



380

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: BURKETT'S CREEK ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
other names/site number: 22FO748

2. Location

street & number: [REDACTED]
city or town: [REDACTED]
state: [REDACTED]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Park FEB. 25, 2000
Signature of certifying official 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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):

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
 Edson H. Beall 4-14-00

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:

PUBLIC

Number of Resources within Property:

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Category of Property:

SITE

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings
sites

1

objects
Total

1

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/camp

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/processing site

Current Functions:

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification(s): N/A

Materials: N/A

foundation:

roof:

walls:

other:

Narrative Description:

See Continuation Sheets

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

ARCHAEOLOGY/Prehistoric

Period of Significance

ca. 6000 B.C. to A.D. 1500

Significant Dates

N/A

Criteria Considerations:

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation(s)

ARCHAIC (Middle & Late)
GULF FORMATIONAL
WOODLAND (Middle & Late)
MISSISSIPPIAN

Narrative Statement of Significance:

See continuation sheets.

Architect/Builder

N/A

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography 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

Name of repository:

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: [REDACTED]

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing

B [REDACTED]
C [REDACTED]
D [REDACTED]

Zone Easting Northing

E [REDACTED]
F [REDACTED]
G [REDACTED]

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: DOUGLAS C. SIMS/ARCHAEOLOGIST
ADRIAN ROWLEY/THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI STUDENT
organization: MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY date: JANUARY 5, 1999
street & number: P.O. BOX 571 telephone: (601) 359-6940
city or town: JACKSON state: MS zip code: 39205-0571

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner(s)

name: USM FOUNDATION, THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
street & number: BOX 10026 telephone:
city or town: HATTIESBURG state: MS zip code: 39406

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Forrest County, Mississippi

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The Burkett's Creek archaeological site (22Fo748) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the site extends approximately
200 X 200 meters [REDACTED] is

[REDACTED] Although a majority of the site is in a fallow field,
some of the site is covered with typical pine species (e.g., longleaf, short leaf,
etc.) and several varieties of hardwood (e.g., oak, hickory, sweetgum).

The Burkett's Creek archaeological site was first located in 1994 by Scott &
Associates during a cultural resources survey of a 4 hectare (10 acre) tract of
land slated for lagoon construction [REDACTED] (see Scott 1994a).
At the time of the survey, the site had recently been clear-cut, and due to heavy
machinery and torrential rains, much of the topsoil had been removed leaving
good surface visibility (Scott 1994a:1). A pedestrian survey with limited
subsurface testing was conducted to identify the site's horizontal boundaries.
The surface inspection yielded both prehistoric and historic artifacts across an
area roughly 2 hectares (5 acres) (Scott 1994a:1).

Additionally, this surface inspection resulted in the identification of three
significant artifact concentrations, all being associated with small knolls on the
northern part of the site (Scott 1994a). Although the northernmost knoll had
been heavily disturbed by artifact collectors in recent months, numerous lithic
artifacts were still present. Artifacts recovered include: Kent, Pontchartrain, and
Edwards points; an unidentified corner-notched point; as well as sand, grog, and
shell tempered pottery sherds (Scott 1994a:2). A brief analysis of these artifacts
indicate that this portion of the site had been occupied numerous times possibly
from the Late Archaic-Gulf Formational period (3000 to 200 B.C.) through to the
Mississippian period (A.D. 1100 to 1500), with the most "intensive use of the site
occurring during the Woodland period" (200 B.C. to A.D. 1100) (Scott 1994a:2).
Subsequent shovel testing in the concentration revealed this portion of the site
extended to a depth of 50 cm with a "possible midden suggested by dark,
organically stained soil in the upper 30 cm of matrix" (Scott 1994a:2).

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The other two artifact concentrations did not produce as many artifacts as the first. Although the location of the second artifact concentration, just south of the first, had been severely eroded, a brief investigation (i.e., shovel testing and surface examination) revealed chipping debris "to a depth of 20 cm below the surface, suggesting that earlier components [were] still intact" (Scott 1994a:2). Additionally, a few pottery sherds were recovered from the surface. A brief investigation of the final concentration, [REDACTED], revealed only limited lithic artifacts. As a whole, very few diagnostic artifacts were recovered from these portions of Burkett's Creek.

