

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Brogan Mound and Village Site Discontiguous District

other names/site number 22CL501

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town

vicinity

state

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property

building(s)

district (discontiguous)

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

 buildings

1

 sites

 structures

2

 objects

0 Total

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 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Kenneth H. P. Pool

APRIL 11, 1991

Signature of certifying official Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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:)

Coral Shell

5-24-91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Funerary-graves/burials (burial mound)

Domestic - village site

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/subsistence-agricultural field (pasture)

Industry/Processing/Extraction-extractive facility (soil borrow pit)

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Brogan Mound and Village Site Discontiguous District consists of a Middle Woodland period burial mound and an associated multicomponent habitation area.

The district is composed of two spatially discontiguous areas: the fairly large, conical mound immediately adjacent to the center of the remaining portion of the village site

No intact prehistoric resources exist in the intervening zone between the mound and the village

An additional conical mound formerly existed. This earthwork was destroyed by the construction

The mound/village complex is located

The terrace ridge upon which the mound and village site are situated rises about 13 meters above the bottoms and is not subject to flooding. The soil at both the village area and the mound is classified as Prentiss Sandy Loam, a moderately well-drained ridgetop soil underlain by a fragipan. The environmental setting of the village site afforded easy access to a diverse range of subsistence resources, owing to its location on a fertile prairie upland in close proximity to a major stream bottom.

The Mound

The Brogan Mound is approximately 3.8 m high and has a basal diameter of ca. 28 m. The summit of the mound is slightly disfigured as the result of past instances of uncontrolled digging by relic hunters. The mound is otherwise largely unaltered from its original

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

100 B.C. - A.D. 600
A.D. 600-1000
A.D. 1000-1450

Significant Dates

N/A
N/A
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Middle Woodland (Miller I and II phases)
Late Woodland (Miller III phase)
Mississippian

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 Brogan Mound and Village Site Discontiguous District possesses significance under National Register criterion D, in that it has yielded, and remains capable of yielding, information important to knowledge of the prehistory of Mississippi. Although the periphery of the village site has been destroyed by soil borrowing operations, the central portion, which contains the majority of the cultural deposits, has been preserved. As a result, the ability of this section of the district to provide further significant archaeological data has not been greatly impaired. Consequently, the potential of both the Brogan Mound and the village site to contribute to understanding of regional prehistoric chronology, social organization, and economic/subsistence patterns, especially of the Middle Woodland period, is substantial.

Current conceptions of the Middle Woodland period in the region are based largely upon data from a small number of mound sites. Middle Woodland habitation sites are sparsely represented in the regional archaeological literature, and of the few other investigated mound groups in northeast Mississippi, only the Bynum Mounds (Cotter and Corbett 1951) and the Miller Mounds (Jennings 1941) had associated habitation areas of substantial size and density. Middle Woodland mound/habitation area complexes such as the district under consideration here therefore represent a comparatively underinvestigated phenomenon.

To date, activity areas in close proximity to Middle Woodland mounds have most often been found to be special purpose sites associated with mortuary ceremonialism at the mounds (Mainfort 1986; Rafferty 1990; Walthall 1985). These sites were apparently inhabited only during episodes of mound construction. Such inferences are based on the presence of exotic, presumably ceremonial artifacts and the relative paucity of ordinary domestic refuse. This pattern is

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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, Jackson, Mississippi

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property _____

UTM Reference
A _____
Zone Easting Northing
C _____

UTM Reference
D _____
Zone Easting Northing
D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The boundaries of the discontinuous district encompass one site and one structure: a 1-acre-rectangular tract which comprises the remaining portion of the village site and the 0.17 acre covered by the basal area of the mound structure. As a result, two UTM references are given (see above). _____

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification _____

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Keith A. Baca, archaeologist
organization Mississippi Department of Archives and History date April 5, 1991
street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 359-6940
city or town Jackson state Mississippi zip code 39205

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form, and its condition is stable, as a dense cover of mature hardwood trees helps to prevent erosion.

The first published descriptions of the Brogan Mound and its now-destroyed companion mound appeared in the late nineteenth century (Claiborne 1880:484-485; Cushman 1962:380). Lacking any conception of the actual prehistoric age of the aboriginal mounds of the region, these authors erroneously attributed the Brogan Mound to the eighteenth-century Chickasaw tribe. This unfounded notion still lingers in local tradition.

