

Phase I Planning Document

Mississippi Mounds Trail, Middle Segment

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December 31, 2013

Table of Contents

I. Introduction

II. Cultural Chronology of Study Area

III. Washington County

III.1 Winterville Mounds, 22WS500

III.2 Refuge Mounds, 22WS5

III.3 Leland Mounds, 22WS501

III.4 Arcola Mounds, 22WS516

III.5 Swan Lake, 22WS518,

III.6 Oak Tree - Linden, 22WS551

III.7 Law, 22WS549

IV. Humphreys County

V.1 Jaketown, 22HU505

V.2 Belzoni Mound, 22HU500

V. Issaquena County

IV.1 Grace, 22IS500

VI. Sharkey County

VI.1 Anguilla, 22SH510

VI.2 Mont Helena, 22SH505

V1.3 Carter, 22SH535

VI.4 Rolling Ford, 22SH506

VI.5 Carey, 22SH507

VII. Yazoo County

VII.1 Lake George, 22YZ557

VIII. Bibliography

I. Introduction

This report provides background information on mound sites being considered for inclusion on the Mississippi Mounds Trail (Middle Region), and interpreted driving trail under development by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Also provided are high resolution LIDAR maps of each of the sites, prepared by Emma Strong. As originally conceived this component of the investigation was to include landowner contacts, site condition assessments, and recommendations for subsequent field investigation to be accomplished during the spring 2013. However, since the contract was not signed until May 15, 2013, all field activities, save a one day field trip late in May to view targeted sites, were bundled into an eight week field season in June and July.

One site was added to the original list compiled by MDAH, the Refuge Mound (22WS508) in Washington County near Greenville. In addition, a second site Lake Lee (22WS540) was cored during the subsequent field investigations and was determined to be a modern feature. For obvious reasons it is not included here or in the final list of Mounds Trail sites

II. Cultural Chronology of Study Area

The chronological framework for the southern half of the Mississippi Delta is the product of two major surveys (Phillips, Ford and Griffin 1951; Phillips 1970), extensive excavations by Harvard University at the Lake George in the late 1950s (Williams and Brain 1983) and somewhat more modest investigations at the Winterville site in the late 1960s (Brain 1989). The work by Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951) established the basic culture history of the LMV and offered a system of ceramic classification. Phillips' postwar work in the Delta synthesized the accumulated understanding of the regional chronology, and reformed the ceramic classification system to incorporate the concept of varieties within types. The research at Lake George refined Phillips ideas, added new varieties in light of the much larger sample of ceramics made available by the excavations, and added a new concept for ceramic classification, that of sets, which refer to contemporaneous varieties of different types and share essentially the same plain ware paste and temper characteristics. Figure 1 presents the current chronological sequence for the Lower Mississippi Valley and Figure 2 focuses on the later prehistoric sequence applicable to the southern Mississippi Delta and associated sets. Set membership is explained in Williams and Brain (1983:313ff). Temporal divisions are estimates based on a small number of radiocarbon or other absolute dates and comparisons with adjacent regions.

While evidence for occupation and mound construction after the Archaic Era is considerably better known than the features of earlier cultures, there is evidence of human activity in the Delta as early as 10,000 years, preserved only on the oldest terrace surfaces or otherwise younger sedimentary units. Although there is no evidence of earthen constructions prior to those of the Late Archaic Poverty Point culture, in particular at Jaketown in Humphreys County, it should be noted that in Louisiana and south Mississippi there are earlier mound sites, dating as early as the Middle Archaic.

Figure 1. General Cultural Chronology of the Lower Yazoo Basin

Years	Stage	Period	Lower Mississippi Valley Culture/Tradition
1700	Protohistoric		Natchezan
1500			Mississippian / Plaquemine
1200	Woodland	Late	Coles Creek
		Middle	Baytown Issaquena Marksville
A.D. B.C. 200	Gulf Formational	Late	Tchefuncte
		Middle Early	Poverty Point
800	Archaic	Late	
1400		Middle	
2000		Early	
3000	Paleoindian	Late	
6000		Middle	
8000		Early	
11,500			

Figure 2. Post Archaic Cultural Chronology and Associated Ceramic Sets—Lower Yazoo Basin

DATING (End)	Period	PHASES			SETS				
1700		Russell		Yazoo 9	Yazoo 8		Pocho- hontas		
1650	Proto- historic	Wasp Lake II	Bell	Yazoo 6		Yazoo 7		Holly Bluff 3	Holly Bluff 2
		Wasp Lake I			Yazoo 5		Yazoo 4		
1500	Mississippi	Lake George II						Holly Bluff 1	
1425		Lake George I				Yazoo 3			
1350		Winterville II							
1300		Winterville I				Yazoo 2			Green ville
1200	Coles Creek	Crippen Point II			Addis 2		Yazoo 1	Powell	Coker
1100		Crippen Point I				Addis 1			
1000 AD		Kings Crossing			Vicksburg				
900		Aden			Valley Park				
800	Baytown	Bayland			Sharfit				
700		Deasonville			Reed 1	Reed 2			
400 AD	Marksville	Issaquena			Satartia				
200 AD		Anderson Landing							
100 BC	Tchula	Tuscola							

III. Washington County

III.1 Winterville Mounds, 22WS500

Other Numbers: 19-L-1

UTM Location: NAD83, Zone 15 Easting: 680134 Northing: 3706823

USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Refuge

15 Minute: Greenville

Site Description

History of Investigations

The first accounts of the Winterville Mounds date to the mid-19th century (McCain and Capers 1954; Squier 1860). The first systematic excavations at the site were conducted by Clarence B. Moore during "six days in November and December, 1907" (Morse and Morse 1998:289).

Moore, using the same methodology that he employed at Moundville Alabama, placed trial holes on the summits of the mounds and in parts of the plaza areas that he suspected had been used for cemeteries. Trial holes were typically 6 feet long, 3 feet wide and 4 feet deep (a depth that sometimes could not be reached because of difficult soil conditions). Moore's efforts concentrated on a search for burials and burial artifacts. More than 100 of these trial holes were distributed among the 15 mounds recognized by Moore (Table1). An additional 45 trial holes were placed in nine off-mound locations. Several of these were described as dwelling sites, suggesting that they encountered occupation debris or midden. Aside from a few badly decayed skeletons and a small number of vessels and other artifacts, Moore's efforts at Winterville met with "limited success."

The second excavation was conducted by then doctoral candidate Jeffery P. Brain "over a period of one year" in 1967-1968, at the time the mound group was commissioned as a state park (Brain 1989). This more protracted investigation formed the basis of his doctoral dissertation and the framework for the present understanding of the archaeology of the site. Brain's work was centered on "discover[ing] what happened at Winterville, when and how". Brain established a permanent grid for the site, which he tied to earlier mapping work produced by Albert Spaulding in 1949 (Phillips 1970:476, Figure 209; Brain 1989:Figure12). Brain re-lettered the mounds, establishing the identification system currently in use. With a crew averaging 3 laborers, in six months field time over the course of a year, Brain excavated 28 units, 23 of which were placed in

nine of the mounds and the remaining five in “other earthworks, between the mounds, or in the plaza” (Brain 1989: 29).. Brain’s units were typically 2 meter by 2 meter excavation pits, occasionally using 1 meter by 2 meter pits and trenching. The depth of Brain’s pits and trenching were only carried as deep as the immediate need. Each unit was tied to the site grid system. Stratigraphic distributions of ceramic artifacts provided chronological control of the mound construction efforts, and allowed Brain to tie the Winterville sequence to that documented elsewhere in the Yazoo Basin, notably Harvard’s LMS excavations at the Lake George Site (Williams and Brain 1983). The sequence along with cross-correlations with ceramics in the American Bottoms permitted Brain to outline a model for the cultural dynamics that gave rise to, and eventually the demise of, Winterville as a Mississippian center. An important aspect of his model was the interplay between indigenous Plaquemine material cultural traits, which derive from Coles Creek antecedents, and the material traits of the external Mississippian world.

In Brain’s work, it is noted that there were a total of 23 mounds at Winterville but that only 19 remained, whereas Moore only identified 15. Part of this discrepancy might be due to Moore only drawing the major mounds of the site, while ignoring the smaller rises as part of the natural contour of the land. It should be noted that even though Brain included additional mounds, he was not 100% sure in declaring that all of these were mounds or mound remnants.

Brain’s analysis, in conjunction with the ongoing analysis of excavations at the Lake George site in Yazoo County (Williams and Brain 1983) established the current understanding of cultural periods, their approximate dates, and associated ceramic types and varieties (Figure). Brain used this framework to outline the construction chronology at Winterville, as well as to interpret from his perspective the historical events of the site’s occupation. According to his interpretation, the first major occupation of the site occurred during the terminal Coles Creek period, Crippen Point phase. All major construction occurred during the Mississippi period, Winterville phase. The period ended, according to Brain with an apparent episode of site burning (Brain 1989: 105). His data suggested that occupation of the mounds and presumably the entire site was limited to the northern plaza during the early Lake George phase. Site use declined through the Lake George phase by the end of the phase the site was abandoned.

The most recent investigation, beginning in 2005, has been conducted by the University of Southern Mississippi under the direction of H. Edwin Jackson. Excavations thus far have included Mounds B (2013), C (2009, 2011), and F (2006-2007) and in off-mound locations west of Mound F (2005, 2006), west of Mound D (2007), and between Mounds B and C (2006). In addition, extensive shovel testing has been completed both within the plaza between Mounds F and K (2009) and encircling Mound B (2007), as well as outside of the plaza from west of Mound G to west of Mound B (2005, 2007). In 2006 geophysical remote sensing was conducted of approximately 11,500 square meters in the same areas later shovel tested.

During the 2005 and 2006 field seasons, excavation included units in three locations west of Mound F. Two of these disclosed architectural evidence in the form of postmolds and baked wall daub. Three 1-x-2 m units nearer Mound F disclosed an area of rich midden covered by up to 50 cm of sediment wash from the adjacent mound. In one of these units a large refuse pit was discovered, which included a large ceramic assemblage consisting of late Lake George and Wasp Lake phase varieties.

Interim reports on the 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2009 field season have been submitted to MDAH. Analysis and interpretation of the 2011 and 2013 field seasons is underway. In addition to reports are several conference papers, a thesis on archaeobotany (Flosenzier 2009) and one on an early Winterville assemblage from the large roasting feature adjacent to Mound D (Kowalski 2009). Two other master's theses are underway. Three senior or honors theses have been completed (Leist 2008, McClendon 2012, McCraw 2013) and two others was being completed this semester. Jackson is beginning work on a monograph length report on the overall project.

Current Condition

Remaining mounds are protected by a state park managed by MDAH.

Collections Locations

Mississippi Department of Archives and History (Winterville Mounds Museum)

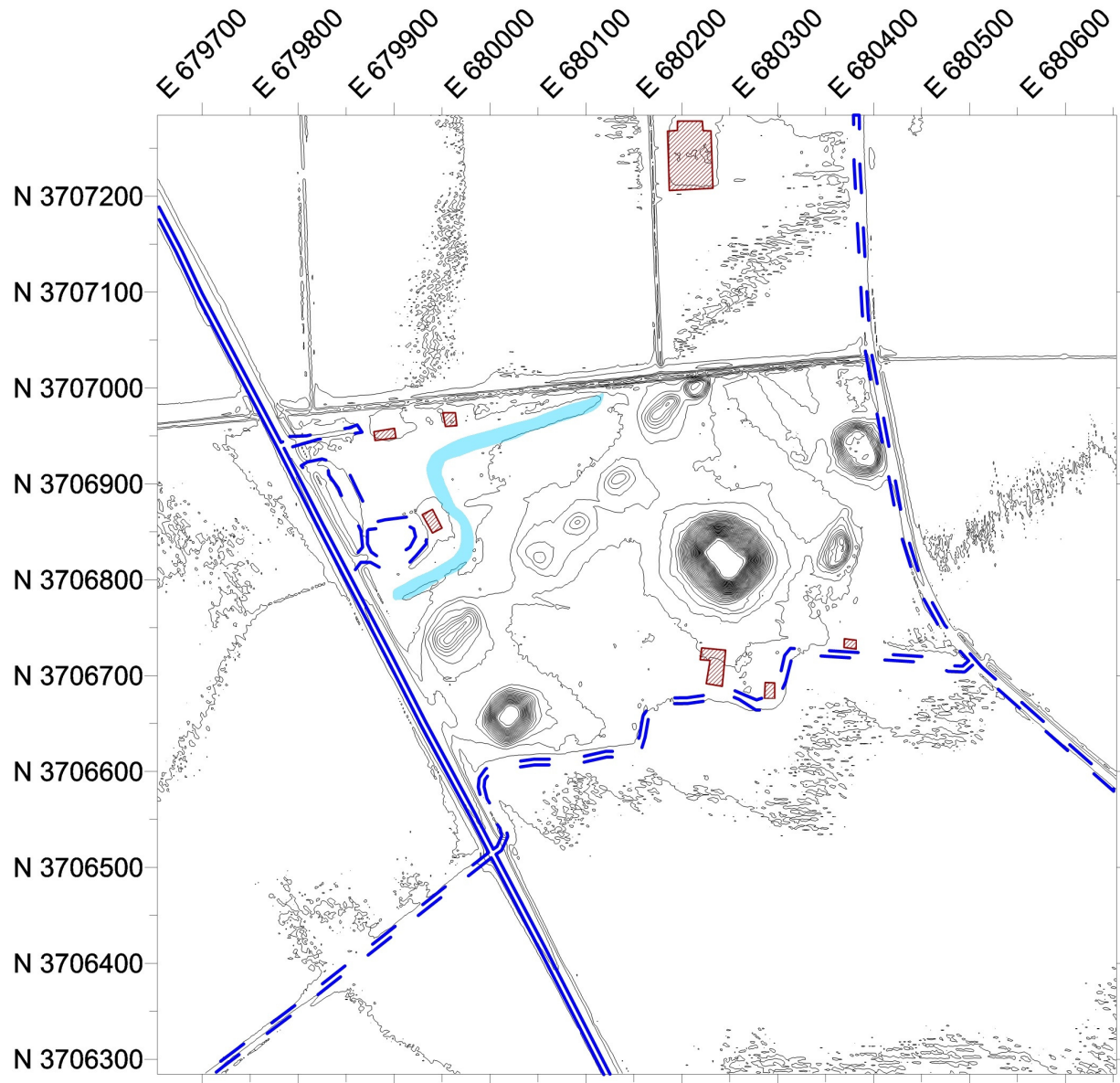
LMS

University of Southern Mississippi (on loan from MDAH)