Based on these preliminary investigations, Scott & Associates recommended the site for further testing (Phase II) in order to more accurately determine site size and integrity, confirm initially identified occupational episodes, determine if any intact subsurface deposits existed at Burkett's Creek, identify any possible impacts from the proposed project, as well as determine whether or not the site was eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

In July of 1994, Scott & Associates (1994b) began Phase II archaeological investigations at the site. Archaeologists excavated "eighty-two 30X30 cm shovel tests . . . to a depth of 50 cm at intervals 10 to 30 meters apart," as well as one 50X50 cm test unit (Scott 1994b:1). A majority of this subsurface testing focused on the northeastern section of the site, since this is the area where the artifact concentrations (i.e., knolls) were originally identified. Although numerous lithic artifacts were recovered in these tests, none were diagnostic (Scott 1994b:1). Other recovered artifacts included 3 grog-tempered pot sherds and a handful of historic debris (e.g., brick and iron fragments, glass, plastic) (Scott 1994b:1; Appendix 1).

Based on these subsurface tests, Scott & Associates (1994b:1) determined the majority of artifacts existed in the upper 30 cm of the site and that none existed below 50 cm. While shovel tests revealed several areas of considerable disturbance (i.e., based on intrusion of historic artifacts, mottling of soils, etc.), possibly related to the recent land clearing activities (Scott 1994b:1), areas containing undisturbed, intact deposits were also located. Based on this phase of investigation, Burkett's Creek was determined to be significant and therefore eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. With this in mind, Scott & Associates (1994b:2) recommended Phase III excavations as a mitigation measure for the areas to be impacted by lagoon construction. The

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mitigation plan included the excavation of roughly 5% of the site, monitoring of the site during construction, as well as encouraging Marshall Durbin, Inc., donate a major portion of the remaining site to The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) for future study and preservation. Soon after the mitigation plan was submitted to Marshall Durbin, Inc., it was approved, and the requested parcel of land (possessing intact cultural deposits) was donated to USM (Figure 2).

In the fall of 1994, The University of Southern Mississippi began mitigating the designated 5% sample of the site, which required the excavation of eighty-five 1X1 meter units (Figure 3). These excavations produced a large lithic assemblage comprising of nearly 11,000 chipped stone artifacts. According to Jackson (1995:35),

A variety of whole or fragmentary finished projectile point/knives were recovered, as well as early and late stage biface manufacturing rejects. Not surprisingly, the collection is dominated by waste material produced by biface reduction and also expedient flake tool manufacture. Other unmodified or non-flintknapped stones and minerals were also recovered.

This investigation recovered a total of 54 finished bifaces from Burkett's Creek, the majority of which were identified as projectile point/knives (PPKs) (Jackson 1995:43). Additionally, a single adze, two small drills, one uniface (similar to a Jaketown drill), and numerous expediently produced retouch flakes were recovered from the site (Jackson 1995:43). Other stone artifacts recovered from Burkett's Creek include, a single steatite vessel fragment, sandstone, siltstone, hematite, and "large chert cobbles carried to the site to make stone tools" (Jackson 1995:51).

The majority of identifiable diagnostics, however, come from the PPKs collected during this and previous investigations. Analysis of 61 projectile point/knives, revealed twelve identifiable types, ranging from Late Archaic to Mississippian times. These types include: Appalachian Stemmed, Bayougoula Fishtailed, Bradley Spike, Burkett's Creek Stemmed, Collins Side-Notched, Coosa Notched, Cotaco Creek Corner Notched, Flint Creek Stemmed, Gary

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Stemmed, vars. Gary and Maybon, Little Bear Creek Stemmed, Pontchartrain Stemmed, and Tombigbee Stemmed (see Jackson 1995:37-40).

In addition to the numerous lithic artifacts recovered from Burkett's Creek, several prehistoric pottery sherds were also recovered. Though comparatively scant, the recovered ceramics did help provide additional information on site chronology and function. The majority of sherds recovered were plainwares, non-decorated ceramics comprised of various tempering agents such as sand, grog, grog and sand, and crushed shell. Identified ceramic types ranging from late Gulf Formational to the Mississippian period include Baldwin Plain, vars. Dublin and James Street, Basin Bayou Incised, Baytown Plain, Furr's Cordmarked, Mulberry Creek Cordmarked, Tchefuncte Plain, vars. Burkett and Goode Lake, and Mississippi Plain.

In addition to prehistoric artifacts, 233 historic artifacts were also recovered from Burkett's Creek. Although no significant artifact concentrations were noted, these more recent, disturbed remains help to document more contemporary occupations of the Burkett's Creek site. Recovered historic artifacts include window pane glass, bottle glass, whiteware ceramics, feather edged and transfer ware ceramics, barbed wire, wire staples, a button, brick fragments, shotgun shells, and pieces of porcelain (see Jackson 1995:70). An analysis of the historic material indicates that it does not predate the 20th century (Jackson 1995:70).