The first and so far only professional archaeological excavation of the Brogan Mound was conducted in 1934 by Moreau B. C. Chambers of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. While the human skeletal remains and artifacts from this work were destroyed in a fire in the 1940s, Chambers' field notes, drawings and photographs have been preserved. Although minimal data pertaining to the 1934 excavation have been published (McGahey 1971:12; Rowland 1935:115), the results of Chambers' work were not fully reported until recently (Baca and Peacock 1990). The following summary is derived from the latter report.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] A two-tiered cluster of seven burials was encountered [REDACTED]

The upper layer of burials consisted of one flexed and three extended individuals. These were badly deteriorated primary inhumations, and were located about 2.4 meters below the summit, apparently inclusive with mound fill. Three comparatively well-preserved secondary burials were found 1.2 meters beneath the first four. These consisted only of disarticulated bones of the legs and feet, in addition to three skulls. No offerings had been placed with any burial. Apparently no sex or detailed age information was discernible from the deteriorated remains, as no estimations are to be found in the field notes. However, metric data in the field drawings suggest that all were adults.

Although log tombs, charnel structures, and crematory facilities are commonly found in conical burial mounds, no such major features were revealed by the excavation. However, the limited spatial extent of the excavated trench may account for the apparent lack of complex features; the possibility that such facilities may be present in unexcavated portions of the mound cannot be ruled out.

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Interpretations of the stages and sequence of mound construction remain hampered by the fact that no excavation profile drawings or other explicit stratigraphic data exist in the field notes. Though the lack of such recorded data might be taken to indicate homogenous stratigraphy, many mounds of this size and form commonly exhibit earthen primary platforms, primary core mounds and secondary mantles. Evidence for such stratigraphy is often indistinct and may well have been overlooked by the excavators. In the absence of direct data, a few tentative suggestions as to mound stratigraphy may be made by reference to the relative depth and position of the burials within the mound. The bottom layer of secondary burials was recorded as being 3.8 meters beneath the mound summit, on a horizontal plane. As the height of the mound is about 3.8 m, these burials were apparently at the original ground level, and not on an elevated earthen platform. In addition, the location of the upper four burials - about 1.4 m above the lower three, and 2.4 m below the summit on a slightly sloping plane - suggests that these may have been placed upon the sloping crest of a primary mound, and covered with a secondary mantle. The available data, then, suggest at least two stages of mound construction.

The few artifacts recovered from the mound, unassociated with any of the burials, consisted of about a dozen sand tempered fabric impressed ceramic sherds and a 15-cm x 4-cm rectangular mica sheet. The sherds were all unintentional inclusions in the mound fill, while the mica sheet had been placed in an ash-filled feature at the base of the mound.

These diagnostic materials, though sparse, indicate that the mound is of Middle Woodland period affiliation. Ceramic assemblages composed predominantly of the sand tempered type Saltillo Fabric Impressed are diagnostic of the early Middle Woodland Miller I phase, estimated to range from 100 B.C. to A.D. 300 (Jenkins 1982). Based on the ceramic evidence alone, a chronological estimate for the Brogan Mound would be tenuous at best, given the small sample size and ambiguous stratigraphic context. However, the occurrence of the mica sheet in sealed context at the base of the mound helps to confirm a Middle Woodland placement. The nearest source areas of mica are located in the southern Appalachians, and this material, along with other exotic goods, was acquired through participation in the Middle Woodland interregional exchange networks referred to as the Hopewellian Interaction Sphere (Caldwell 1964). In the absence of a larger ceramic sample or radiometric data, the temporal

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placement of the Brogan Mound must for now be estimated by cross-dating to burial mounds which have yielded both mica specimens and radiocarbon dates. Judging from its occurrence in radiometric-dated mortuary mound assemblages, sheet mica exhibits a rather restricted temporal range over a wide area, and seems to constitute a horizon marker for the first three centuries A.D. across much of the Southeast. In summary, although it can be stated with reasonable confidence that the Brogan Mound was constructed between A.D. 1 - 300, more precise placement must be delayed until additional excavation data can be secured.

