

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Mississippi

COUNTY:
Coahoma

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
DEC 30 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Oliver Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
[REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN: [REDACTED] CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: [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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Cemetery</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Joe R. Weeks

STREET AND NUMBER:
Friars Point Road

CITY OR TOWN: **Clarksdale** STATE: **Mississippi** CODE: **28**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
bordering Yazoo, Delta, First and Court Streets

CITY OR TOWN: **Clarksdale** STATE: **Mississippi** CODE: **28**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Mississippi Archaeological Survey

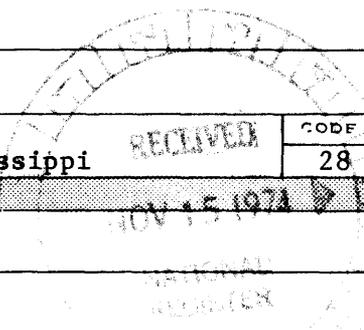
DATE OF SURVEY: **1968** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 571

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: **Mississippi**

COUNTY: **Coahoma**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE: **DEC 30 1974**

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" 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 Oliver site was first recorded by Charles Peabody in 1901. At that time the site was basically in its original form with even the smallest mounds visible (Belmont, 1961:16). In a description of the site condensed from Peabody (1904), Brown (1926:101) tells of the presence of three mounds



At the time of his story, the large rectangular mound, referred to by Peabody as the Big Mound, measured 190 feet in diameter north-south, 180 feet east-west, and 26 feet in height. The Cemetery Mound measured 5.4 feet in height, the two mounds nearest the Big Mound to the northeast were over three feet, and the one mound farthest south was 2.5 feet in height. All the remaining mounds were under two feet. Long irregular depressions in the surrounding fields may have been the remnants of borrow pits used in mound construction.

A year after Peabody's first visit, one of the smaller mounds was destroyed by cultivation. No cultivation was in evidence before this, although some amount of deterioration of the Big Mound could be seen as a result of some 400 years of erosion.

In 1901-1902, Peabody excavated extensively on the Big Mound and placed a number of test pits in the Cemetery Mound and in the area surrounding it and the Big Mound. The results of this work were published in 1904 in the Papers of the Peabody Museum. This publication contained little useful information by modern archaeological standards, and, in 1961, Belmont undertook to reassess Peabody's field notes in the form of a thesis for a B.A. degree at Harvard University. Belmont goes into much detail on the excavation, the stratigraphy of the mounds, and the interpretation of the various cultural stages represented. He also speculated on architectural patterns derived from postmolds found in the excavation, pointing out the apparent presence of rectangular structures surrounded by circular enclosures.

In 1941, Philip Phillips, James A. Ford, and John B. Griffin excavated several test pits near Mound A (the Big Mound). They reported that the site had suffered much from the ravages of agriculture since Peabody's time (1951:253). The Big Mound, though mutilated, and the Cemetery Mound were the only two mounds remaining of any size. Several smaller mounds were barely visible.

At the present time, the Cemetery Mound remains much as it was and is grown up in brush. The Big Mound has been in cultivation for many years, and, as a result, is now only about 6 or 7 feet high. None of the smaller mounds are noticeable.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

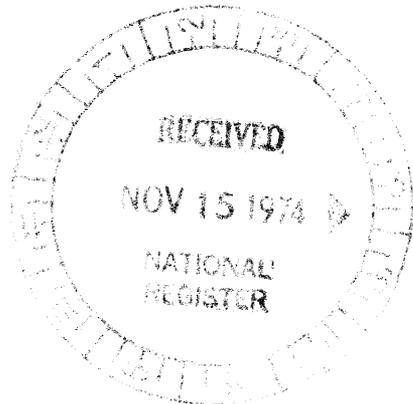
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input 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/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input 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 | 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

The primary significance of the Oliver Site lies in the stratigraphy within the mounds and surrounding area. Belmont (1961) found in his reassessment of Peabody's 1901-1902 excavations that there was a succession of cultural remains in the site indicating occupations of the Coahoma Phase (Baytown Period) and Hushpuckena-Oliver Phases (Mississippi Period). In 1941 Phillips (1951) excavated three test cuts near the Big Mound in an attempt to gather more meaningful information from Peabody's data. In effect, what he found was two distinct occupations (mentioned above) with no evidence of transition from one to the other. Even with the amount of investigation done by Peabody, Belmont, and Phillips, there are many questions left unanswered concerning the cultural elements of the site, including its relationship with the historic period. Turquoise and glass beads have been found with some of the burials and are thought to belong to the late seventeenth or early eighteenth centuries; brass bells of a type used by sixteenth century Spaniards have been reported from the site as well (Brown, 1926:358).

Further excavations at the site could yield the necessary stratigraphic evidence to answer these questions and could help establish more firmly the position of the cultural elements represented in the overall archaeological sequence. [REDACTED]



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Belmont, John S.
1961, The Peabody Excavations, Coahoma County, Mississippi, 1901-1902, unpublished B.A. thesis, Harvard University.

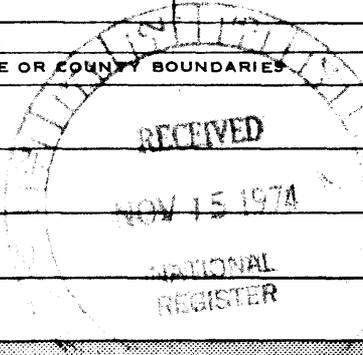
Brain, Jeffrey P., Alan Toth & Antonio Rodriguez-Buckingham
1973, Ethnohistoric Archaeology and the DeSoto Entrada into the Lower Mississippi Valley, unpublished manuscript, Peabody Museum, Harvard.

(continued)

HM
No VTM5

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						
NE						
SE						
SW						
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____ Acres						
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:
John Connaway, Survey Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION: **Mississippi Department of Archives and History** DATE: **September 13, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 571

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Elbert R. Hilliard</u></p> <p>Title <u>STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER</u></p> <p>Date <u>September 15, 1974</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Alfred Morlausa</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>12/30/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>W. M. [Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>DEC 27 1974</u></p>
--	---

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Coahoma	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 30 1974

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Calvin S.
1926, Archaeology of Mississippi, Mississippi Geological Survey, University.

Peabody, Charles
1904, "Exploration of Mounds from Coahoma County, Mississippi", Papers of the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Vol. 3, No. 2, Cambridge.

Phillips, Philip
1970, "Archaeological Survey [REDACTED], Mississippi, 1949-1955", Papers of the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Vol. 60, Parts 1 & 2, Cambridge.

Phillips, Philip; James A. Ford; and James B. Griffin
1951, "Archaeological Survey in the Lower Mississippi [REDACTED], 1940-1947", Papers of the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Vol. 25,