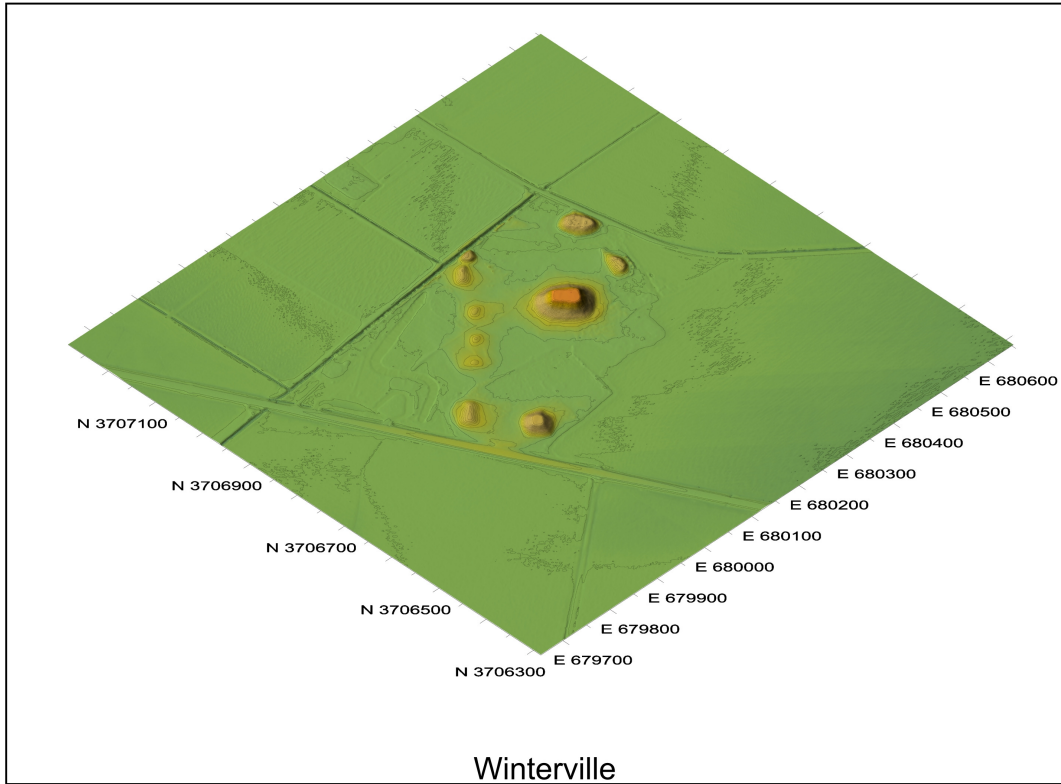
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- Kowalski, Jessica 2009: *The early Mississippian period in the southern Yazoo Basin : an analysis of ceramics from the Winterville site (22WS500)* MA Thesis, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg
- Leist, Julie N.: *A Study of Stone Tools from Winterville Mounds (22WS500)*. Senior Thesis, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of Southern Mississippi
- McCain, William D. and Charlotte Capers (eds) 1954: *Memoirs of Henry Tillinghast Ireys. Papers of the Washington County Historical Society, 1910-1915*. Jackson, MS
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- Moore, Clarence B. 1908: Certain Mounds of Arkansas and Mississippi. *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 13:479-605. Reprinted in Morse, Dan F., and Phyllis A. Morse 1998: *The Lower Mississippi Valley Expeditions of Clarence B. Moore*. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.
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- Steponaitis, Vincas P., Stephen Williams, R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Ian W. Brown, Tristram R. Kidder, and Melissa Salvanish (eds.) 2002: *LMS Archives Online*. <http://rla.unc.edu/archives/lms1/>
- Williams, Stephen, and Jeffrey P. Brain 1983: *Excavations at the Lake George Site, Yazoo County, Mississippi, 1958-1960*. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 74. Harvard University, Cambridge



Winterville



III.2 Refuge Mounds, 22WS508

Other Numbers: LMS 19-L-6

UTM Location: NAD83, Zone 15 Easting: 676920 Northing: 3687100

USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Refuge

15 Minute: Glen Allen

Site Description

Only the largest mound (A) of a three to four mound group remains. It is 5 m high with a summit measuring 22 by 30 m, and in 1941 when visited by the LMS a ramp was still visible on the southeast side. A three story house built into the back side of the mound constructed in 1942, the highest story even with the mound summit. A second, now destroyed, mound was located 100 m southeast of A (at the time of the LMS visit a cistern originally built into the mound suggested a two m height), a third a similar distance due south, and a fourth possible mound about 200 m to the northwest. Phillips places the collected ceramics within the Deer Creek (now Lake George) phase, but cautions that it may be early in the phase (p. 488).

History of Investigations,

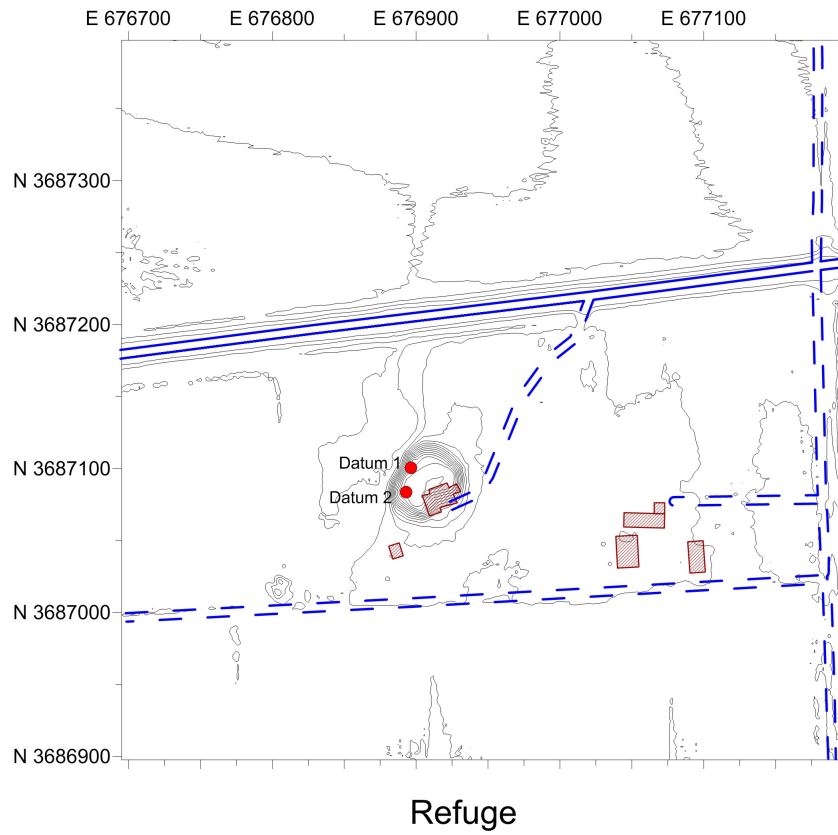
Aside from the LMS visit to the site in 1941, the only purported investigation of the site, according to the present land manager, is an excavation west of Mound A beyond the yard in an area of midden. Who conducted the excavation has not been discovered at this date.

Current Condition

The remaining mound is in very good shape and well cared for. It is easily visible from the highway.

Collection, Archive Locations

LMS



References

- Phillips, Phillip 1970: *Archaeological Survey of the Lower Yazoo Basin, 1949-1955*, pp. 487-488. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 60, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
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III.3 Leland Mounds, 22WS501

Other Numbers: 19-M-1

UTM Location: NAD83, Zone 15 Easting: 696050 Northing 3699765

USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Leland

15 Minute:

Site Description

Leland originated included five mounds (although the illustration in the BAE Mound Exploration Project report indicates up to seven [Thomas 1894: Figure 161]) arranged around a roughly square plaza about 75 m on a side. Today two rectangular platform mounds remain. Mound A is on the east side of the plaza with a westward facing ramp. Mound B is perhaps 50 m northwest of A. Brown (1926:79-80), based on the BAE Mound Exploration Project report, gives the following dimensions: Mound A is 30 ft high, and 200 by 175 ft at the base, Mound B is 15 ft high

History of Investigations

Descriptions of the site appear in the Bureau of American Ethnology's Mound report and in *Archaeology of Mississippi* (Brown 1926:81-82), The LMS procured a large collection of ceramics in 1941. Phillips places Leland into his Deer Creek (now Lake George) phase.

Condition

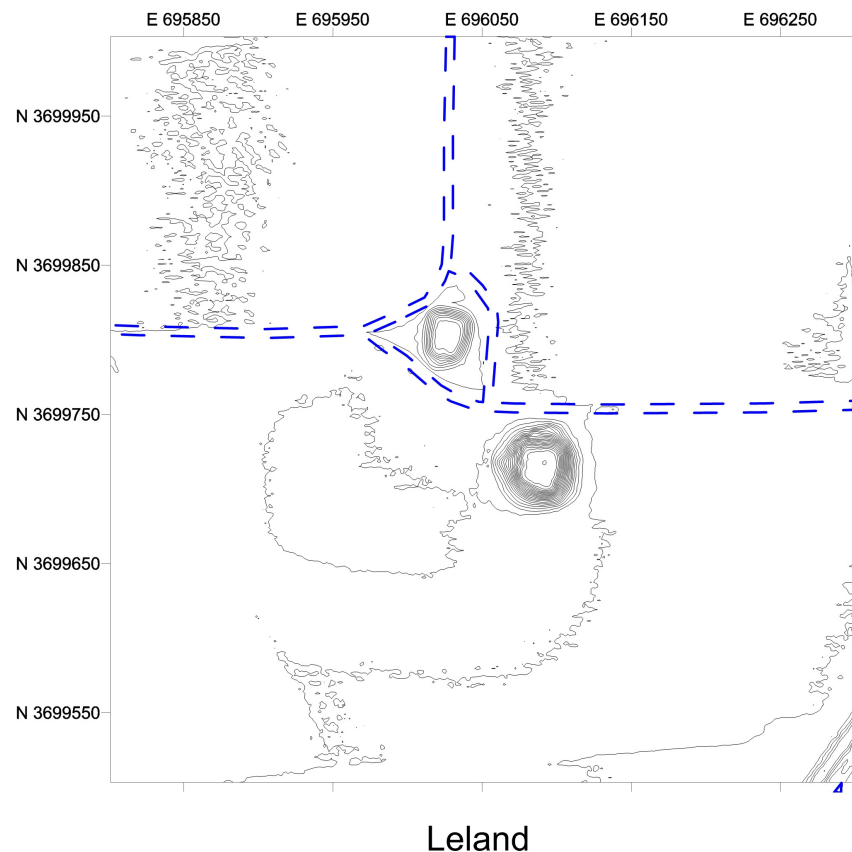
The area surrounding the mounds is in agriculture and there is a cemetery atop one of the mounds. Permission to access the site was denied.

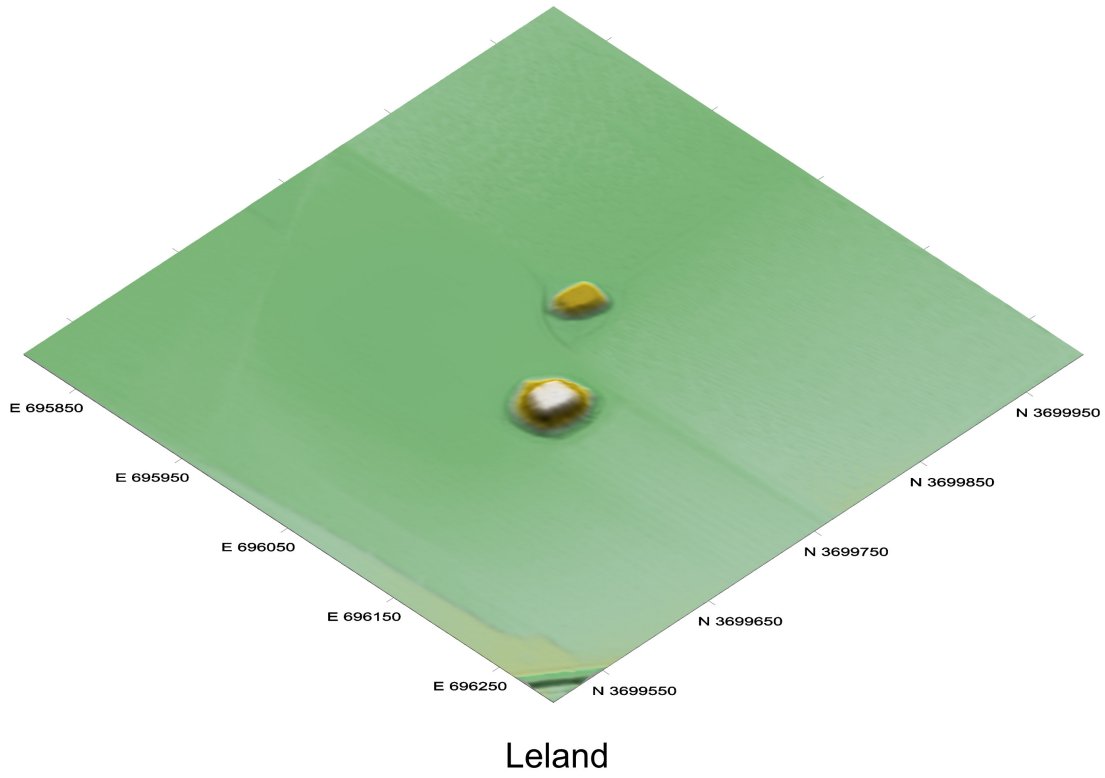
Collection, Archive Locations

LMS

References

- Brown, Calvin 1926: *Archaeology of Mississippi*. Reprinted 1992, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson
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- Steponaitis, Vincas P., Stephen Williams, R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Ian W. Brown, Tristram R. Kidder, and Melissa Salvanish (eds.) 2002: *LMS Archives Online*. <http://rla.unc.edu/archives/lms1>
- Thomas, Cyrus 1894: *Report on the Mound Explorations of the Bureau of Ethnology*. Twelfth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 1890-91. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington DC





III.4 Arcola Mounds, 22WS516

Other Numbers: 20-M-1

UTM Location: NAD83, Zone 15 Easting: 697300 Northing: 3680500

USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Swan Lake, NW

15 Minute:

Site Description

Arcola originally consisted of six mounds, of which three (A, B, C) remain. When visited by the LMS, A, a pyramidal mound was 13 m high, 70 by 60 m at the base and 27 by 22 at the summit. Mound B is 100 m to the south southeast. It stands five m high, is 40 by 45 m at the base. Phillips notes that the east side was damaged by the railway line that ran through the site (now a dirt farm road. Mound C is about 100 m east southeast of Mound A and is roughly the same size as B. Mound D, still visible in the 1940s as a 1.5 m rise with a 17 m diameter was about 40 m east of Mound C. It is no longer visible. Although cleared at the time of the LMS, all three of the remaining mounds are covered in mature hardwoods. Two other mounds, one 50 m north and the other 50 m south of Mound A, were already nearly plowed away by the time of the LMS visit, and are now completely gone. Calvin Brown (1926:81) described the northern mound (E) as conical and five feet high. However, however as Phillips notes Brown also noted an abundance of daub on the mound (e.g., was a substructure platform) and thus is likely to have been flat topped and rectangular.

