

PH0662704

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

FEB 10 1978

DATE ENTERED

AUG 31 1978

## 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

Beaverdam Site

AND/OR COMMON

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

### CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

#### PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Lenore Owen Sanders

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 110

CITY, TOWN

Tunica

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi 38676

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Chancery Clerk  
Tunica County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 217

CITY, TOWN

Tunica

STATE

Mississippi 38676

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Archaeological Sites

DATE

1971

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Beaverdam Site, consisting of a mound and a surrounding village site,

[REDACTED] the river channel was active at least within the last few hundred years and probably during the period of occupation of the site. On the basis of the limits of distribution of surface ceramic and debris scatter, the site is believed to cover an area of approximately 60 acres.

The site was first recorded by Calvin S. Brown in his Archaeology of Mississippi (1926), the result of a private survey of archaeological sites and collections in Mississippi, conducted by Brown over a period of about ten years. He reported a mound that was ". . . lower on the east and higher on the west, the major axis being twice the minor," and observed ". . . burnt clay with cane impressions" about 400 feet to the north (1926:117). The small size of the trees at that time indicated past cultivation of the mound. Brown also noted that a few white people had been buried there.

During their [REDACTED] survey of 1940-1947, Phillips, Ford, and Griffin listed the Beaverdam Site as a "large village site with large and small mounds" (1951:50). Only scant data was published, however, and specific mention was made of only one large mound eleven feet high (1951:321). This may be explained by the objective of the survey, which was to sample the various cultural manifestations represented [REDACTED] and which did not include intensive investigations or excavations. Sampling was also somewhat biased toward the more conspicuous sites. The 1940 field notes from the survey give the diameter of the mound as 120 feet, and note a continuity between house sites along the lake bank at Beaverdam and those surrounding the Evansville mound [REDACTED]

Beaverdam was revisited in 1971 by archaeologists from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. At that time the mound had been reduced to approximately 60 feet in diameter and 8 feet in height, and had been cleared of trees, indicating some cultivation since the [REDACTED] survey. The owner, the late R. W. Owen, reported a small amount of relic hunting, but indicated that he had stopped the vandalism and preserved the mound by sodding and protecting it from any further intrusions. It presently remains in this state of preservation.

No subsurface testing has been conducted anywhere on the site, and the depth of the midden is thus unknown. Random surface collection of ceramics by Phillips, Ford, and Griffin yielded primarily Neeley's Ferry Plain and Bell Plain wares, along with fewer Baytown Plain, Mulberry Creek Cord-marked, and Barton Incised sherds. These, and a small number of ceramics of other types, indicated primarily a Mississippian occupation, with some possible brief Baytown Period occupations. Surface debris brought up by cultivation has included daub, which, when found in the Yazoo Basin, is accepted as a Mississippi Period trait associated with burned dwellings.

Phillips (1970:Fig. 447) assigns this site to the Kent Phase of the Mississippi Period, based on pottery type frequencies equivalent to Phillips, Ford, and Griffin's early Mississippi Period seriation. The geographical area covered by the Kent Phase is defined by ceramic type frequencies differing from those of the surrounding Parkin, Walls, and Parchman phase areas. It includes about a thousand square miles and includes sites on both sides of the Mississippi River (Phillips 1970:938-39). Phillips shows thirty-nine major sites clustered within

# 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/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		

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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Beaverdam Site lies in its potential for future research within a phase framework, as well as within its own intrasite cultural framework. The mound has considerable remaining undisturbed context, and there are probably intact subsurface features in portions of the habitation area. House patterns, refuse pits, burials, various activity areas, mound construction phases, and pre-mound construction features could be expected. Such evidence would afford essential data for the following research topics: intrasite settlement pattern and village planning with regard to the riverine topography; house construction methods, style, and materials; activity patterns in food preparation and procurement, tool manufacture, and subsistence pattern relationships with the environment; socio-religious organization with relation to the mound, the village pattern, and possibly certain activity patterns; ceramic seriation; cultural changes through time as related to mound construction and use, house construction, and activity patterns; the implications of a possible short-term occupation with relation to the topics mentioned above; and intersite settlement, and socio-cultural and socio-religious patterns, with relation to Kent Phase characteristics and natural environments.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Calvin S.  
1926 Archaeology of Mississippi. Mississippi Geological Survey, University of Mississippi.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY [REDACTED]

UTM REFERENCES [REDACTED]

A [REDACTED]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [REDACTED]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

[REDACTED]

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

John Connaway, Field Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

December 16, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 36

TELEPHONE

(601) 624-2550

CITY OR TOWN

Clarksdale

STATE

Mississippi 38614

# 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

*Edward B. Millard*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 7, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*

DATE

*8/31/78*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

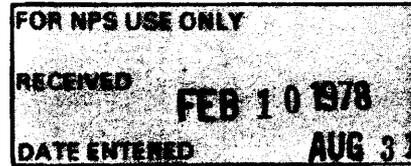
DATE

*8.18.78*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 9 PAGE 1

7 - DESCRIPTION

the Kent Phase area (1970:Fig. 447); nine are in Mississippi. The eight oth  
Mississippi sites are within a fourteen-mile radius of Beaverdam.

Surface scatter indicates that the area of most intensive habitation wa

the Evansville mound [redacted] of about the same time period, may be rel  
to Beaverdam mound and may even be of the same occupation. This could accou  
in part for the more intensive debris between the two mounds. More sparsely  
scattered debris may be found in the open cultivated field to the east and s  
east of the mound.

Cultivation continues in the areas around the mound. It can be assumed  
portions of the site are covered by the railroad and an adjacent blacktop ro  
Some erosion of village midden can be expected [redacted]

[redacted] but the mound is stabilized.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Phillips, Philip

1970 Archaeological survey [redacted] 1949  
Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, Papers 60.

Phillips, Philip, James A. Ford, and James B. Griffin

1951 Archaeological survey of the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley, 1  
1947. Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, Pape  
60.

Phillips, Philip, James A. Ford, and James B. Griffin

1940 Field notes, Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley survey. On file a  
the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard  
University.