The Village Site

The 22CL501 village or habitation area was recorded by Chambers in 1934, but no excavation was conducted here until 1990, as described below. Although surface artifacts were visible scattered

[REDACTED], as denoted by a dark-colored midden, occurred within a 100 x 150 meter zone, [REDACTED]

(Peacock 1990; see sketch map). In spring 1990, plowzone stripping was conducted as part of a salvage excavation in advance of soil-borrowing activity which was scheduled to impact the entire terrace ridge [REDACTED]. The stripping operation, performed with heavy machinery under the supervision of archaeologists from the Department of Archives and History, disclosed that the preponderance of midden and sub-plowzone cultural features occur within a more restricted area within the site boundaries previously established. This core village area, amounting to approximately one acre, has been left undisturbed by the landowner (see sketch map).

Several general surface collections had been made from the village site by Department of Archives and History archaeologists in 1970, 1979, and 1989. Diagnostics include an Early Archaic period Pine Tree projectile point, Late Gulf Formational period Alexander ceramics, Middle and Late Woodland sand- and grog-tempered pottery, and Mississippian shell tempered ware. The predominance of sand- and grog-tempered ceramics in the general surface collections had indicated that the most intensive occupation of the site had occurred during the Middle and Late Woodland periods. The 1990 salvage excavations disclosed heavy occurrence of intact Middle and Late Woodland sub-plowzone features, thus confirming the surface collection-based estimates of cultural affiliation and chronology, as described below.

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The intact features and human burials that were revealed by plowzone stripping around the periphery of the undisturbed 1-acre village core area were recorded and salvaged by Mississippi Department of Archives and History personnel in the summer of 1990. The most significant features consisted of a number of basin-shaped storage/refuse pits, which were assignable to the Middle Woodland Miller I and II phases based upon relative proportions of the Middle Woodland ceramic types Baldwin Plain, Saltillo Fabric Impressed, and Furrs Cordmarked. A Mississippian trash pit was identified on the basis of large quantities of shell tempered ceramics. These included Mississippi Plain var. Warrior; Moundville Incised var. Carrollton; and a number of orange-slipped sherds. Fourteen Madison projectile points were found in this pit, as were charred corncobs and a large quantity of mussel shell.

Two square-plan house patterns were revealed by the stripping, consisting of individually set postmolds. The houses measured ca. 5 m on a side. The presence of grog-tempered sherds in excavated postmolds indicates that these houses were of Late Woodland affiliation.

Two human burials were salvaged: Burial 1 consisted of the remains of an adult male, supine and semi-flexed, head oriented to the east-southeast. The body had been placed in a long, narrow pit dug especially to receive the remains. No grave offerings were associated, but the occurrence of grog-tempered sherds in the burial pit fill indicate a Late Woodland (Miller III phase) affiliation. Burial 2, an adult of undetermined sex, had been placed in a round refuse pit containing lithic debris, sherds, and midden-stained soil. The skeleton was in a supine, flexed position, head to the southeast. A large rim portion of a grog-tempered cordmarked vessel was found beneath the pelvis, indicating a Late Woodland temporal placement.

In view of the currently available data summarized above, it is evident that the habitation area of 22CL501 contains a Middle Woodland component which is likely contemporaneous with the mound. However, the most intensive occupation may have occurred during Late Woodland times, judging from the overall heavier occurrence of grog-tempered ceramics on the surface and in association with burials and house patterns. In addition, a smaller but significant Mississippian component is indicated, along with comparatively ephemeral Early Archaic and Late Gulf Formational occupations.

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reversed at the Brogan village site: no exotic material has yet been found here, and prepared storage/trash pits containing substantial quantities of utilitarian Middle Woodland ceramics are present. Lithic debris representing all stages of tool manufacture and maintenance have been found in these pits, as well. The currently available evidence thus suggests a residential/domestic occupation. Such a site offers an outstanding opportunity to explore Middle Woodland community patterning, domestic area function, and subsistence practices.

The residential nature of the habitation area points to the strong likelihood that good samples of subsistence remains can be recovered. The analysis of floral and faunal material from the Middle Woodland cultural deposits at the village site could provide much-needed seasonality data to help support or refute current varying hypotheses regarding the permanence of Woodland stage settlements; i.e., whether habitation sites were sedentary, year-round occupations (cf. Rafferty 1986) or only seasonally inhabited base camps (cf. Jenkins and Krause 1986). In addition, floral material recovered from the village site could provide positive or negative evidence regarding incipient cultivation of plant foods in

Information regarding Middle Woodland horticulture is scarce; few sites have yielded remains of cultigens, perhaps due to the paucity of undisturbed features at those Middle Woodland sites in the region which have been investigated to date. Brogan, with its intact Middle Woodland refuse pits, is a rare example of a site with the potential to provide such ethnobotanical data (if cultivation took place during the period in question).

The unusual density and integrity of the Middle Woodland component at 22CL501 are indicative of the ability of both the mound and habitation area to provide information contributing to the further delineation and refinement of the Miller temporal sequence. Brogan is centered in an area which has constituted a geographical gap in Middle Woodland chronological knowledge. The zone occupied by the district is situated between the more extensively investigated upper [redacted] as represented by the excavated mound sites previously cited, [redacted] (Jenkins 1982). As Middle Woodland influences are currently believed to have been introduced from the north (Jenkins and Krause 1986: 49-50), the extensive intact deposits at 22CL501 can likely yield absolute and relative chronological data concerning the timing of the spread of northern influences [redacted]

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Interpretations concerning the regional rise and decline of complex mortuary ceremonialism and of inter-regional Hopewellian exchange over the course of the Miller I and II phases have been based on data from a minimal number of excavated mounds (Morgan n.d.:93). The Brogan Mound itself has been only partially excavated, and it is likely that the majority of cultural material contained therein has yet to be recovered. Although previous excavation has yielded only scant information, the Brogan Mound doubtlessly retains dateable materials which could throw further light on regional and temporal variability in patterns of Hopewellian interaction. In addition, questions regarding the development of differential social organization during Middle Woodland times could be addressed through the analysis of mortuary patterning within this mound.

Although the discontiguous district derives its primary significance from the presence of a relatively rare Middle Woodland habitation area/mound complex, the Late Woodland Miller III phase component at the village site is also notable for its density and integrity. While information concerning the Late Woodland period is comparatively extensive for this sector of the Tombigbee basin (Futato 1989:176), it is probable that the village site can nevertheless contribute important data concerning Late Woodland subsistence, community layout, and site function. In addition, the demonstrated presence of Miller III burials in the habitation area attests to the ability of this site to add to knowledge of Late Woodland paleodemographics.

A particularly prominent area of concern in regional Late Woodland research involves the need for better chronological control. A number of subphases have been proposed, but these have had uncertain relative temporal significance due to the high spatial variability of Miller III ceramic assemblages from sites throughout [REDACTED] (Morgan n.d.:95). At the village site, there are ample indications that organic deposits suitable for radiometric dating occur in intact pits containing reasonably large samples of Late Woodland ceramics; data from Brogan could thus contribute toward the refinement of the regional Late Woodland sequence.

Judging from the currently available evidence, the Mississippian component at the village site is indicative of a comparatively small occupation, most likely a residential farmstead. Previous investigations in the region have disproportionately focused upon large, nucleated Mississippian sites, i.e., those featuring prominent platform mounds. It has been suggested that more excavation be

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undertaken of small farmsteads, as such sites have been characterized as representative of "the basic unit within the larger Mississippian economic and social organization" (Futato 1986:229,230). Only one Mississippian feature, a trash pit, has been identified thus far, but it has yielded large quantities of shell tempered ceramics, Madison projectile points, and subsistence remains. More spatially extensive excavation could possibly provide further baseline data on this important type of Mississippian site.

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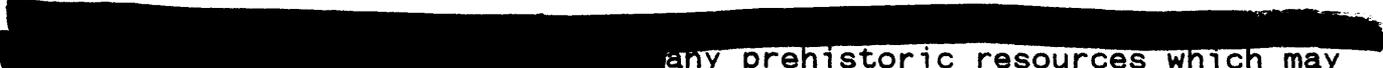
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 any prehistoric resources which may have occurred here have therefore been obscured/obliterated. This area has been excluded from the property boundaries. As a result, the boundaries of the district delineate two discontiguous areas which lie ca. 200 m apart.