Phillips assigned the collected ceramics to his Deer Creek (now Lake George) phase, and indeed the type collection for this complex. A few earlier Crippen Point or early Winterville phase sherds were also collected, suggesting that the complex may have been established earlier than suggested by the large Lake George phase representation.

History of Investigations

The site was visited by the LMS in 1941 and revisited by Brain in 1967.

Current Condition

As noted, of the three remaining mounds, A and B are in very good shape despite impact of railroad on east side of Mound B. Mound C suffered from excavation for earth borrowing (noted in the LMS survey). All three mounds are heavily vegetated. Surround land in cultivation.

Collections Locations

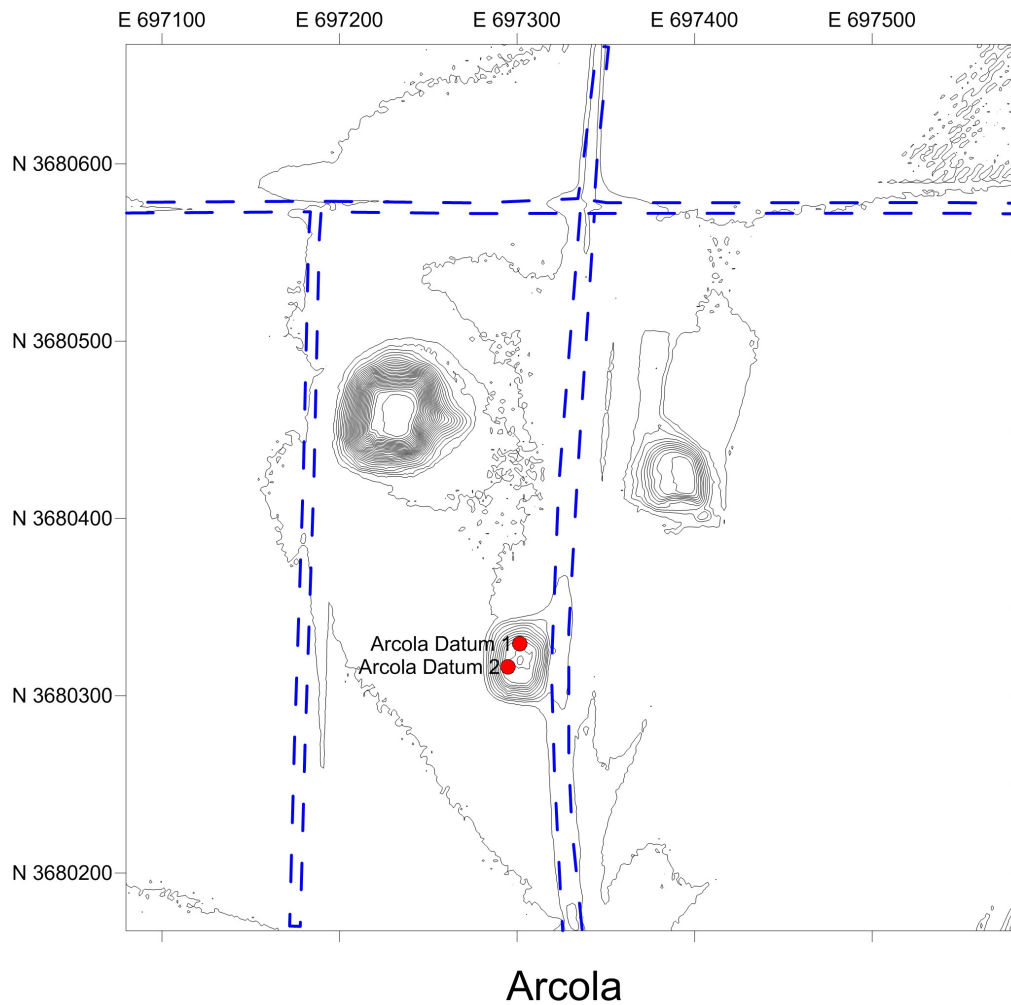
LMS

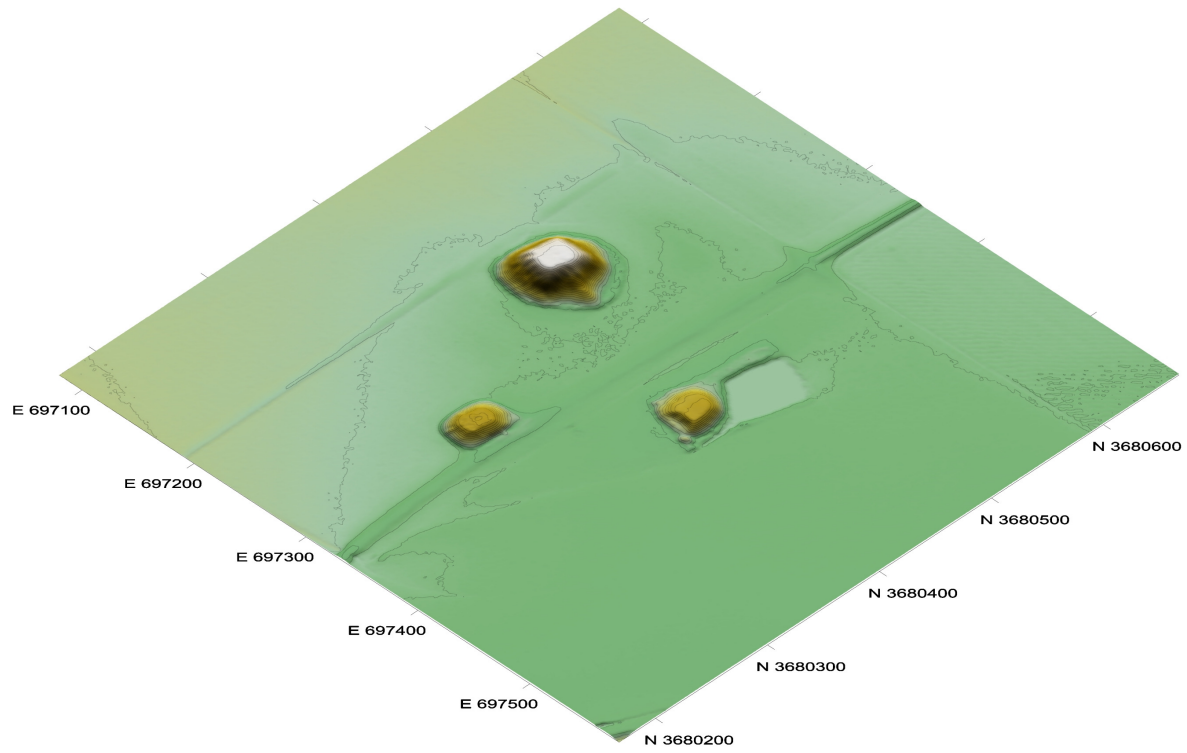
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Brown, Calvin 1926: *Archaeology of Mississippi*. Reprinted 1992, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson

Phillips, Phillip 1970: *Archaeological Survey of the Lower Yazoo Basin, 1949-1955*, pp. 461-483. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 60, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Steponaitis, Vincas P., Stephen Williams, R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Ian W. Brown, Tristram R. Kidder, and Melissa Salvanish (eds.) 2002: *LMS Archives Online*.
<http://rla.unc.edu/archives/lms1/>





Arcola





III.5 Swan Lake, 22WS518

Other Numbers: 20-M-5

UTM Location: NAD83, Zone 15 Easting: 686720 Northing: 3664080

USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Percy

15 Minute:

Site Description

Swan Lake consisted of four mounds, three (C, B, D) in a north to south line parallel to the bank of Swan Lake and the fourth about 60 m. east northeast of Mound B. Mound B is a squarish structure 40 m on a side with a flat top and 1.5 m in height, while mound A is oblong in shape, 5 m high, 75 m N-S and 40 E-W at its base, and has a ramp extending westward (toward Mound B). Mound C, present during the initial visit in 1941, but gone in 1949, was approximately three m high. Reports from its demolition indicate that it had served as a burial mound. Mound D was nothing more than a low rise by 1941 in an area of abundant pottery. LMS collections from their two visits represent Marksville Issaquena phase, Baytown Deasonville phase, and Mississippi Mayersville and Deer Creek (now Winterville and Lake George, respectively) phase components, in addition to a very well represented Coles Creek component that Phillips places in the Aden phase.

History of Investigations

In addition to the LMS visits in 1941 and 1949, a collection from a freshly cut roadside drainage ditch south of Mounds that revealed a rich midden was made in 1978 by archaeologists from the University of Southern Mississippi who were conducting a phase I survey of several construction projects on the Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge that now owns the site.

Current Condition

The remaining mounds are stable. Undergrowth and saplings cover Mound A obscuring its shape. Mound B is in a wooded section. Area surrounding mounds is fallow field with small saplings.

Collections Locations

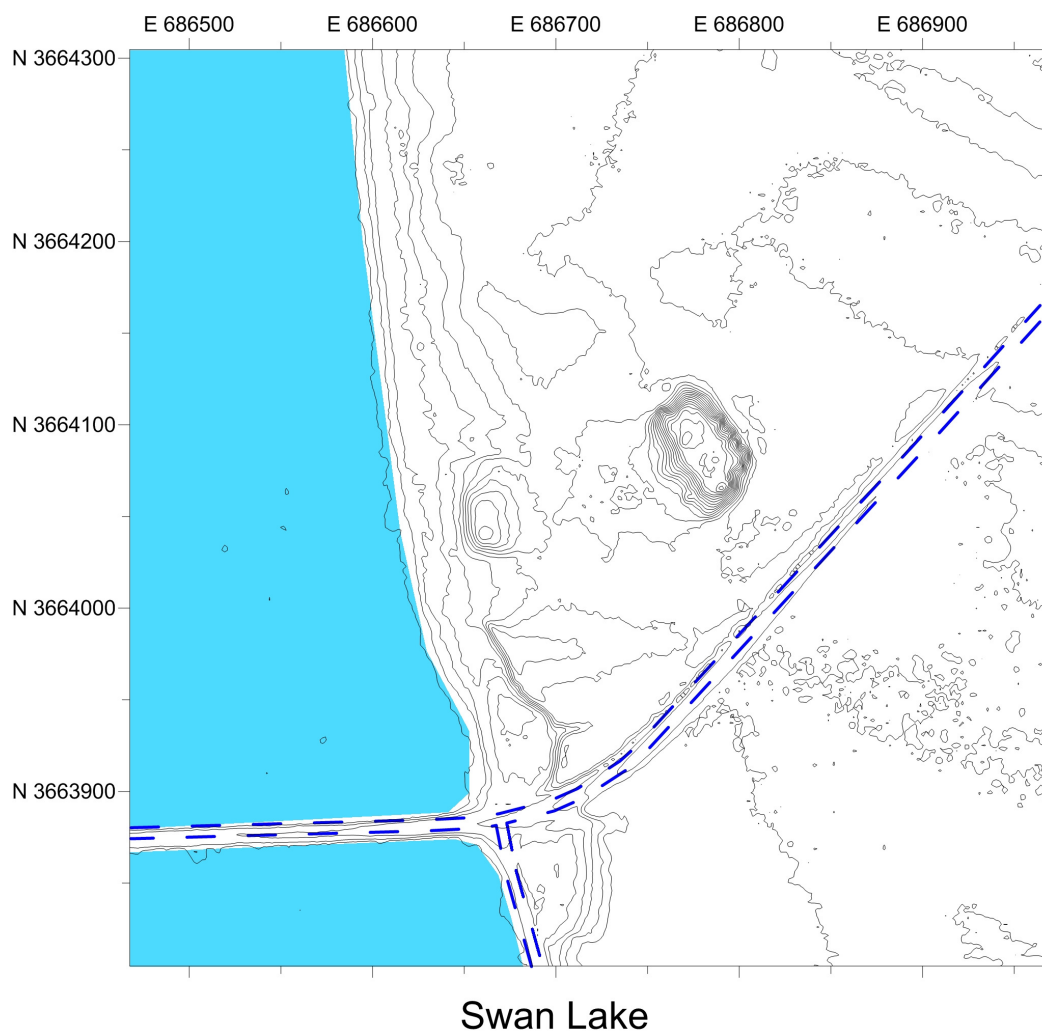
LMS

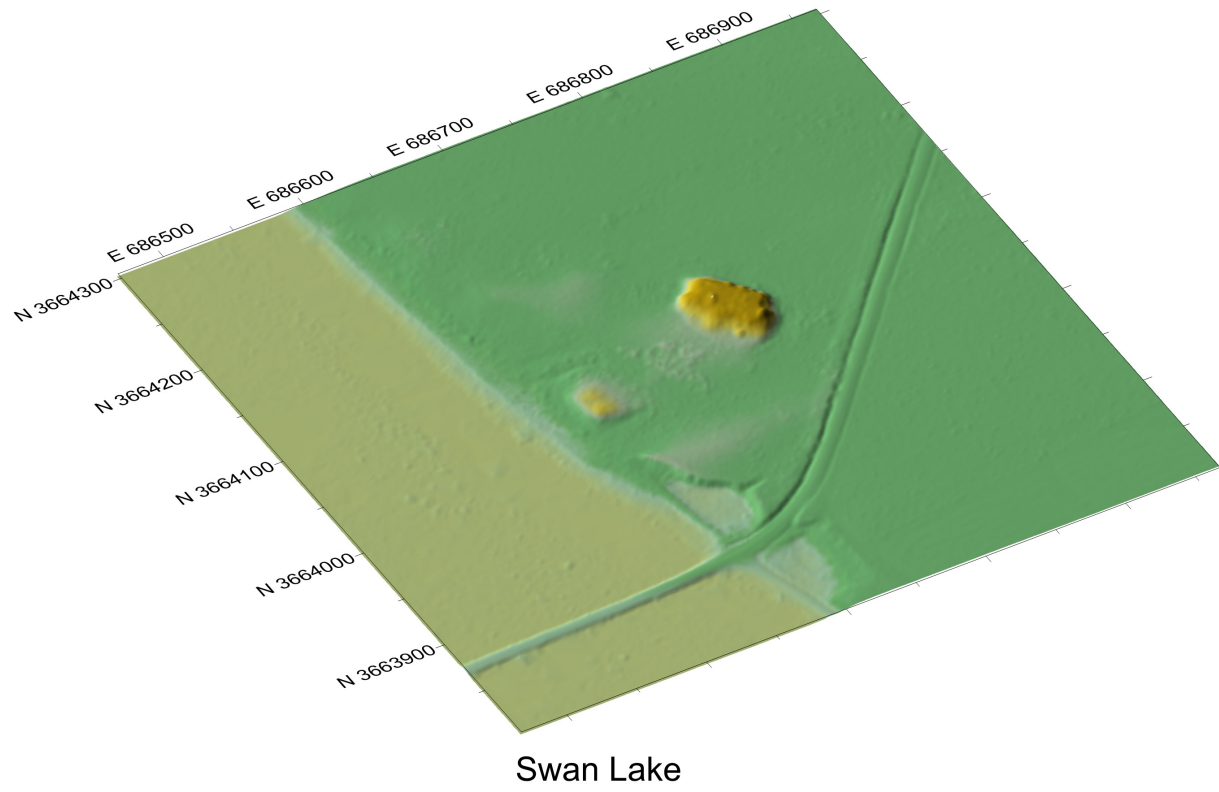
University of Southern Mississippi

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<http://rla.unc.edu/archives/lms1/>





