

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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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 Batesville Moundsother names/site number 22-Pa-500 Pa-1 (Harmon Site)

2. Location

☒ not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u> sites
	<u>6</u> structures
	<u>6</u> objects
	<u>6</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
n/aNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register n/a

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 A. P. Pool

Signature of certifying official

October 24, 1988

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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): _____John J. Kneef12/14/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

domestic/village site
funerary/burial mounds

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

agricultural/pasture

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 Batesville Mounds (22-Pa-500) is a habitation/mortuary site consisting of four mounds and an associated occupation (village) area.

Four mounds are present including A, B, C, and D and all appear to be conical (rounded). The site was initially recorded by Calvin Brown (1926) and later revisited by W. Haag in 1949. One major difference in their descriptions of the site indicates that between circa 1920-1949 one mound (Brown's Mound E) has been completely destroyed, more than likely, by agriculture. However, the remaining four mounds changed only a little during that same period. Mound A today is approximately 3-4' in height, somewhat reduced from the 8' height reported by Haag in 1949. The mound is conical, though somewhat spread by cultivation and is approximately 35' in diameter. Mound B is approximately 10' in height and 90' in diameter and covered in trees and vegetation. Mound C is the largest of the four, conical in shape, and approximately 20' in height and 120' in diameter. This mound is also covered in thick vegetation and trees. Mound D is approximately 5' in height and is more or less conical in shape and covered in trees and vegetation. All four of the mounds have several relic collectors' pot holes present, not as many as can be found at other major mound groups across the state. All except Mound A are covered in trees and thick vegetation and this heavy cover helps deaccelerate the erosion which can occur when a mound is denuded.

Besides the four mounds are located two occupational (village) areas separate from each other and located at the north and south ends of the site which is roughly rectangular in configuration. village area is approximately 250' x 225' and is circular in configuration according to Haag's 1949 site sketch map; this area consists of earth midden and cultural materials. However, the material recovered by both Brown (1926) and Haag (1949) is not described and no longer available for study. At the time of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History field trip to gather nominating data a drought

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Panola County, Mississippi

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had rendered the soil impenetrable and traditional subsurface investigative techniques (shovel testing and soil augering) could not be carried out. [REDACTED] approximately 550' x 220' in size, [REDACTED]

Future investigations at the Batesville Mounds should have as one of its primary objectives, the delineation of the horizontal and vertical extent of the midden (occupational village area); this can be accomplished by shovel testing and soil augerings.

Most of the site today lies on property owned by the City of Batesville. The area was, up until the last several years, in cultivation, however, today the field is in pasture and three out of four mounds along with [REDACTED] village area are heavily wooded. City law enforcement officials patrol the site periodically and serve as a deterrent to the activities of relic collectors. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History plans to return to the site later in the fall of 1988 under better survey conditions, to test the village areas both north and south.

Based upon mound characteristics (size and shape) site occupation is attributed to the Woodland Period. Conical burial mounds are known to occur in both the Middle and Late Woodland Periods. Thus the site was most likely occupied some time between A.D. 1 and A.D. 1000.

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. 1000

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

Woodland (Middle/Late)

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 Batesville Mounds (22-Pa-500) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D as the site has yielded and is capable of yielding additional information important to prehistory. Its potential for contributing to our understanding of the Woodland Period within the Loess Bluff physiographic province is considerable. What little is presently known of the archaeology of this area is mostly inferred from adjacent portions of the Lower Mississippi Valley where a larger amount of archaeological research has been undertaken.

The presence of mounds at the site provides an opportunity to evaluate Woodland mound construction techniques and scientific excavation can tell us whether the mounds were built in one or multiple stages. Burial features will undoubtedly be present and much can be learned about Woodland mortuary practices if they are systematically excavated. The potential for retrieval of organic materials is real and could allow for radiocarbon dating allowing us to get a firm chronological control over the site.

Excavations in the north and/or south village areas could retrieve carbonized materials that could be used not only for radiocarbon dating but for subsistence studies as well. Further, at this portion of the site the likelihood of recovering diagnostic cultural materials (lithics and especially ceramics) that could not only help place the site in its proper place within the Woodland Period, but could also be used for comparative purposes with material recovered

Phillips (1970) suggests there will be little difference between floodplain and upland Woodland mound sites, however, this idea has not been archaeologically tested.

Additional excavations in both the mound and occupational areas at the Batesville Mounds will be required. On the basis of size and shape of the mounds the site has been assigned to the Woodland Period, however, future excavations at the site are necessary to be absolutely sure. Once this material has been recovered we will be in a better position to understand the degree and nature of associations between the

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upland and floodplain mound sites. The only other Middle Woodland period site to be tested archaeologically in the Loess Hills is the Grand Gulf Mound (Brookes 1976) and Morgan points out that the Grand Gulf Region is best known of the areas within the Loess Hills. The Batesville Mounds, far removed from the Grand Gulf Region, could provide cultural differences with similar sites from other areas in the Loess Hills.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brown, Calvin

1926 Archaeology of Mississippi. Mississippi Geological Survey. University.

Haag, William

1949 Archaeological Site Form and Notes. Submitted to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

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 # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

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

Acreage of property _____

UTM References

A _____
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James Lauro/Archaeologist

organization Mississippi Department of Archives and History date August 1988

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