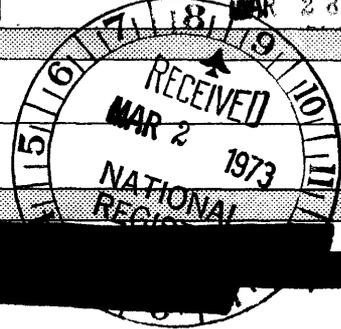


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mississippi
 COUNTY: Winston
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: MAR 28 1973



1. NAME

COMMON: Nanih Waiya Mound and Village
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: [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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mississippi Park Commission and Tilden Lamar Parkes
 STREET AND NUMBER: 717 Robert E Lee Bldg, Jackson (39201) Route 3, Louisville
 CITY OR TOWN: [REDACTED] STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39339 28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Winston County Court House
 STREET AND NUMBER: [REDACTED]
 CITY OR TOWN: Louisville STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39339 28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Works Progress Administration Park, Parkway and Recreational Study for Mississippi
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1940 Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Mississippi Department of Archives and History
 STREET AND NUMBER: Post Office Box 571
 CITY OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39205 28

STATE: Mississippi
 COUNTY: Winston
 ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 28 1973
 DATE: [REDACTED]
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 earliest account of the physical appearance of the Nanih Waiya Mound and Village site was written in 1775 by James Adair, who stated that there were two oblong mounds which he interpreted as being old garrisons. At that time the mounds were enclosed by a broad, deep ditch and a high breast-work, which according to Adair, had been constructed by the site's prehistoric occupants to protect their houses from the enemy.

The next record of the site's appearance was made in 1843 when Dr. Gideon Lincecum, noted 19th century Mississippi naturalist, reported that he went all around the "wall" [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The wall referred to by Dr. Lincecum is almost certainly the breast-work mentioned by Adair. According to Lincecum, the wall was eight feet high in places. The large mound was described by Lincecum as being rounded off, oblong and square, two hundred yards in circumference and eighty feet high with a flat space on top fifty-two by twenty-five yards. [REDACTED]

In 1854, B. L. C. Wailes, then Mississippi State Geologist, recorded that the wall surrounded three sides of the site, that it was thirty to forty feet thick at the base, up to ten feet high, and contained many gaps. He reported the large mound as being at least fifty feet high with a flat area on top sixty by one hundred twenty feet. The smaller mound was said to be one hundred to one hundred twenty-five feet by one hundred eighty to two hundred feet at the base with a height of no more than ten feet. The remnants of several smaller mounds between the two large mounds were observed by Wailes. He also recorded a slight depression [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] which the land owner informed him had been more distinct fifteen years earlier. This depression may have been a remnant of the lake reported by Lincecum in 1843.

H. S. Halbert, writing in 1898, described the site as consisting of a circular rampart (earthen wall) enclosing two mounds. According to Halbert, the rampart was approximately one and a half miles in circumference and was broken at intervals by gaps of from twenty to fifty yards in width. Mr. Halbert stated that Indian tradition told of there originally being eighteen gaps. At the time of Halbert's writing, the rampart was much deteriorated, with about half of it having been obliterated by plowing. There were still ten sections left of the structure, ranging from fifty to one hundred fifty yards in length. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] sections remained which were five feet high and twenty feet broad at the base. According to Halbert, the [REDACTED]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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)

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/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nanih Waiya Mound and Village site are significant both archaeologically and historically.

Surface collections of ceramic and stone artifactual material from the village area around the major mound indicate an occupation span of from approximately the time of Christ until after white contact. The large flat-topped mound was probably built during the Mississippian Period. It was abandoned when first visited by James Adair in the late 1700s. Some of the Choctaw legends state that they built the large mound and the surrounding earthen wall soon after they arrived in the area. Although this is entirely possible, the wall could also date from a much earlier time.

Archaeological investigation at the site has been minimal and a considerable amount of work must be done to answer such questions as who built the earthen wall and when, and what part of the Mississippian Period saw the erection of the flat-topped mound. The mound and village may be able to furnish an understanding into several centuries of Choctaw pre-history. Whether or not they can be shown to be a definite part of the Choctaw past remains to be established archaeologically. The site could certainly reveal much concerning the Mississippian Culture in an area which at present is almost an archaeological void.

In addition to the considerable archaeological potential of the site, there are long traditions associating it with the origin of the Choctaw or their immigration into the area. There are basically two beliefs recorded concerning their first appearance in the vicinity of Nanih Waiya. One version has them coming from a distant land somewhere west of the Mississippi. There was a sacred pole which guided the tribe

One morning the pole did not lean but remained erect, signaling that the final destination had been reached. Some sources say they built the mound and embankment near the spot where they were instructed to stop by the sacred pole.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHIVES

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adair, James.
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 London: Edward and Charles Dilly.

Brown, Calvin S.
 1926. Archeology of Mississippi. Mississippi Geological
 Survey, p. 24, University, Mississippi.