III.6 Oak Tree - Linden, 22WS551

Other Numbers: 20-L-4

UTM Location: NAD83, Zone 15 Easting: 686040 Northing: 3658460

USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Glen Allen

15 Minute: Readland

Site Description

Linden may or may not be a prehistoric mound. According to LMS site card, during visit to the site in 1949, a local worker told archaeologists it was built as a high water refuge by a former landowner. At that time a large oak stood on the site (and is still there). They report the mound to be 1.5 m high and 30 m diameter. Since 1949 plowing around the perimeter has reduced its diameter considerably. A later visit by the University of Southern Mississippi in 1978 produced a small collection of ceramics, unfortunately all undecorated. The majority are Baytown Plain, and include examples of Coles Creek period *vars.* *Percy Creek* (the majority), *Vicksburg*, *Addis*, and *Little Tiger*, along with two Mississippi Plain sherds. It is unclear how confidently these are associated with the mound, and may be largely representative of the heavy Coles Creek occupation of the eastern side of Swan Lake just to the north of Linden (Phillips 1970:497-505).

History of Investigations

As described above.

Current Condition

Two site visits are recorded, the first being by the LMS in 1949. Later, in 1978 during a survey of the Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge by the University of Southern Mississippi, archaeologists visited the site (which is beyond the refuge boundaries, and collected a small amount of material in the general vicinity.

Collections, Archive Locations

LMS

University of Southern Mississippi

References

Steponaitis, Vincas P., Stephen Williams, R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Ian W. Brown, Tristram R. Kidder, and Melissa Salvanish (eds.) 2002: *LMS Archives Online*.
<http://rla.unc.edu/archives/lms1/>

Field notes on file, University of Southern Mississippi

III.7 Law, 22WS549

Other Numbers: 20-L-1

UTM Location: Zone 15 Easting: 684833 Northing: 3664080

USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Glen Allen

15 Minute:

Site Description

Originally a three mound group with the largest mound (A) on the north side of the plaza with a ramp facing south, and mound B, southwest of A, has been reduced in height considerably. Already by 1949 Mound C east of the Plaza had been plowed away. Mound A is six m high and roughly 60 m by 40 m at its base. Mound B was at the time four m high and roughly 30 by 40 m.

Testing by Coastal Environments, Inc, indicates that Mound A's occupation spanned the Winterville subphase through the Lake George II subphase, Surface collections and excavation of Mound C produced Crippen Point II subphase through Wasp Lake I subphase. Collections from the area of Mound C indicates parallel construction and occupation dates to Mound A. Testing of Mound B encountered a pre-mound midden with features. A calibrated radiocarbon date of AD 1299-1416 was obtained from charcoal, suggesting construction of the mound is not earlier than the late Winterville Phase. Crippen Point material from the vicinity is likely not to be related to mound construction.

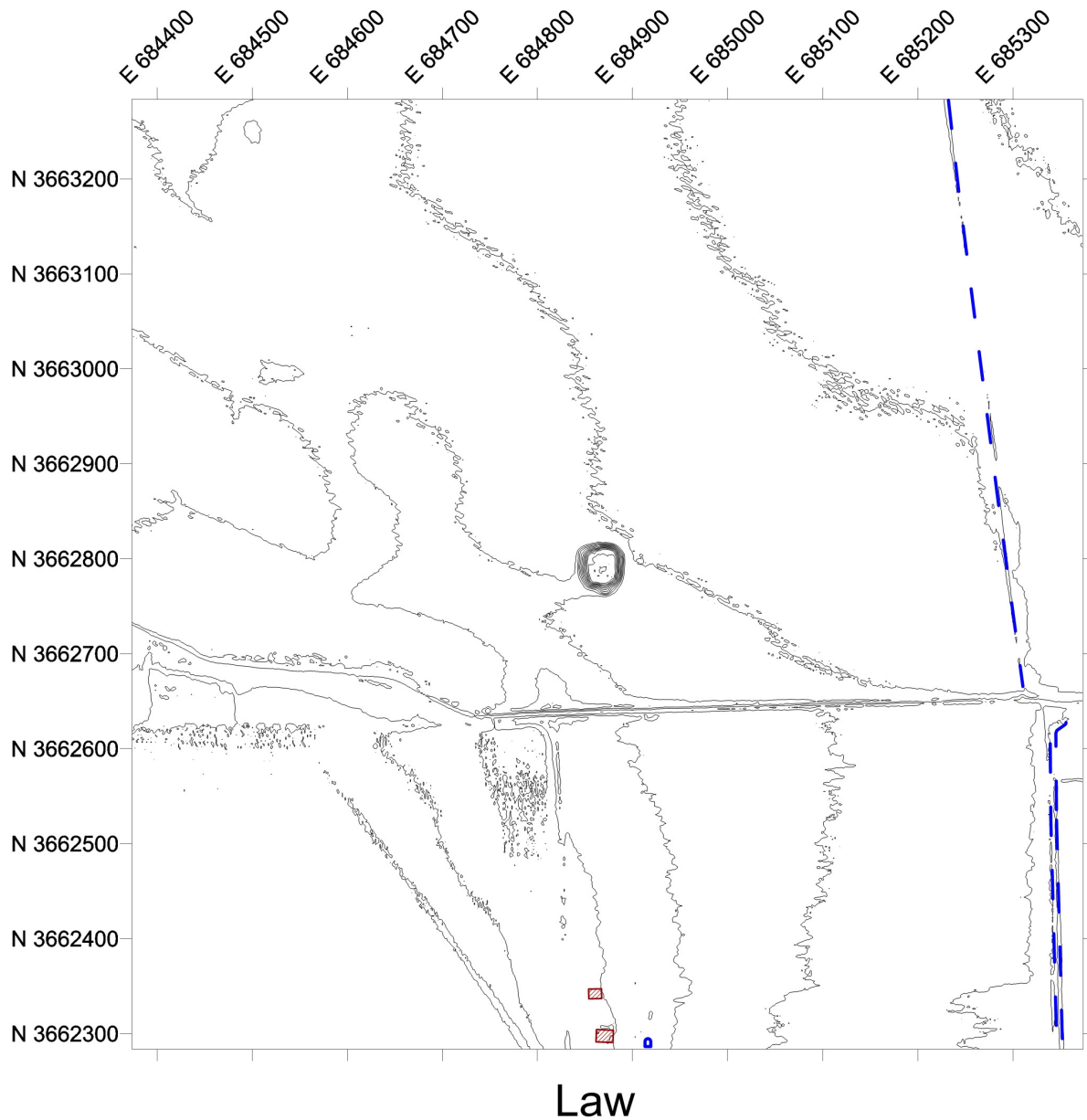
History of Investigations

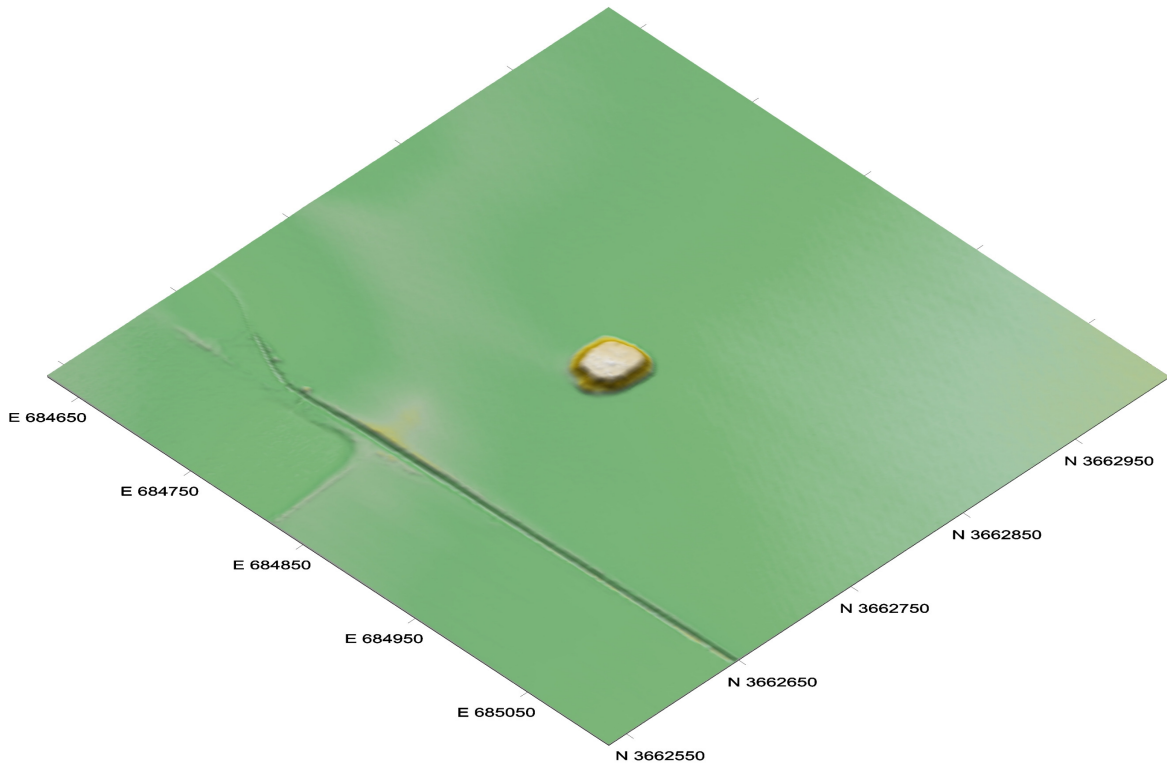
LMS produced a plane table map of the site and collected a small number of sherds during their visit in 1949. In 199__, Coastal Environments, Inc, Baton Rouge, conducted test excavation to evaluate the site's eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Their

investigations included an instrument survey of the site, surface collections of Mound A, B, and C, coring, and test excavations in the remnant of Mound B. CEI recommended that the site is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Current Condition

Mound A remains in good shape and can be seen from the road leading into the Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge.





Law



Collection Archive Locations

LMS

Mississippi State University

References

Phillips, Phillip 1970: *Archaeological Survey of the Lower Yazoo Basin, 1949-1955*, pp. 499-502. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 60, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Steponaitis, Vincas P., Stephen Williams, R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Ian W. Brown, Tristram R. Kidder, and Melissa Salvanish (eds.) 2002: *LMS Archives Online*.
<http://rla.unc.edu/archives/lms1/>

IV. Humphreys County

IV.1 Jaketown, 22HU505

Other Numbers: 20-O-1

UTM Location: NAD83, Zone 15 Easting: 734170 Northing: 3680384

USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Belzoni

15 Minute:

Site Description

Brown (1926:66) describes the site as including six mounds in close proximity and “a number of” smaller mounds some distance away. Today what are visible are mounds B and C west of the highway.s A remnant of Mound A may also remain east of the highway.

The visible mounds

History of Investigations

Jaketown is an important site for understanding the chronological position of the Poverty Point culture. It also produced an important early sample of Tchefuncte culture (Tuscola phase) ceramics from the Delta (Phillips, Ford and Haag 1951). However, the site is multi component that runs through the Woodland, Mississippi Protohistoric periods (Phillips 1970:406).

Moore (1908: 581), who visited the site but did not excavate, described a cluster of 6 mounds and other smaller mounds further away.

Drawing directly from Moore, Brown described the site, though offered little additional data that can be connected to our modern understanding of the site. He described both shell-tempered and grog-tempered sherds on the surface and that one mound must have had burials interred within.