Unfortunately, no hearths were encountered during the excavations, and features as a whole were limited. The only identified features encountered during these excavations were several "possible postmolds, including one historic post" (Jackson 1995:33). Additionally, no deeply stratified deposits were identified at the site. It appears a majority of the site is shallow, with cultural deposits closely layered upon each other. According to Jackson (1995:53), "much of the site's history, at least that taking place in the last 3000 years or so, is sandwiched in a small amount of sediment, without sufficient stratification to tease out different occupations vertically." This is not to say the site does not extend deeper, since chipped stone debris was encountered to a depth of 70 cm below surface in northern parts of the site (Jackson 1995:53). As a whole, however, stratigraphy was not the best way to identify the site's extremely complex cultural history.

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Therefore, much of the site's culture history was determined by the recovery of numerous diagnostic prehistoric artifacts indicating "a long history of periodic Native American occupation" (Jackson 1995:72). Based primarily on recognized projectile point/knife and decorated pottery types, Burkett's Creek's potential maximum span of prehistoric occupation was determined to be from 6000 B.C. to A.D. 1500.

The earliest identifiable occupation at Burkett's Creek is represented by a single wide stemmed point recovered 30 cm below surface (Jackson 1995:53). The recovery of this Middle Archaic (6000 to 4000/3000 B.C.) point may indicate the presence of a deeper, possibly better stratified, intact deposit at the site than was identified during the phase II and III investigations. The subsequent Late Archaic-Gulf Formational (ca. 3000 to 200 B.C.) occupations at Burkett's Creek appear somewhat more substantial than the earlier Middle Archaic one. This is primarily due to the recovery of more diagnostics, such as Late Archaic projectile point/knives Appalachian Stemmed, Cotaco Creek, Little Bear Creek, and Gary var. Gary, as well as Gulf Formational PPKs Flint Creek and Pontchartrain, and ceramic types Baldwin Plain, vars. Dublin and James Street and Tchefuncte Plain, vars. Burkett and Goode Lake.

It is during the following Middle Woodland period (ca. 200 B.C. to A.D. 450), however, when the occupation of Burkett's Creek "appears to be the most extensive" (Jackson 1995:73). Recovered artifacts from this time period include a Bradley Spike, Burkett's Creek Stemmed, Coosa Notched, Gary Stemmed, var. Maybon, and Tombigbee Stemmed points. In addition, Basin Bayou Incised, and Furr's Cordmarked sherds were also recovered at the site and are also indicative of the Middle Woodland period.

The last prehistoric occupations recorded at Burkett's Creek come during the Late Woodland (A.D. 450 to 1100) and Mississippian periods (A.D. 1100 to 1500). According to Jackson (1995:73), "Collins points, a hardpaste variety of Baytown Plain and Mulberry Creek Cordmarked represent the Late Woodland component, while Bayougoula points and shell tempered Mississippi Plain relate to the final Mississippian occupation."

In summary, the Burkett's Creek archaeological site functioned primarily as a prehistoric stone tool manufacturing and residential locale from Middle Archaic through Mississippian times. This determination is supported by the presence of finished and unfinished bifaces, as well as the associated debitage, revealing

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practically every stage of biface production trajectory at the site (see Johnson 1989). Additionally, the presence of an adze, several drills, and utilized flakes suggests to Jackson (1995:74) the site may have also functioned as a tool maintenance site. The identification of Burkett's Creek as a residential site is also supported by the presence of pottery, suggesting cooking and serving activities occurred on site. "The paucity of features . . . seem to suggest that [site] visits, though perhaps regular, may not have been of particularly long duration" (Jackson 1995:74). Instead, Jackson (1995:74) believes that the "data suggest[s] a short term but repeatedly used foraging camp, rather than a base camp from which logistical forays emanated."

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Only a limited number of sites possessing intact prehistoric cultural deposits have been recorded, much less professionally excavated, in the Long Leaf Pine Belt (Piney Woods) region of Mississippi. A noteworthy exception is the Burkett's Creek archaeological site, located in Forrest County. Burkett's Creek has yielded, and retains the potential to yield, information important to the knowledge of Mississippi's prehistory, from the Middle Archaic through the Mississippian period. Upon its donation to The University of Southern Mississippi in the Fall of 1994, Burkett's Creek was designated a Mississippi Landmark by the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Therefore, the Burkett's Creek archaeological site is significant statewide under the Prehistoric Archaeology Area of Significance of National Register Criterion D.

