

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

funerary/ burial mound

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

n/a

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation n/a

walls _____

roof _____

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Dell Bullion Mound (22-T1-998) is a conical burial mound with no associated village (occupation) area.

The area where the site is located falls into the Mississippi Alluvial Plain Physiographic Province; however, it is but a very short distance to the Loess Bluffs and the North Central Hills physiographic province. According to some local people, several feet of the top of the mound was cut away some years ago, and relic collecting activity is confined to a single, small pot hole.

Based upon mound characteristics (size and shape) and the absence of an associated village area, the site is thought to have been occupied during the Middle Woodland Period. Conical mounds with no occupation (village) area in the immediate vicinity are known to have been a common settlement pattern in the time frame from A.D. 1 - A.D. 300 (Phillips 1970). No diagnostic ceramic or lithic materials have been recovered to date on or at the base of the mound or in the surrounding field.

No previous archaeological research has been carried out at this site. It was unknown to the professional archaeological community until a survey in the general area by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (Connaway, forthcoming) revealed its presence. Site disturbance has been primarily restricted to the "reported" scraping of several feet of earth from the mound summit and a single, small pothole. This suggests the bulk of the mound is in a good state of preservation, a single solid core auger revealed color mottling to 4' in depth probably indicative of loading during mound construction. Considering that the mound is in a good state of preservation, the likelihood of uncovering human skeletal remains and associated artifacts within the mound by means of controlled excavation is considerable. Finally, the current landowner does not allow access to the mound by unauthorized relic collectors further insuring the condition of the mound deteriorates no further.

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
A.D. 1 - A.D. 300

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation
Woodland (Middle)

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 Dell Bullion Mound (22-T1-998) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. The site has yielded and is capable of yielding additional information important to prehistory. Its potential for contributing to our understanding of the Middle Woodland Period within the Mississippi Alluvial Plain Physiographic Province is considerable.

Most conical burial mounds recorded to date have been located considerable distances from the uplands. At Dell Bullion there is potential to compare and contrast cultural materials and mound characteristics on an interareal basis. Sites located in the Loess Bluff region dating to the Middle Woodland could provide the necessary comparative materials in which to address the question of the relationships between "upland and lowland" Middle Woodland manifestations (Morgan 1970). Phillips (1970:425) suggests valley edge type sites of this period should not be expected to differ from those on the floodplain proper to any great extent. This idea should and can be tested archaeologically utilizing information gathered in scientific excavations at Dell Bullion.

The presence of the mounds at the site provides an opportunity to better understand mound construction techniques operative in the Middle Woodland Period. A solid core auger reveals soil color changes (mottling) probably indicative of loading from mound construction; however, it would be interesting to know if the mound was constructed in one or several stage(s). Burials are almost certainly present at Dell Bullion and if scientifically excavated could provide valuable information on mortuary complexes. Ceramics recovered could help to more definitely refine the chronological ordering of the site within the period of occupation/utilization; i.e., phase determination may be possible. Additional archaeological investigations in the mound at Dell Bullion will be required. The excavations should provide artifacts both within the moundfill and burial pits which would reflect upon interregional associations.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88002706

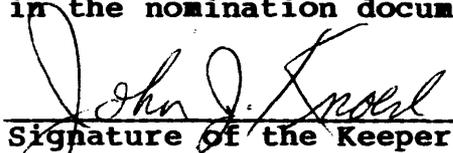
Date Listed: 12/14/88

Dell Bullion Mound
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

12/14/88
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Item 3 Classification.

There is 1 contributing structure in this nomination.

Verified by phone with:
Geoffrey R. Lehmann
Archeologist
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DISTRIBUTION:

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