The LMS visited the site in 1941 and conducted limited excavation in 1946 the material from which was described and interpreted by Phillips (1970:404-415). More extensive excavation was accomplished in 1951 spurred by the discovery that Mound A had been impacted by a two acre borrow pit being mined for fill to complete a highway improvement project. This borrow pit exposed stratigraphically superimposed Tchula and Poverty Point deposits. These provided the first stratigraphic data that demonstrated that Poverty Point culture predated Tchefuncte material and were largely pre-ceramic. It also documented the microlithic industry that today we know as a hallmark of the culture. It is also notable that some of the first radiocarbon dates from the Lower Mississippi Valley came from Jaketown

The most recent investigations at the site by Washington University, St. Louis, graduate student Lee Arco, included testing in the plaza area that revealed buried Poverty Point (?) earthworks some three meters below the present surface, which had been covered by post-occupation flooding. No published work has resulted from this research

Current Condition

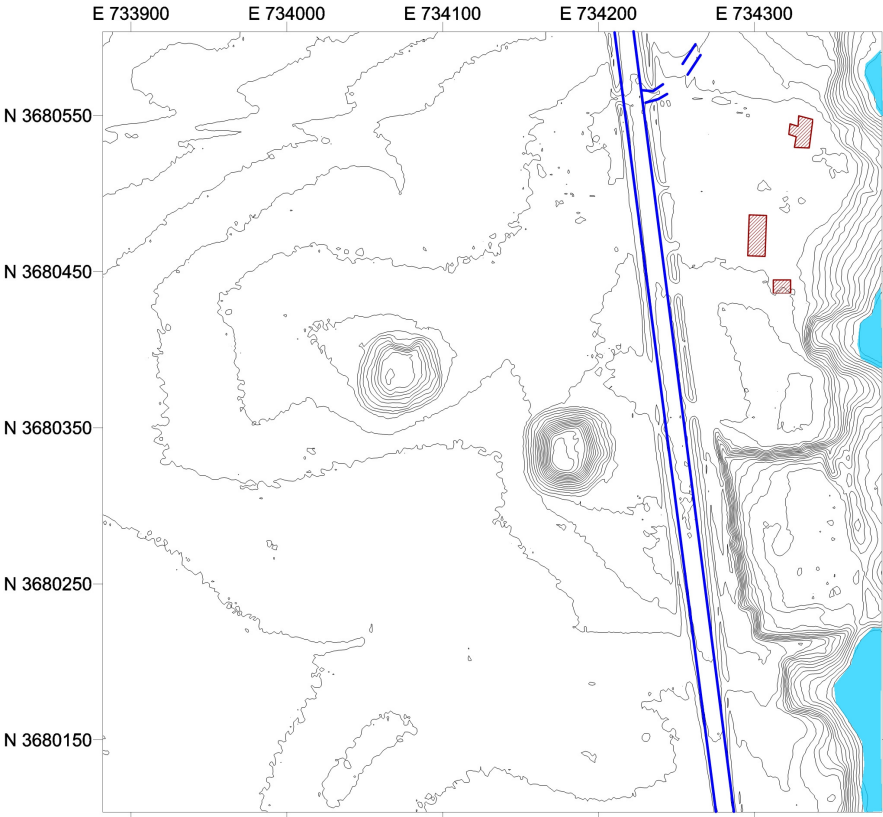
Presently the site is vegetated by saplings and small trees that obscure the mound's visibility.

Collection, Archives Locations

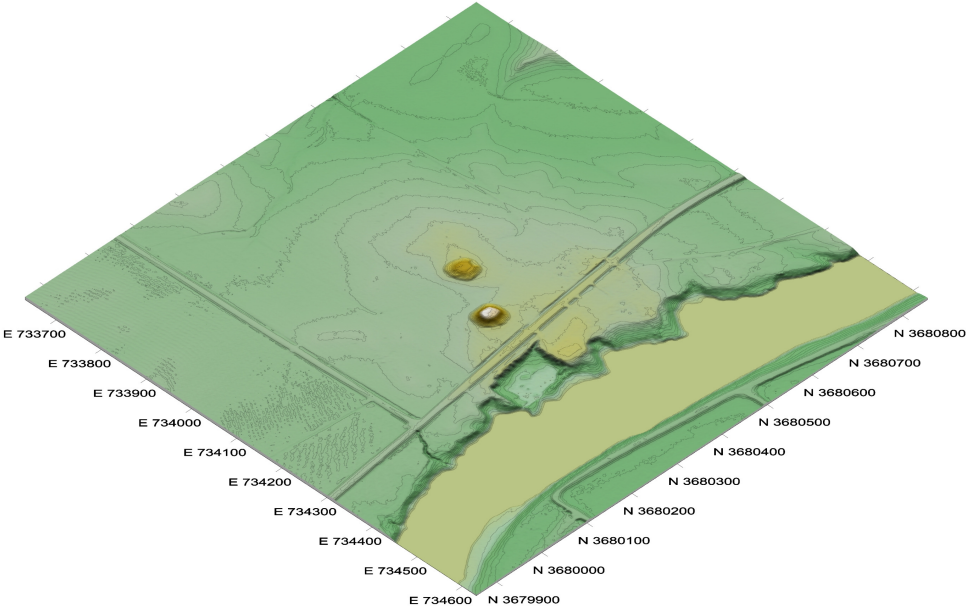
LMS

References

Ford, Phillips, and Haag 1955: *The Jaketown Site in West-Central Mississippi*. Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History 45(1).



Jaketown



Jaketown



Moore, Clarence B. 1908: Certain Mounds of Arkansas and Mississippi. *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 13:479-605. Reprinted in Morse, Dan F., and Phyllis A. Morse 1998: *The Lower Mississippi Valley Expeditions of Clarence B. Moore*. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

Phillips, Phillip 1970: *Archaeological Survey of the Lower Yazoo Basin, 1949-1955*, pp. 494. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 60, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Steponaitis, Vincas P., Stephen Williams, R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Ian W. Brown, Tristram R. Kidder, and Melissa Salvanish (eds.) 2002: *LMS Archives Online*. <http://rla.unc.edu/archives/lms1/>

IV.2 Belzoni Mound, 22HU500

Other Numbers: 20-O-2

UTM Location: NAD83, Zone 15 Easting: Northing: 3674340

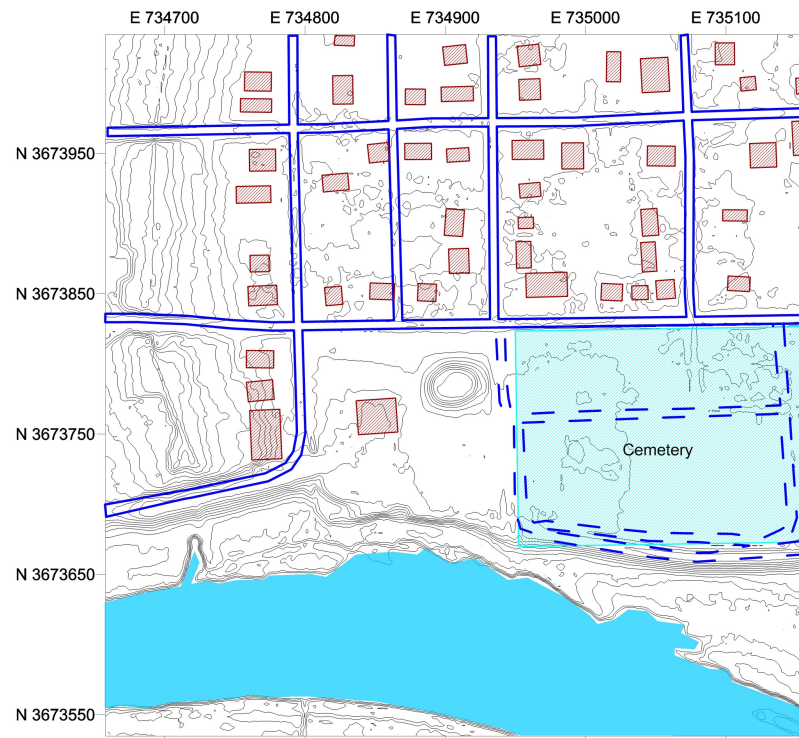
USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Belzoni

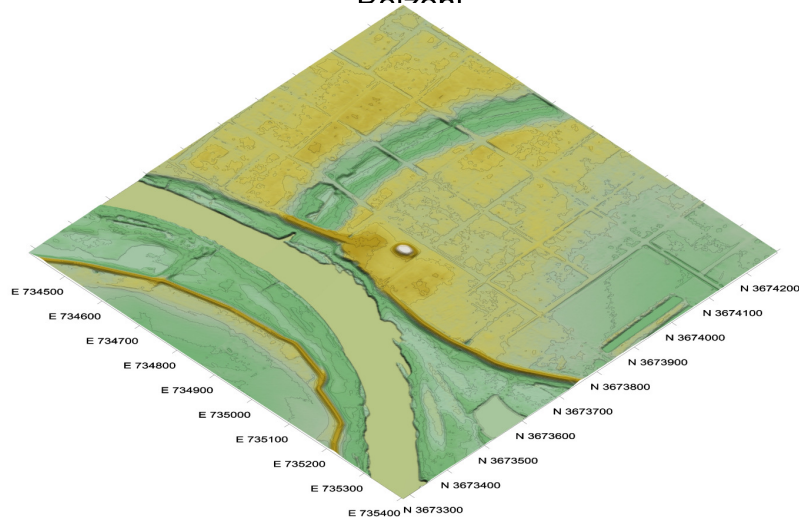
15 Minute:

Site Description

The mound is presently an ovoid structure with minimal summit dimensions from north to south. What is left of the mound after having been mined for dirt is in good shape, perhaps 3 m in height, and is grass covered, mowed by the landowner.



Belzoni



Belzoni



The 1940 collection by LMS suggests a Deasonville phase occupation, although there are Mississippi period Mississippi Plain, *var Yazoo* sherds as well. The 1951 collection, collected away from the mound, where a house was under construction, includes examples of Issaquena phase pottery. Phillips (1970:416) attributes the mound to the Wasp Lake phase.

History of Investigations

According to Moore (1908:579) the mound was 11 ft. high, 165 by 125 ft. at the base and 95 by 56 ft. at the summit, which Phillips interprets as reflecting a rectangular platform. Moore's 12 trial holes disclosed architecture (a line of posts) but no burials. Brown (1926) merely reports Moore's description. LMS visited the mound in 1941 and 1951, the earlier supporting Moore's dimensions, but by 1951 reported earth mining had considerably altered the shape

Current Condition

What is left of the mound is in very good shape.

Collections Locations

LMS

- Brown, Calvin 1926: *Archaeology of Mississippi*. Reprinted 1992, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson
- Moore, Clarence B. 1908: Certain Mounds of Arkansas and Mississippi. *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 13:479-605. Reprinted in Morse, Dan F., and Phyllis A. Morse 1998: *The Lower Mississippi Valley Expeditions of Clarence B. Moore*. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.
- Phillips, Phillip 1970: *Archaeological Survey of the Lower Yazoo Basin, 1949-1955*, pp. 499-502. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 60, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- Steponaitis, Vincas P., Stephen Williams, R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Ian W. Brown, Tristram R. Kidder, and Melissa Salvanish (eds.) 2002: *LMS Archives Online*. <http://rla.unc.edu/archives/lms1/>

V. Issaquena County

V.1 Grace, 22IS500

Other Numbers: 20-M-7

UTM Location: NAD83, Zone 15 Easting: 689600 Northing: 3651900

USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Rolling Fork W

15 Minute:

Site Description

The site currently includes the largest two of five original mounds, A and B, separated by roughly 150 m. According to Phillips (1970:511), Mound A is 60 m. diameter and 12 m high, while Mound B is 45 by 35 m at the base and 5 m high. Mayersville (Winterville) and Deer Creek (Lake George) phases, were identified by Phillips, with the latter being better represented in surface collections

History of Investigations

The site was visited by the LMS in 1949 (LMS Archive)

Current Condition

The two remaining mounds are well protected by landowner who periodically burns them off. Both have mature trees on slopes and summits. They are immediately beside the county road a few hundred m. from Hwy 1. Mounds can be seen from Hwy 1 if the corn is not too high.