An overall lack of archaeological research and the prevailing misconception that the region is basically devoid of important sites (see Jackson and Scott 1992) have resulted in a dearth of archaeological information [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] "Before the 1970's few professional archaeological investigations had been conducted on the southern Gulf Coastal Plain of Mississippi, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Jackson 1995:11). Most of the recorded archaeological sites had been located by avocationalists. In 1979 the first intensive archaeological survey [REDACTED] watershed was conducted, enabling archaeologists to gather data and develop a predictive model of aboriginal settlement for the area (see Padgett and Heisler 1979; Jackson 1995:11). Although an increased number of CRM surveys (e.g. Scott and Mann 1989a; 1989b) and predictive model studies (e.g., DeLeon 1981; Reams 1995) have been conducted [REDACTED], very few extensive archaeological excavations had ever been undertaken. Therefore, "[t]he present understanding of the region's culture-history [has] draw[n] heavily from adjacent better known areas of northeastern and western Mississippi and western Alabama" (Jackson 1995:6). The extensive excavations conducted at Burkett's Creek, however, have begun to shed light on South Mississippi's past, and allow for a better regional understanding [REDACTED] and its aboriginal occupants.

Although the 1994 investigations at Burkett's Creek provide significant new data on the prehistoric inhabitants of south Mississippi, they were not exhaustive

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(Jackson 1995). Therefore, additional archaeological research at the site will provide further knowledge and understanding of the Middle Archaic, Late Archaic-Gulf Formational, Middle Woodland, and Late Woodland-Mississippian periods, and prehistoric life as a whole for the Piney Woods region. One major research goal should be to properly record and study the site's extremely complex stratigraphy, since very little stratigraphic data is presently available [REDACTED] (see McGahey 1996).

Subsequent research should also recover more substantial cultural materials in context. The collection of charcoal will provide absolute dates (e.g., radiocarbon; oxidizable carbon ratio) for the site and region. No such material was acquired during the initial investigations, and therefore will provide much needed chronological data enabling a refinement of current interpretations of the numerous prehistoric components, as well as the region's cultural-historical framework. The recovery of a more substantial artifact assemblage, when coupled with stratigraphic data, may enable archaeologists to better recognize changes or uses in lithics over time, as well as provide finer chronological placement for recognized components and specific lithic tools than is currently possible.

Additional research geared towards recovering floral and faunal remains (e.g., taking flotation samples) will provide for better interpretations regarding locale species exploitation, thereby affording an opportunity to better reconstruct prehistoric seasonal hunting and gathering practices for the region. Furthermore, the use of this data, coupled with artifactual and chronological data, will also provide insights on changes, if any, in adaptation and exploitation strategies throughout time at the site.

Other research goals that could provide important new data on the prehistoric life during the Piney Woods includes intensive geoarchaeological and geophysical studies of the site and its setting. Geoarchaeological studies will provide an opportunity to better understand site formation and effects of bioturbation, possibly providing research models that can be used at other sites in similar environs. Burkett's Creek also provides an opportunity to use geophysical technologies, such as ground penetrating radar, at site's possessing extremely complex stratigraphy, where it is hoped they will assist in the identification subsurface anomalies in a more complete and less intrusive manner. According to Jackson (1995:74) a strategy, such as this, to "expose . . .

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pits and hearths will be necessary" to further understand the complexities surrounding site chronology and function.

In summary, the Burkett's Creek archaeological site is an important repository of information which has, and can continue to, contribute to a better understanding of the prehistoric habitation of South Mississippi, and the cultural processes that helped shape this region over the last 8,000 years. Future research combined with the previously generated data will provide a more holistic perspective of prehistoric life, not only at Burkett's Creek, but also for the Piney Woods region and south Mississippi as well.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Burkett's Creek (22Fo748) archaeological site occupies approximately 40,000 square meters or 4 hectares (10 acres) [REDACTED]

The site's boundary is delineated by a polygon whose vertices are marked by the following Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) reference points:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| A [REDACTED] | E [REDACTED] |
| B [REDACTED] | F [REDACTED] |
| C [REDACTED] | G [REDACTED] |
| D [REDACTED] | |

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries for the Burkett's Creek archaeological site have been delimited by archaeological investigations at the site [REDACTED]

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Burkett's Creek archaeological site (22Fo748)

[REDACTED]
Dr. H. Edwin Jackson
Summer of 1994

Color Slides/Negatives located at The University of Southern Mississippi,
Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

1. [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED]