

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mississippi	
COUNTY: Humphreys	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 19 1971



1. NAME

COMMON:
Jaketown Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
[REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN:
[REDACTED]

STATE: [REDACTED] CODE: [REDACTED] COUNTY: [REDACTED] CODE: [REDACTED]

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Humphreys County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Belzoni Mississippi 39038 28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
An Archaeological Survey [REDACTED]

DATE OF SURVEY: 1940-1947 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology

STREET AND NUMBER:
Harvard University

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Cambridge Massachusetts 20

STATE: Mississippi

COUNTY: Humphreys

ENTRY NUMBER: JUN 19 1971

DATE: NOV 27 1972

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The main part of the Jaketown site was originally situated on a sand bar island of a major river channel. It was initially settled shortly after 1000 B.C. by prehistoric people bearing the Poverty Point culture (ca. 1700 B.C.-400 B.C.). [REDACTED] eight small, low mounds of undetermined function were built by this group. These features have now been virtually obliterated by farming activities. In the same area was a major workshop, which presently reveals itself through the existence on the surface, of thousands of items of the Poverty Point microflint industry. The exact appearance of this early occupation will never be known but evidently the major living area was on the island itself. The vast majority of the baked clay balls which have been found on the site are concentrated here. These items were probably used as cooking objects. Here, too, was found the only known house pattern of the Poverty Point culture. This feature consists of a small circular arrangement of post molds and suggests that the people lived in small, round houses. Further work is needed to determine the extent of use of this house form, as well as the inter-relationship of the individual dwellings.

Geological evidence suggests that the branch of the river [REDACTED] became a cut-off lake during the Poverty Point period and that, thereafter, the site was no longer an island. Another small circular house pattern of the following Tchula Period was located indicating that this may have been the preferred house form for several hundred years. It is also probable that construction of Mound A was begun in this period, although its form and function seem to have been substantially altered during the Mississippian period several hundred years later. Sometime after 1000 A.D., the most obvious aspect of the site was added. Three large Mississippian rectangular mounds were built, surrounding what is considered to be a plaza. The largest of these, Mound B, is about 150 x 200 feet and twenty-three feet high. It has a flat summit and a ramp [REDACTED]. It is occasionally used today as a cemetery. Mound C, approximately fifteen feet high, is not in such good condition as Mound B, since it has been plowed on top. Mound A, most of which has been destroyed by road construction, was considered a remnant in 1951. At this time it was 160 feet by seventy-five feet and twelve feet high.

The cultural connections of Mounds D, E, and F are unknown. These features were almost completely destroyed by road construction in 1949 and are hardly recognizable as mound remnants today. Other than the two large Mississippian mounds, the most obvious aspect of the site's present appearance is the dark midden soil filled with the living debris of every archaeological period since 1000 B.C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1000 B.C.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

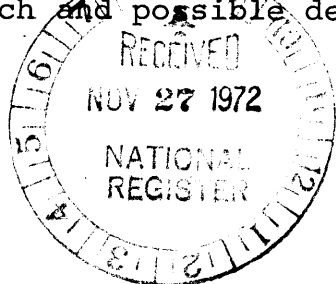
- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phil. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Jaketown is of archaeological significance for a number of reasons. Perhaps the most significant aspect of the site, which was initially settled shortly after 1000 B.C., lies in its long, almost continuous occupation through part of the Poverty Point period (ca. 1700 B.C.-400 B.C.) and all subsequent archaeological periods of the Lower Mississippi Valley. Considerable evidence concerning each of these periods lies buried here in a good state of preservation. Excavations at the Jaketown site by the American Museum of Natural History, and the Peabody Museum, Harvard University in 1941 and 1946 respectively, contributed substantially to the establishment of an archaeological chronology for the area. These excavations also yielded the first radiocarbon dates on the Poverty Point culture to be obtained in Mississippi. The dates ranged from 399 B.C. ± 80 to 880 B.C. ± 300.

House patterns, the only ones discovered to date for the Tchula and Poverty Point cultures, have been located at Jaketown, suggesting the possibility of determining settlement patterns for these cultures.

There are many unanswered questions concerning the people of these cultures and how they interacted with the environment. These questions could very well be answered by future studies at the Jaketown site. The portion of the site consisting of the bulk of undisturbed midden, as well as the large mounds, should be permanently preserved as an area of scientific research and possible development into a public educational exhibit.



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ford, James A., Phillips, Phillip, & Haag, William G. 1955.
The Jaketown Site [REDACTED]. Volume 45:
 part I Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of
 Natural History.
 Phillips, Phillip, Ford, James A. & Griffin, James B. 1951.
Archaeological Survey [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Papers of the Peabody Museum of American Arch-
 aeology and Ethnology, Harvard University Vol. XXV.

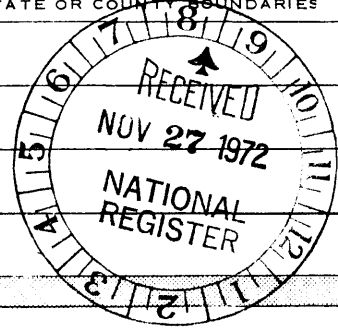
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		0	"	
NE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				
SE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				
SW	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Samuel O. McGahey, Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION: **Mississippi Department of Archives and History** DATE: **Nov. 14, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 571

CITY OR TOWN: **Jackson** STATE: **Mississippi 39205** CODE: **28**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name R. A. McLemore
 Title Director, Miss. Department of Archives and History
 Date November 14, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert H. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/19/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 6 27 73