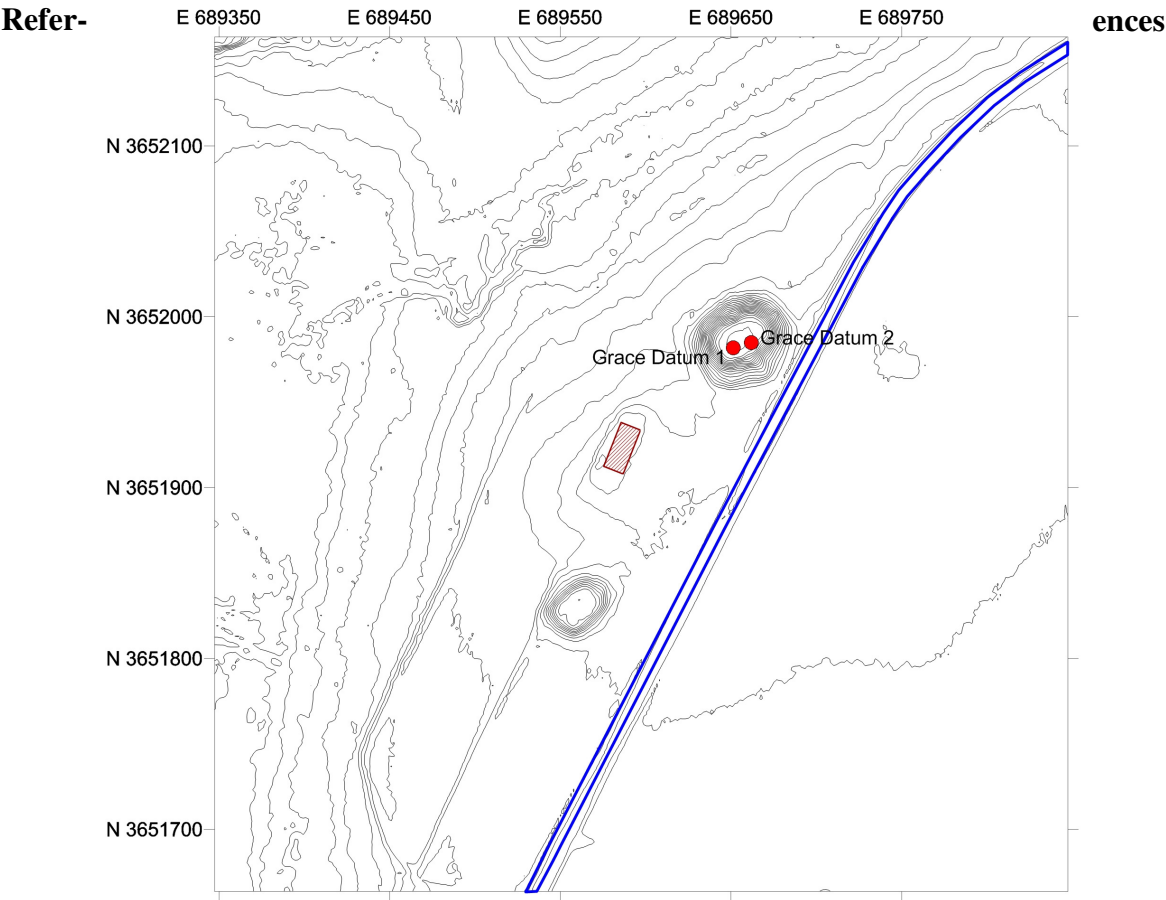
Collections Locations

LMS

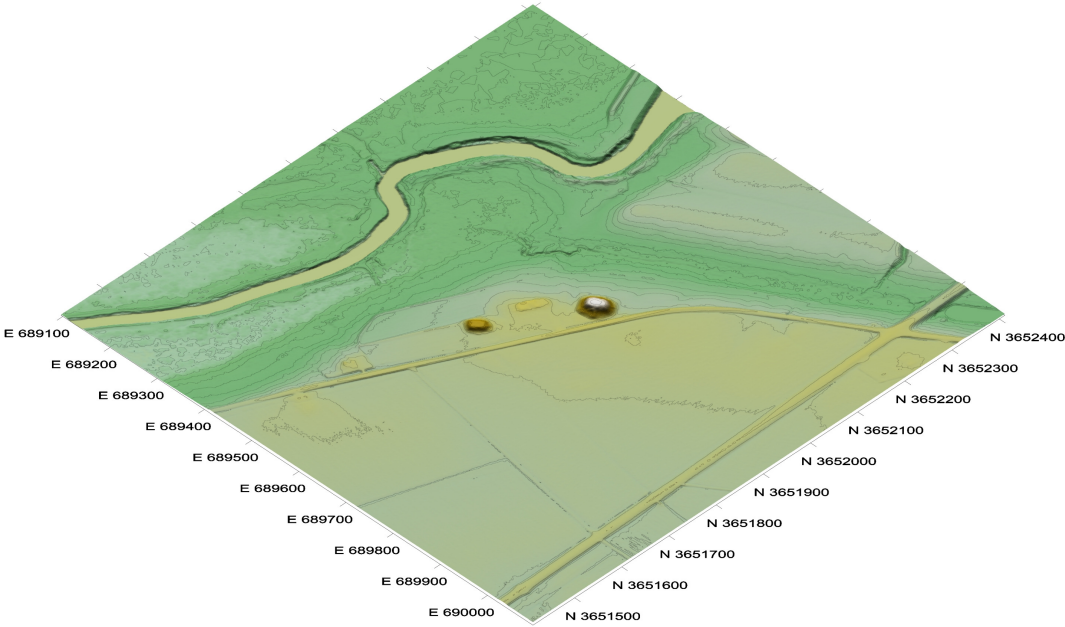
References

Phillips, Phillip 1970: *Archaeological Survey of the Lower Yazoo Basin, 1949-1955*, pp. 499-502. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 60, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Steponaitis, Vincas P., Stephen Williams, R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Ian W. Brown, Tristram R. Kidder, and Melissa Salvanish (eds.) 2002: *LMS Archives Online*.
<http://rla.unc.edu/archives/lms1/>

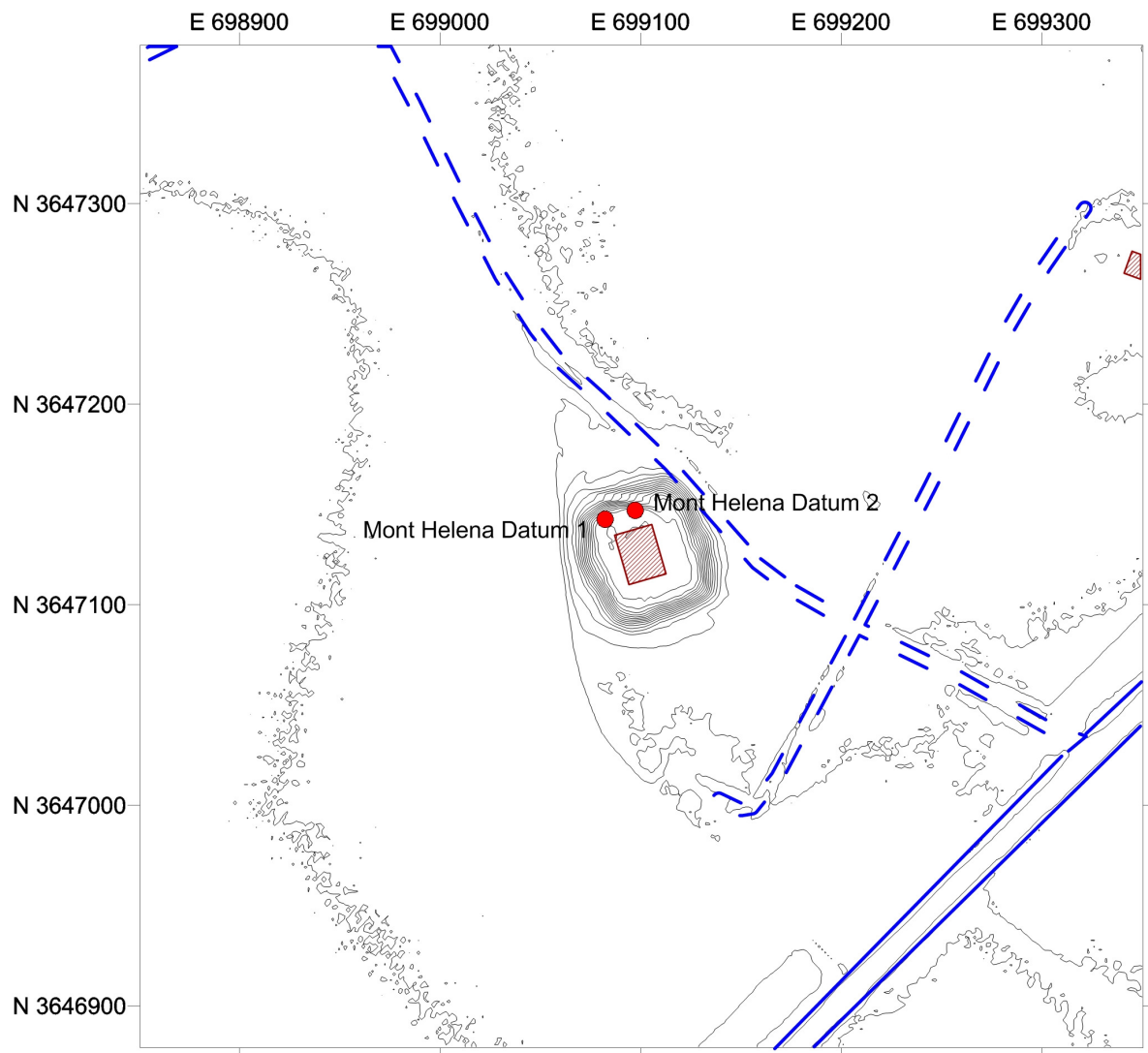


Grace



Grace





Mont Helena

VI. Sharkey County

VI.1 Anguilla, 22SH510

Other Numbers: 21-M-3

UTM Location: NAD83, Zone 15 Easting: 701739 Northing: 3650250

USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Rolling Fork E

15 Minute:

Site Description

The mound is a rectangular platform presently a little over six m. high and 160 at the base. Brown (1926: 80) reports that the summit was modified to accommodate a cistern, but that little height was removed.

History of Investigations

The LMS visited and described the mound in 1950, but did not come away with any artifacts.

Current Condition

The mound is in very good shape and easily seen from the street. It is covered in mature trees.

Collection, Archive Locations

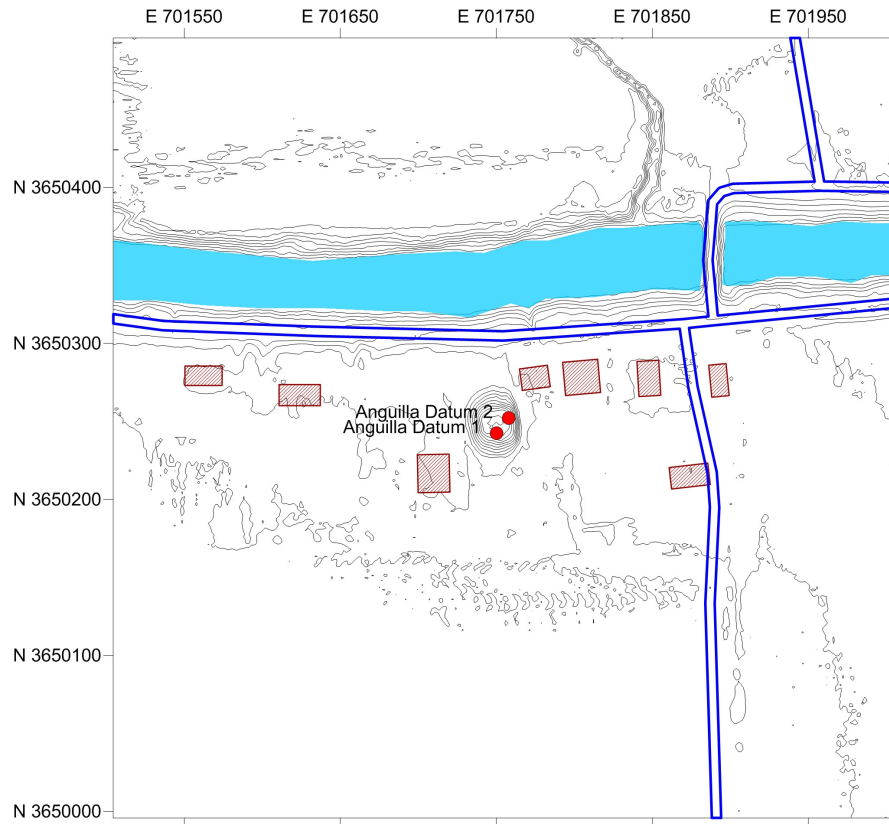
No collections are known from the mound.

References

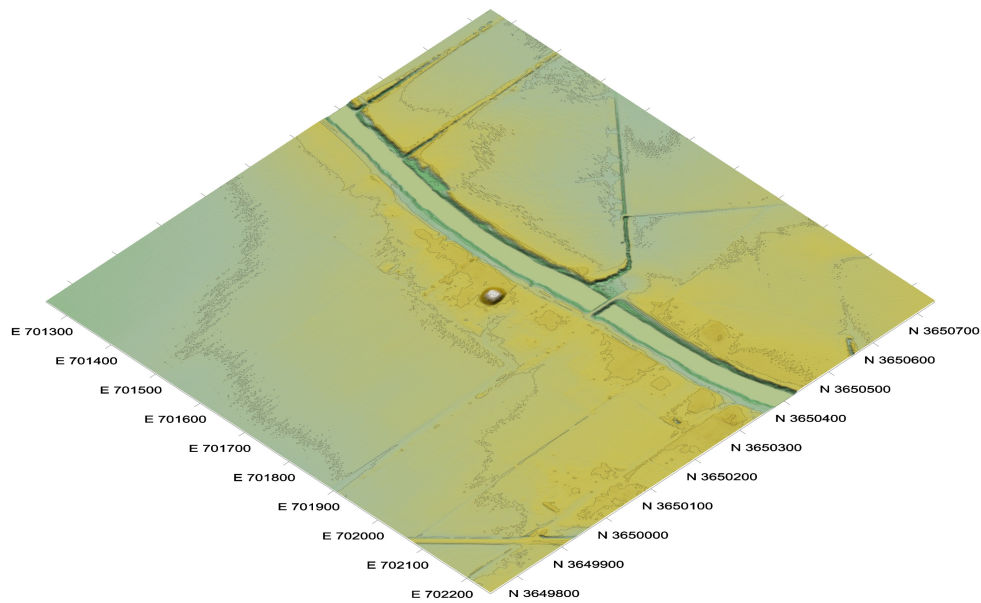
Brown, Calvin 1926: *Archaeology of Mississippi*. Reprinted 1992, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson

Phillips, Phillip 1970: *Archaeological Survey of the Lower Yazoo Basin, 1949-1955*, pp. 499-502. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 60, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Steponaitis, Vincas P., Stephen Williams, R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Ian W. Brown, Tristram R. Kidder, and Melissa Salvanish (eds.) 2002: *LMS Archives Online*.
<http://rla.unc.edu/archives/lms1/>



Anguilla



Anguilla

\\VI.2 Mont Helena, 22SH505

Other Numbers: 21-M-2

UTM Location: NAD83, Zone 15 Easting: 699103 Northing: 3647125

USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Rolling Fork E

15 Minute:

Site Description

Mt. Helena is a single large rectangular platform mound surmounted by a grand Victorian neoclassical style home. It is 90 by 70 m. at the base and eight m. high (Brown 1926:79-80). According to Brown some three meters of dirt was scraped off the top and pushed over onto the flanks. No artifacts were found when the house was built, despite the fact that a cellar was excavated into the mound.

A second mound 100 plus m. to the east has been plowed away. LMS collection in this area indicates an Aden Phase construction, and may not be associated with the larger mound.

History of Investigations

Only a visit by LMS is recorded. Other archaeologists have visited the site and none have reported finding artifacts.

Current Condition

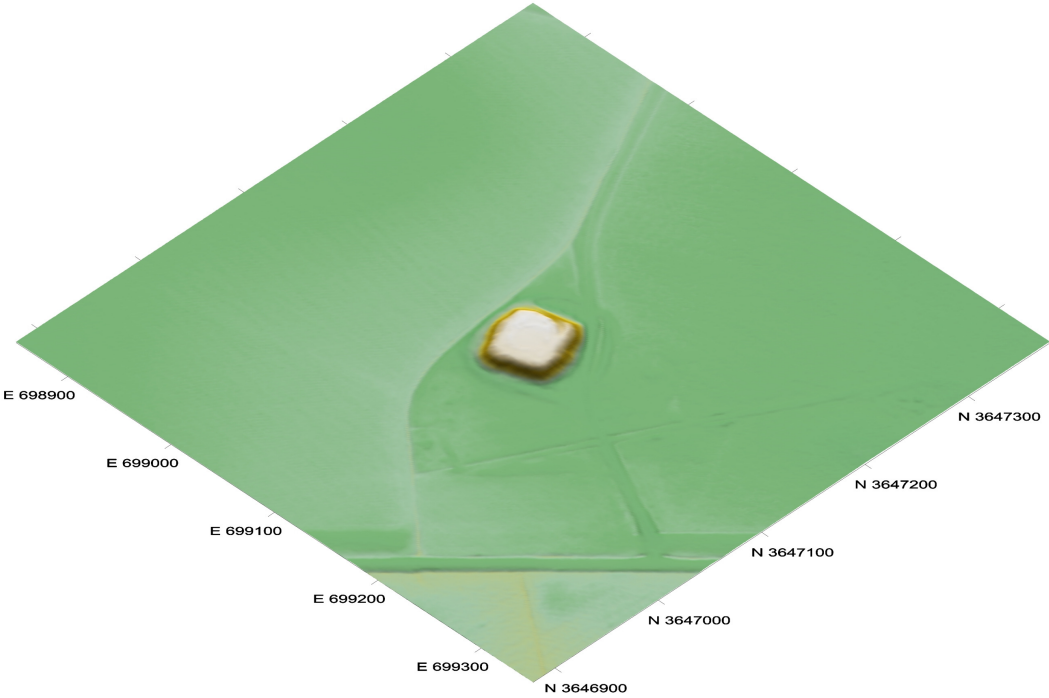
It is in very good shape, with maintained grass on the flanks and summit. It is surrounded in lawn, which in turn is surrounded by agricultural fields.

Collections Locations

There are no known collections from the site, other than that associated with the now destroyed smaller mound.

References

Brown, Calvin 1926: *Archaeology of Mississippi*. Reprinted 1992, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson





Phillips, Phillip 1970: *Archaeological Survey of the Lower Yazoo Basin, 1949-1955*, pp. 499-502. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 60, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Steponaitis, Vincas P., Stephen Williams, R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Ian W. Brown, Tristram R. Kidder, and Melissa Salvanish (eds.) 2002: *LMS Archives Online*. <http://rla.unc.edu/archives/lms1/>

V1.3 Carter, 22SH535

Other Numbers:

UTM Location: NAD83, Zone 15 Easting: 697910 Northing: 3647126

USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Rolling Fork E

15 Minute:

Site Description

The Carter Site includes two mounds. The larger of the two, Mound A is on the west side and Mound B is to the east. Mound A is ovoid with a significantly longer N-S length in comparison to its east west dimension.. It is probably 3 m tall based on field estimation.. Mound B is only about 1.5 m high and it is clear it has been plowed over. Based on the surface material it is very likely to have served as a burial mound.

History of Investigations

This site has not received professional attention. I apparently was missed by the LMS investigations in the area.

Current Condition

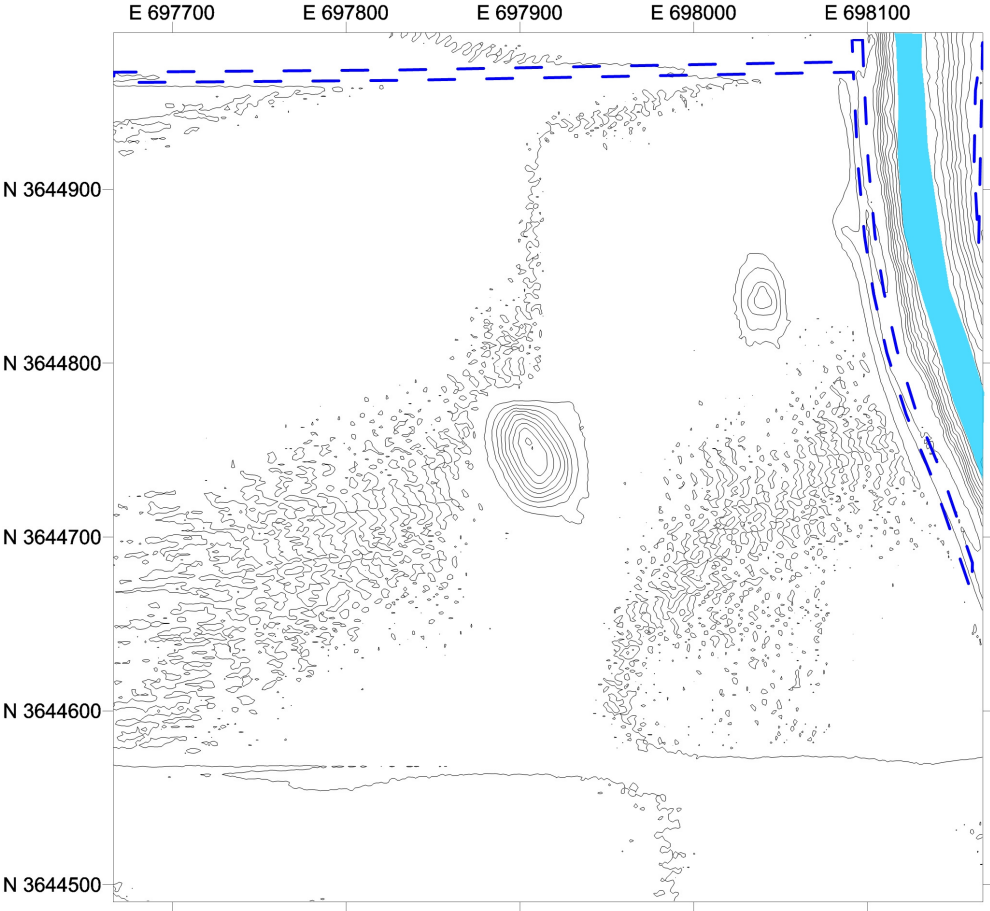
Surrounded by agricultural fields, the present landowner takes care of the mounds. Mound A is covered in grass and a few trees. Mound B is shaded by a couple of trees, does not have a good turf, but overall is protected at the present time.

Collections Locations

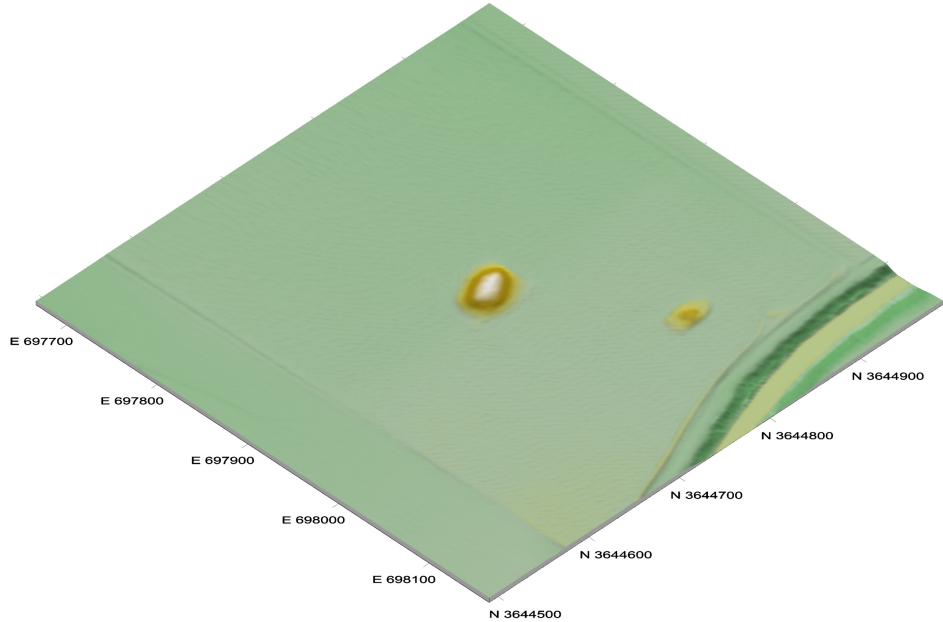
None

References

None



Carter



Carter



VI.4 Rolling Fork, 22SH506

Other Numbers: 21-M-1

UTM Location: NAD83 Zone, 15 Easting: 698325 Northing: 3641755

USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Rolling Fork W

15 Minute:

Site Description

Brown's (1926:77-78) description of the site is the best available, since by the time the LMS visited the site, it had "suffered grievously" (LMS site form). It was a group of three mounds, the largest, Mound A, being 16 m tall with a 28 by 31 m summit, Mound B being just shy of 7 m but having already been impacted by the construction of the landowner's house on its summit, and Mound C being under a meter in height. The site apparently produced a stone pipe which was transported to Arkansas by the collector.

By the time the LMS reached the site in 1946, Mound A was in a "shambles" (Phillips 1970:468), with a large excavation into the summit for the purpose of construction of a basement for a new house that was never built, exposing four m. of stratigraphy.

Several distinct floors were visible in the lower portion of the exposure. Large chunks of daub of the brush-foundation type were scattered about but very few sherds were seen (Phillips 1970:468).

Some four meters had been removed from Mound B.

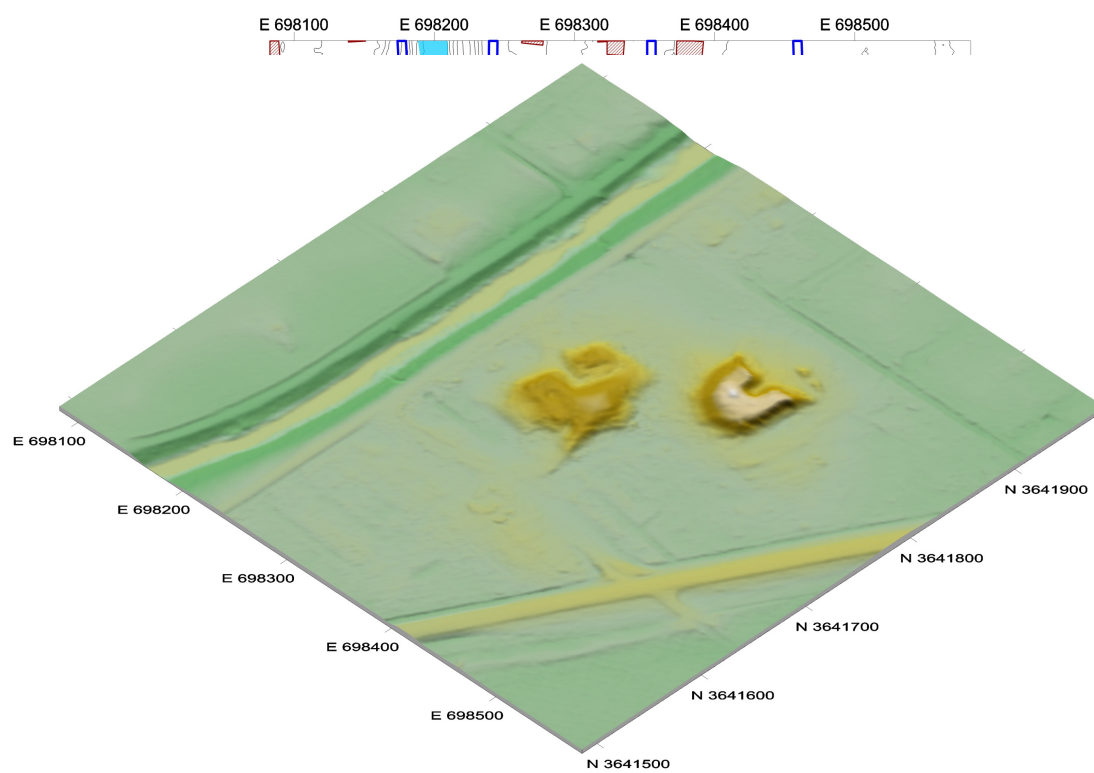
As to date, Phillips' interpretation of the LMS-collected sample points to a late Mississippi period component, but the material didn't conform well to his notion of the Deer Creek complex. Both Leland Incised and Bell Plain were sufficient different for Phillips to note it.

History of Investigations

In addition to the LMS visits to the site in 1946 and subsequently (Phillips doesn't say when nor is it mentioned in the LMS archived material), the site was subjected to investigations sponsored by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in anticipation of the construction of a museum on the site. A phase I survey report stemmed from this research.

Current Condition

In addition to the damage described above the site is overgrown and not visible from the road, despite its proximity to the highway,



Rolling Fork

Collection and Archive Locations

LMS

Mississippi State University?

References

Brown, Calvin 1926: *Archaeology of Mississippi*. Reprinted 1992, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson

Phillips, Phillip 1970: *Archaeological Survey of the Lower Yazoo Basin, 1949-1955*, pp. 499-502. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 60, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Steponaitis, Vincas P., Stephen Williams, R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Ian W. Brown, Tristram R. Kidder, and Melissa Salvanish (eds.) 2002: *LMS Archives Online*.
<http://rla.unc.edu/archives/lms1/>

VI.5 Cary, 22SH507

Other Numbers: 21-M-5

UTM Location: NAD83, Zone 15 Easting: 693691 Northing: 3631473

USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Cary

15 Minute:

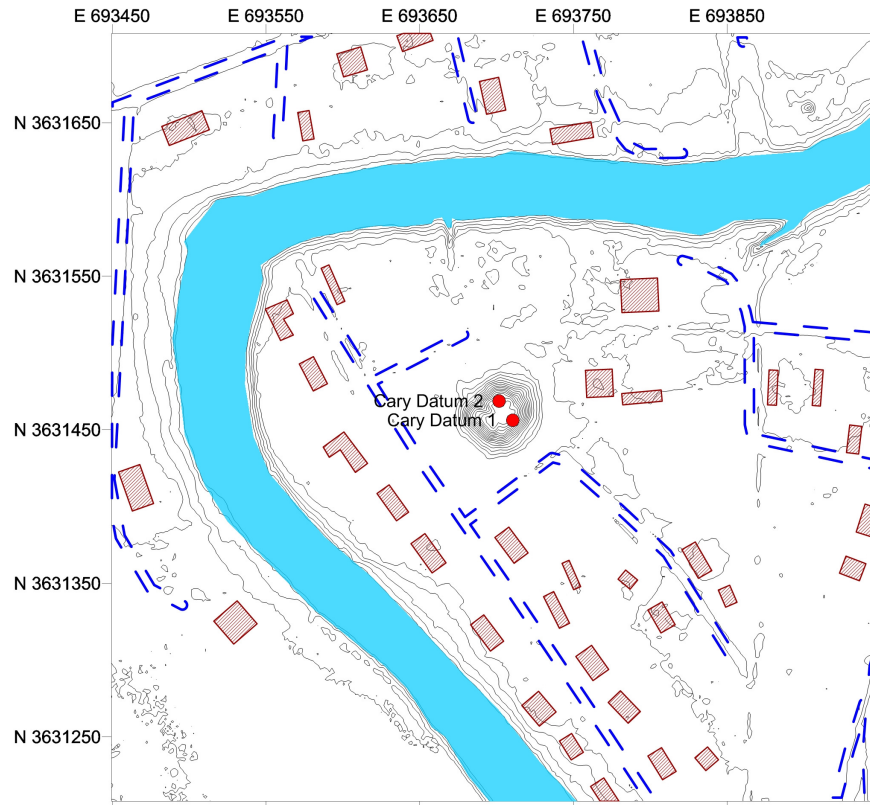
Site Description

The site originally included three or four mounds (Brown described four, while the LMS could only find three), of which only the largest survives.

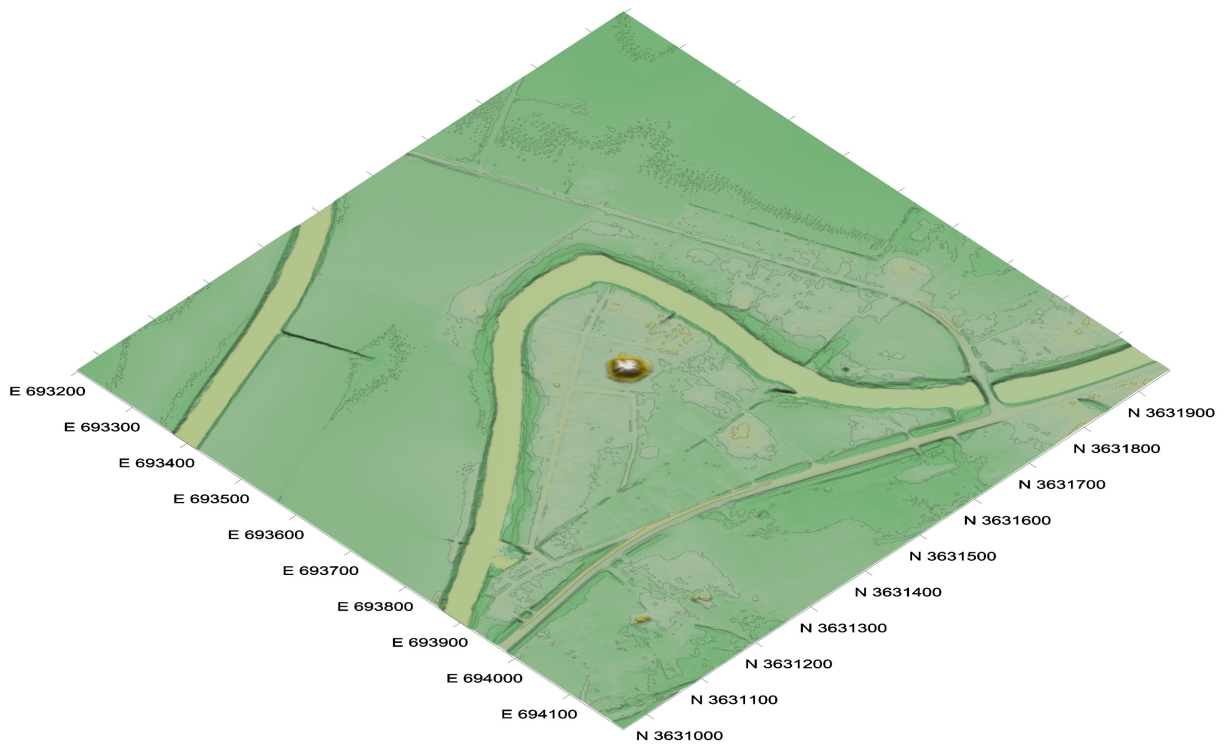
As to age, Phillips suggests it is “almost certainly a late Mississippian assemblage which is not of the expected Deer Creek phase” (p. 473), and hypothesizes that it may belong to an as yet unidentified late Mississippian complex.

History of Investigations

Only a visit in 1950 by the LMS is recorded.



Cary



Cary



Current Condition

Although tree covered, it is in good condition. It is protected through ownership by the Archaeological Conservancy.

Collections Locations

LMS

References

Brown, Calvin 1926: *Archaeology of Mississippi*. Reprinted 1992, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson

Phillips, Phillip 1970: *Archaeological Survey of the Lower Yazoo Basin, 1949-1955*, pp. 499-502. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 60, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Steponaitis, Vincas P., Stephen Williams, R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Ian W. Brown, Tristram R. Kidder, and Melissa Salvanish (eds.) 2002: *LMS Archives Online*.
<http://rla.unc.edu/archives/lms1/>

VII. Yazoo County

VII.1 Lake George, 22YZ557

Other Numbers: 21-N-1

UTM Location: Zone 15 Easting Northing

USGS Quadrangle

7.5 Minute: Holly Bluff

15 Minute:

Site Description

Depending on how counted there are as many as 28 mounds comprising the Lake George Site, a core organized around two plazas east and west of the central feature, Mound A, and a second outer tier along the edge of the interior site as defined as by rectangular wall and moat feature on the east, south and west sides of the site. The north side of the site fronts Lake George. The largest two remaining mounds are A and B. Many of the smaller mounds can no longer be detected even when there are no crops in the fields and continuing farming has plowed them away.

While the final morphology of the site dates to the Lake George phase, there is a long history of use of the Lake George site location beginning in the Poverty Point period. Mound construction could have begun as early as the Baytown period, but clearly had begun by the succeeding Coles Creek Aden phase, when Mound C was begun. The Coles Creek center may have added one or two additional mounds by or during the Crippen Point phase. A major campaign of mound construction began during the Winterville Phase, when the dual plaza configuration and the centrality of Mound A were first expressed. During the Lake George phase the moat and wall (which supported a palisade) was constructed. During the Lake George phase certain mounds were abandoned and the focus of activity seems to have been on the eastern plaza. Williams and Brain (1983:342) conclude that the site was disinhibited by the beginning of the Wasp Lake phase.

History of Investigations

Moore visited the site, surface collected and excavation 13 trial holes in one mound that earlier had produced a ceramic pipe in the form of a quadripedal animal (Moore 1908: Figure 6). He also did “but a moderate amount of diffing on and among the mounds near George Lake, finding two burials lying near the surface, which had undergone disturbance” (Moore 1908:592). Moore’s efforts met with disappointment, and at this point in the season he abandoned the Sunflower River expedition.

Brown visited the site as well in 1917 and provides a more systematic description including that of the earthen wall and moat that surrounds the site. He reports having excavated human bones from one of the medium-sized mounds and conjectures it and others may have been burial mounds.

Jesse Jennings, then with the National Park Service visited Lake George in 1940 and while there instrument mapped the site and produced a comprehensive description as part of a report.

The LMS first visited the site in 1946, and collected a large samples of sherds, including a great many produced by the erosion of Mound A facilitated by the use of dynamite by the land-owner. In 1949 Phillips and his LMS party returned to the site, and spent “several weeks” surface collecting and excavating test units. The site was again mapped using a plane table and alidade (Phillips 1970: 280, Figure 84). Phillips’ 1970 analysis is largely based on the 1949 collections despite the overlap between his monograph preparation and the more extensive excavation and analysis by Stephen Williams and Jeffrey P. Brain.

The LMS this time lead by Stephen Williams began excavations there in 1958 that included three seasons of fieldwork (Williams and Brain 1983). Major excavations were located on Mounds F’, P, C, A, in Location K and in the wall and ditch feature. More limited excavations were conducted on Mounds D, E, M, G, H, V, R, T, J, in the plaza, in Location L, and in the “flats” between Mounds B and J. Straigraphic contexts afforded by excavation permitted Williams and Brain to refine the ceramic sequence for the Lower Yazoo Basin, a reformulation that introduced the concept of ceramic sets. Excavations also revealed some architectural detail. The greatest concentration of burials was in Mound C, which date to the Coles Creek period.

Current Condition

Depredation of the site was bemoaned by Phillips, who noted considerable damage to the site by 1949, compared with Jennings’ observations just nine years earlier. Mound A had lost its rectangular shape and Mound H had been nearly levelled to create a foundation for a house. Plowing had reduced smaller mounds to “shapeless rises of ground”. Much of the ditch on the east side of the site had disappeared.

That said, Mound A is still an impressive feature and the other major mounds are recognizable as such. Structures still stand on some of the mounds as noted by Phillips. Mound A is covered in mature trees so thick that despite the fact that the north side of the mound nearly touches the road through the site, you don’t recognize the clump as a mound until you are almost upon it.

Collections Locations

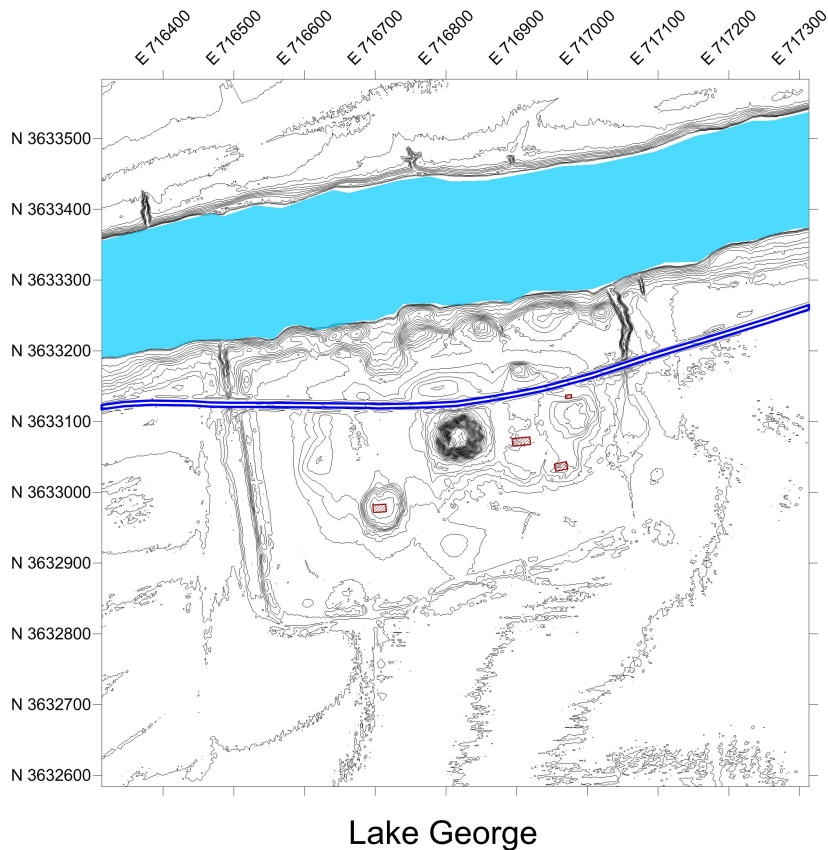
LMS

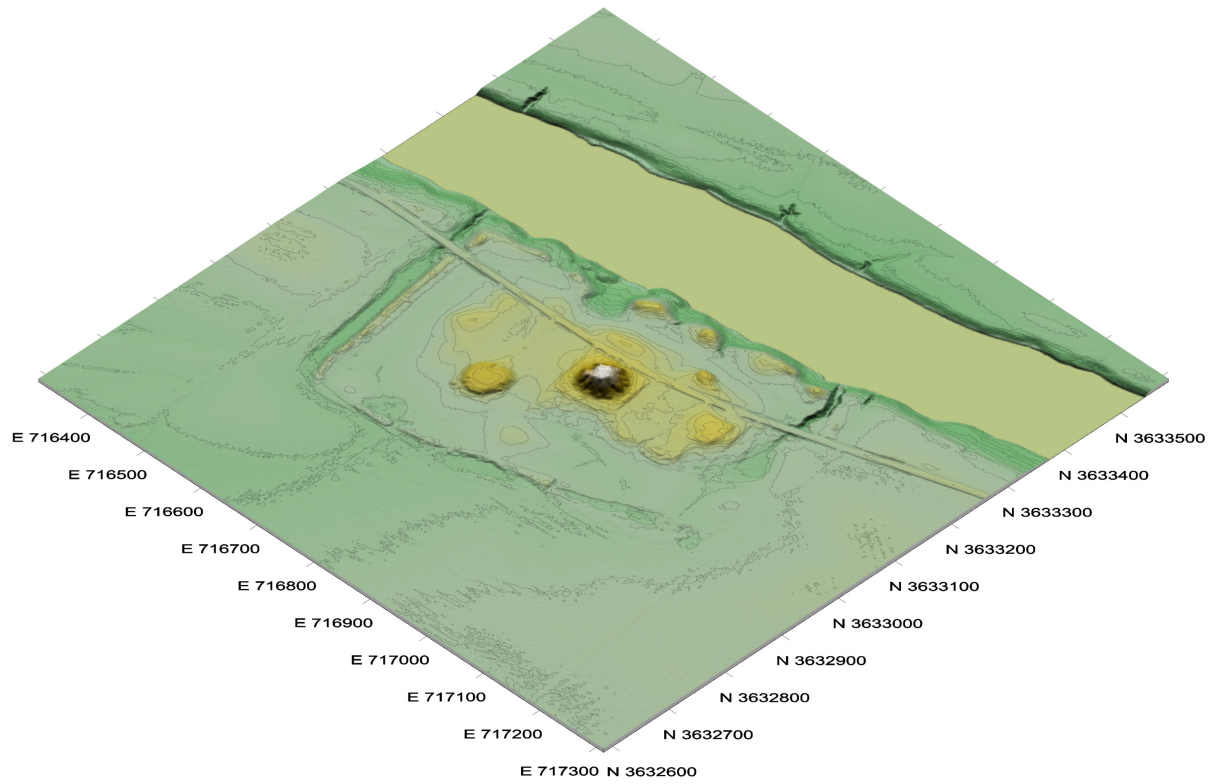
MDAH

University of Southern Mississippi

References

- Brown, Calvin 1926: *Archaeology of Mississippi*. Reprinted 1992, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson
- Moore, Clarence B. 1908: Certain Mounds of Arkansas and Mississippi. *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 13:590-592. Reprinted in Morse, Dan F., and Phyllis A. Morse 1998: *The Lower Mississippi Valley Expeditions of Clarence B. Moore*. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.
- Phillips, Phillip 1970: *Archaeological Survey of the Lower Yazoo Basin, 1949-1955*, pp. 499-502. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 60, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- Steponaitis, Vincas P., Stephen Williams, R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Ian W. Brown, Tristram R. Kidder, and Melissa Salvanish (eds.) 2002: *LMS Archives Online*. <http://rla.unc.edu/archives/lms1/>
- Williams, Stephen, and Jeffrey P. Brain 1983: *Excavations at the Lake George Site, Yazoo County, Mississippi, 1958-1960*. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 74. Harvard University, Cambridge





Lake George



