthen midden. Comparisons could be made between classes of information ascertained from the basal levels (Middle Woodland) with the upper most levels (Late Woodland). Subsistence types of information along with data regarding seasonality are needed for pre Mississippians Period people living in this portion of the Lower Mississippi Valley. Excavations could also

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Phillips, Philip
1970 Archaeological Survey [redacted], Mississippi, 1949-1955.
Harvard University, Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, Papers 60.

Saucier, Roger
1987 Personal Communication. United States Army Corps of Engineers.
Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

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, Historic Preservation Division, Jackson, Mississippi

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property [redacted]

UTM References

A [redacted]
Zone Easting Northing
C [redacted]

B [redacted]
Zone Easting Northing
D [redacted]

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

[redacted]

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

[redacted]

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James T. Lauro/Archaeologist
organization Miss. Department of Archives and History date July, 1987
street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 354-7326
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

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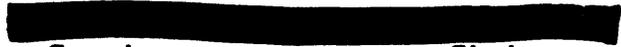
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88000234

Date Listed: 4/6/88

Spanish Fort Site (22SH658)

Property Name

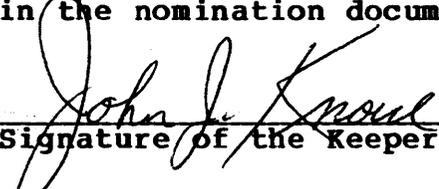


County

State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

4/6/88
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Item 3. Classification

Contributing:

- sites 1
- structure 1

Noncontributing:

- sites 2 (2 cemeteries)

Item 6 Historic Function or Use

Delete "Agricultural field"; add "Village"

Item 8 Period of Significance

Delete 800-900 A.D.

Cultural Affiliation

Delete "Aden Phase"

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Spanish Fort Site (22-Sh-500)

Sharkey County, Mississippi

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Alligator Incised var. Alligator Oxbow, Baytown Plain var. Reed, French Fork Incised var. Wilzone, Larto Red var. Larto, and Mulberry Creek Cord Marked var. Edwards. [REDACTED] was recovered one rim sherd of Coles Creek Incised var. unspecified. These attest to the fact that a very minor occupation occurred during the Coles Creek Period (this component is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places) probably during the Aden phase (800-900 A.D.). Conspicuously absent from Spanish Fort are ceramic markers indicating an occupation during the Bayland Phase (600-800 A.D.), as defined from the nearby large ceremonial center, the Lake George Site (Williams and Brain, 1985). Phillips (1970, p. 34) suggests the absence of Bayland at Spanish Fort is explainable due to the fact that Bayland is a very much localized cultural phenomenon, and is limited to a very few sites, most notably Lake George. At Spanish Fort it appears the Deasonville material (400-600 A.D.) grades into Aden (800-900 A.D.) with some modifications and no clearly perceptible break (i.e., the Bayland Phase).

While the rich black midden deposit dates to Issaquena and Deasonville, with Issaquena materials at the lowest levels and stratigraphically separable from the upper midden (Deasonville) the problem of when the embankment was constructed remains unsolved due to lack of any direct evidence.

Finally, two small family plot cemeteries (20th century) [REDACTED] the Kettlemen Plot [REDACTED] Jeffrey Plot. Both are small cemeteries and have disturbed only a very small portion of parts [REDACTED]

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Spanish Fort Site (22-Sh-500)

Sharkey County, Mississippi

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attempt to determine if any ceramic stratification occurs within each of the separable cultural layers present in the black earth midden. Additional excavations there may reveal the presence of Bayland Phase (600-800 A.D.) materials thought to be intermediate between Deasonville and Aden which have so far escaped detection in the limited excavations and surface collections from Spanish Fort to date. The absence of Bayland Phase markers at Spanish Fort (elbow pipes, figurine, ear plugs, Baytown Plain var. Satartia pottery) is interesting and Phillips (1970) has suggested this could mean the Bayland Phase is restricted to the Lake George Site and several sites adjacent to it. The Bayland Phase may indeed not represent a [REDACTED] phenomenon.