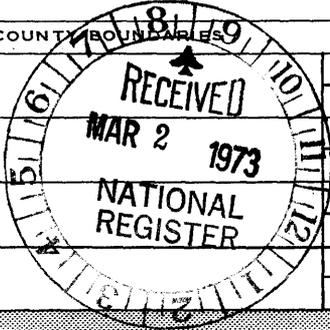
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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]				
NE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				
SE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				
SW	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: [REDACTED]

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Samuel O. McGahey, Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION
 Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE
 Feb. 22, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Post Office Box 571

CITY OR TOWN:
 Jackson

STATE
 Mississippi 39205

CODE
 28

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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
 R. A. McLemore

Title Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives and History

Date February 22, 1973

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

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

Date 3/28/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 3/23/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 28 1973

(Number all entries)

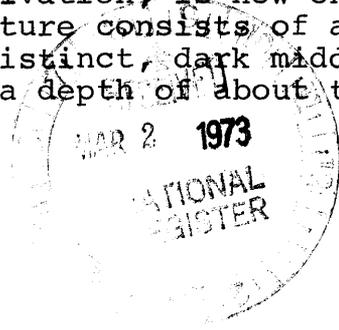
7.

large mound was approximately forty feet high at this time, and its base covered about one acre and its summit about one-fourth acre. He also reported that the large mound was damaged in 1896 by a "treasure-seeker's" tunnel. Halbert described the other mound as being about two hundred fifty yards north of the big mound and to have exhibited fragments of human bone which had been brought to the surface by hoeing and plowing.

[REDACTED]

Dr. Calvin Brown, who like Wailes, in his time, was State Geologist, visited Nanih Waiya in 1923. He located one segment of the earthen wall at a distance [REDACTED] is segment was two and a half to four feet high and one hundred yards long. An area resident told Dr. Brown that four other segments were still in existence. The large mound was described at that time as being a typical rectangular mound two hundred eighteen by one hundred forty feet at the base and one hundred thirty-two by fifty-six feet on top. Its height ranged from twenty-two to twenty-five feet. Although Dr. Brown commented that the top apparently had been cultivated, he stated that the mound was in an excellent state of preservation and retained its original height. The other mound was again listed as being two hundred fifty yards distant and as being seven or eight feet high.

A visit to the site by field archaeologists of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in 1971 revealed no remnants of the earthen wall. The large mound is essentially intact from Dr. Brown's day although local residents report that road construction since that time slightly damaged the west side. The second mound, after years of cultivation, is now only a remnant. The first few feet of this structure consists of an apparently sterile sandy loam soil, but a distinct, dark midden approximately six inches thick is found at a depth of about three feet.



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 28 1973

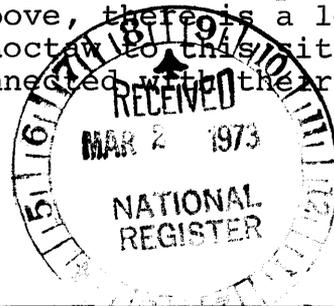
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According to another legend, the Choctaw originated in a large mound. There is some confusion as to the location of their "Mother Mound." Current belief among numerous Choctaw residents of the area is that the large mound referred to in the legend is the Nanih Waiya Cave Mound, a natural geological formation situated approximately a mile and a half east of the large flat-topped mound. Three early accounts, however, do seem to indicate the man-made mound as the one connected with this version. H. S. Halbert, historian and noted authority on the Mississippi Choctaw, quotes an old Choctaw by the name of Hopahkitubbee as saying the first people of his tribe came out of the mound and sunned themselves dry on the earthen rampart. This, of course, identifies the site as the man-made mound and its associated earthen embankment. Halbert also quotes another Choctaw, Pistonatubbee, who gave a very similar account in which the Indians also dried out on the rampart.

Adair furnished the earliest description of the mound and village site and stated that the name of this complex was "Nanne Yah." He also referred to the Choctaw being "in communication with their subterranean brethren of Nanne Yah," which seems to be an allusion to the legend of origin within the mound.

According to an informant of Dr. John R. Swanton, long time Smithsonian Institution ethnographer, the mounds were used for assemblies. A Choctaw called Simpson Tubby stated that the first national assembly was held at the "Blue Hole Cave" (probably Nanih Waiya Cave Mound) and that later assemblies convened at the mound site. Apparently the only historically recorded event to happen at the site was a national assembly called in 1828 by Chief Greenwood Leflore. The purpose of this assembly was to make laws to bring about more harmony with white civilization. At this time, laws were passed against drunkenness and executing women as witches.

During the years of Choctaw emigration from Mississippi between 1830-1840, many said they would never go and abandon their mother (the mound) as long as she stood. Although historically documented events at the site apparently consist only of the national assembly of 1828 mentioned above, there is a long history of emotional attachment by the Choctaw to this site, and it is one of the most important sites connected with their history.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Winston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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	3/2

(Number all entries)

9.

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