

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 22 1986
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Armstrong Site (22RA576)

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town

state

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: undeveloped

4. Owner of Property

name Pearl River Valley Water Supply District

street & number Post Office Box 12750

city, town Jackson

N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi 39236

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rankin County Courthouse
Office of the Chancery Clerk

street & number Post Office Box 126 305 Government Street

city, town Brandon

state Mississippi 39042

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Archaeological Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson

state Mississippi

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Armstrong Site, 22 RA576, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The island is approximately 5 acres in size and is covered in a heavy pine-mixed hardwood forest. Prior to the creation of the [REDACTED] Reservoir (which flooded some 26 square miles in Rankin, Madison, Hinds, Leake, and Attala Counties) the island could have been considered a hammock partially surrounded [REDACTED] bottom lands. Today, however, access to the Armstrong Site is restricted to boat travel. The inaccessibility of the site both now, and prior to the creation of the reservoir, is primarily responsible for protecting the site from destruction caused by cultivation, lumbering, and especially relic collection. Much of the island is today impenetrable due to heavy vegetation and swampy areas; insects, snakes, and alligators help make the place a rather unpleasant one to visit most of the year. Although relic collecting damaging activities have been rather insignificant at the site, some damage to the resource base is being caused by wave action generated by boats. Wave action destruction is also being generated by the frequent heavy winds occurring on this wide open body of water. Soil augerings conducted on a random basis (close to the edge of the island as the island is nearly impenetrable most of the year) revealed ceramics and lithics from the surface to 1 1/2' deep. Numerous sherds could be observed eroding out of the bank at the edge of the site and by walking the sandy beach heavy amounts of lithic/ceramic materials could be readily surface collected. The bulk of the ceramic inventory from the Armstrong Site is sand tempered with clay tempering occurring much less frequently. Within the entire collection only five (5) shell tempered Mississippian Period sherds were noted. Apparently the bulk of the occupation belongs to the Woodland Period, primarily Early and Middle Woodland (0 A.D. - 800 A.D.). Private collections from the site reveal mussel shell, fish bones, deer bones and several fragments of human skeletal material. This faunal material had eroded from the edge of the site. [REDACTED]

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 6000 B.C. - 1450 A.D. Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Armstrong Site, 22RA576, is a multi-component site occupied, for the most part, during the Middle Archaic and the Early and Middle Woodland with a minor occupation occurring some time in the Mississippian Period (6000 B.C. - 1450 A.D.). Ceramics include some early markers such as sand tempered fabric impressed types, numerous plain and incised sandy tempered sherds with some clay tempered (Baytown Plain var. unspecified and Reed) materials occurring also. Five (5) shell tempered plain sherds were recovered which were unclassifiable. Lithics include one (1) large 9-1/2" biface blade, one partially drilled jasper bead, numerous flakes, fire cracked rock, Collins (like) projectile points, and one example of a Middle Archaic projectile point. Deer bone and mussel shell can, in places, be found eroding from the bank, and during the process of cleaning a section of the bank in preparation for a profile, many sherds were knocked off the wall. The site has produced one of the largest collection of ceramics the writer has recorded to date [REDACTED]. Soil augerings attempted towards the edge of the site (most of the site was inaccessible during the May and July 1986 visits) revealed no buried midden, but these tests were not all inclusive. Shovel testing revealed ceramics and lithics from the surface to 1-1/2' deep, and the likelihood that intact features may be present at the site is real. The site should be tested with attention being paid to the possibility of ceramic stratification being present. Excavation levels might be done in 5 cm. levels and not the usual 10 cm. levels. No ceramic chronology is presently available [REDACTED] and considering the heavy amounts of ceramics present at the site, Armstrong can be considered a prime candidate for providing the information necessary to establish a tentative ceramic chronology. We are presently forced to make comparisons with established chronologies [REDACTED] and needless to say, this can be difficult. The presence of faunal remains at the site is interesting and suggests that preservation of organic materials may be favorable. In that case we have a possibility that dietary implications might be made if the faunal remains can be tied down to a specific component. This would put us in a better position to make statements about subsistence practices especially during the Woodland Period (0-800 A.D.).

