Mississippi Mound Trail, Northern Region:
Phase I Investigations

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University of Mississippi
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Introduction

Phase I on the Northern Segment of the Mississippi Mound Trail Project was begun in July of 2013, shortly before we went to the field on Phase II, the testing phase. So, to a large extent, the two phases overlapped. Although preliminary research on the proposed mounds for the northern segment was mostly completed before students and staff from the Ole Miss field school started augering and digging slope trenches in the mounds, many of the maps had not been assembled. Fortunately, LiDAR data were available for the entire survey area and there was no need to supplement those data with field surveys.

Stephen Harris and Erica Carpenter did the initial archival work and wrote first drafts descriptions for most of the sites. Stephen also did the preliminary processing of the LiDAR data making full use of a set of guideline provided by Stephen Davis of the Research Laboratories of Archaeology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This "cheat sheet" saved us a good deal of work. Travis Cureton produced the final LiDAR-based maps and wrote one of the site descriptions and edited the rest. Jay Johnson wrote a few more of the site descriptions and did the final editing and compiling.

In all of this, we have followed the format established by the UNC crew on the southern segment both in order to maintain consistency and because they provided such a good example. Sites are arranged by county from north to south and north to south within the counties. Although all of the sites listed in the original research proposal are included in this report, some of the sites will not be included in the mound trail because landowner permission could not be obtained either for testing or for marking with a turnout and road side marker. Those sites and the circumstances involved will be discussed in the Phase II report.

DeSoto County

Figure 1 DeSoto and Tunica County Mound Trail Sites.

Edgefield Mounds (22 Ds 509)

Other Names: 13-P-02 (LMS)

Location: DeSoto County: Southwest ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 13, Southeast ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 14, Township 1 South, Range 10 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 754153E, 3875753N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad map: Lake Cormorant, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1982. Horn Lake, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1961.

Site Description: Edgefield Mounds consists of three large conical mounds strung out along an approximately 1km long northwest-southeast axis. Two of the mounds are between 24 and 30 meters in diameter and approximately 6m high. The farthest northwest mound is approximately 30m in diameter and 3m high. Levee construction created borrow pits partially or completely surrounding each mound. The removal of this material has dropped the surrounding landscape by as much as 2.5 meters, making the mounds appear taller than they actually are. Brown (1926:123) describes a platform projecting approximately 3m off the west side of Mound A, but this feature is not reported by Phillips (1970). Mound A is approximately 800m northwest of the Walls site. However, no connection between the two sites has been established and any evidence of an intervening settlement system was likely destroyed during levee construction.

History of Work: Brown visited the Edgefield Mounds in 1917 when he described and photographed the mound (Brown 1926:fig. 25).

Phillips surveyed the Edgefield Mounds in 1940 as part of the Lower Mississippi Survey. He produced a site description, sketch map, and five photographs.

Current Conditions: All three of the Edgefield Mounds are clearly visible and in good condition despite the destruction of their immediate surroundings by levee construction. That latter activity left an immense pit surrounding the mounds, which has the effect of making them appear taller than they actually are. The mounds and intervening landscape are wooded. The Edgefield church is located immediately to the west of Mound A. A Mississippi River levee lies approximately 150m northeast of the site. The landscape to the southwest of Edgefield Mounds is under cultivation.

Archival Materials:
Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Phillips' site reports, sketch map, and photos

Recommendations: Perform small-scale auger testing around the perimeter of the lower slope of Mound A in search of pre-mound midden. The auger data will be used in locating a slope trench.

References: Brown (1926); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951)

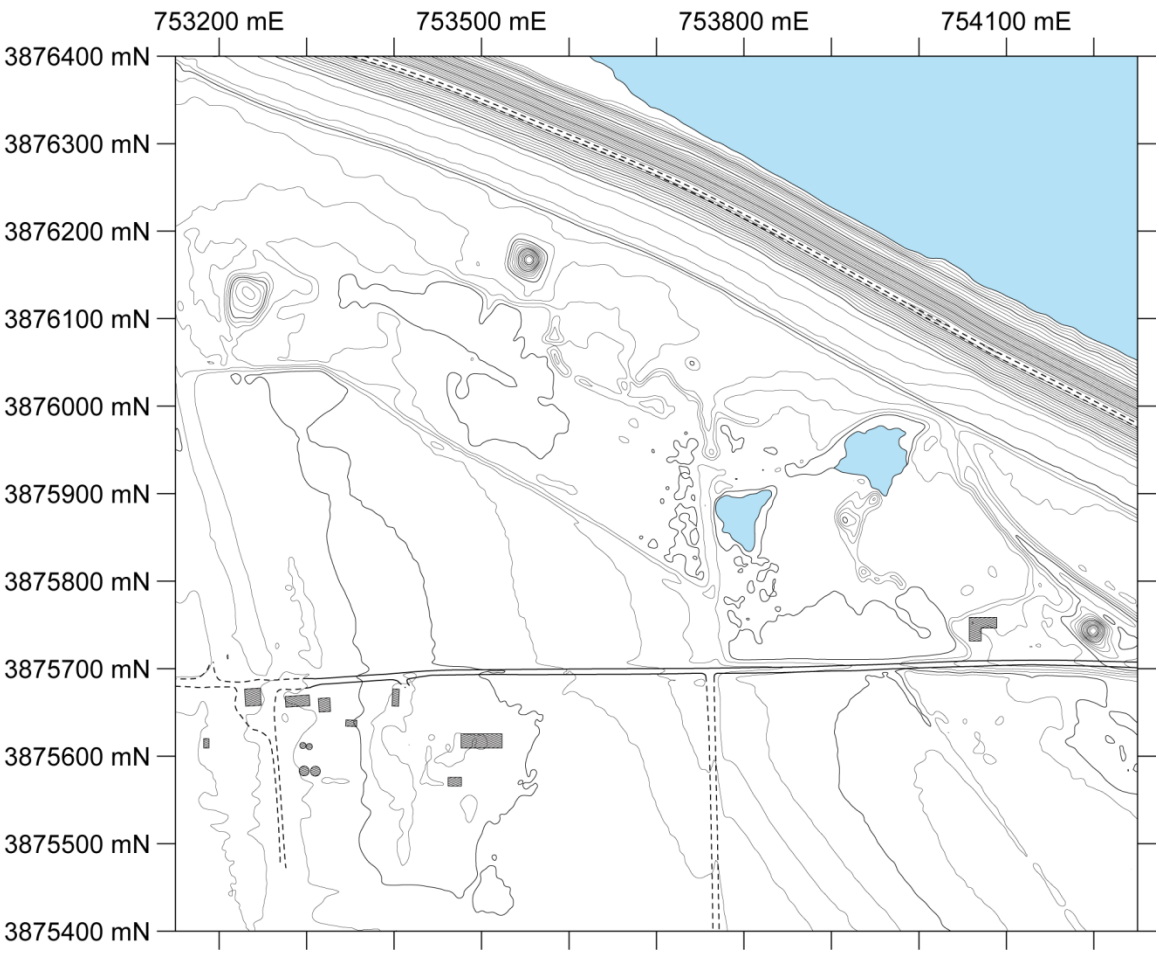

Figure 2 Edgefield, contour map with cultural features.

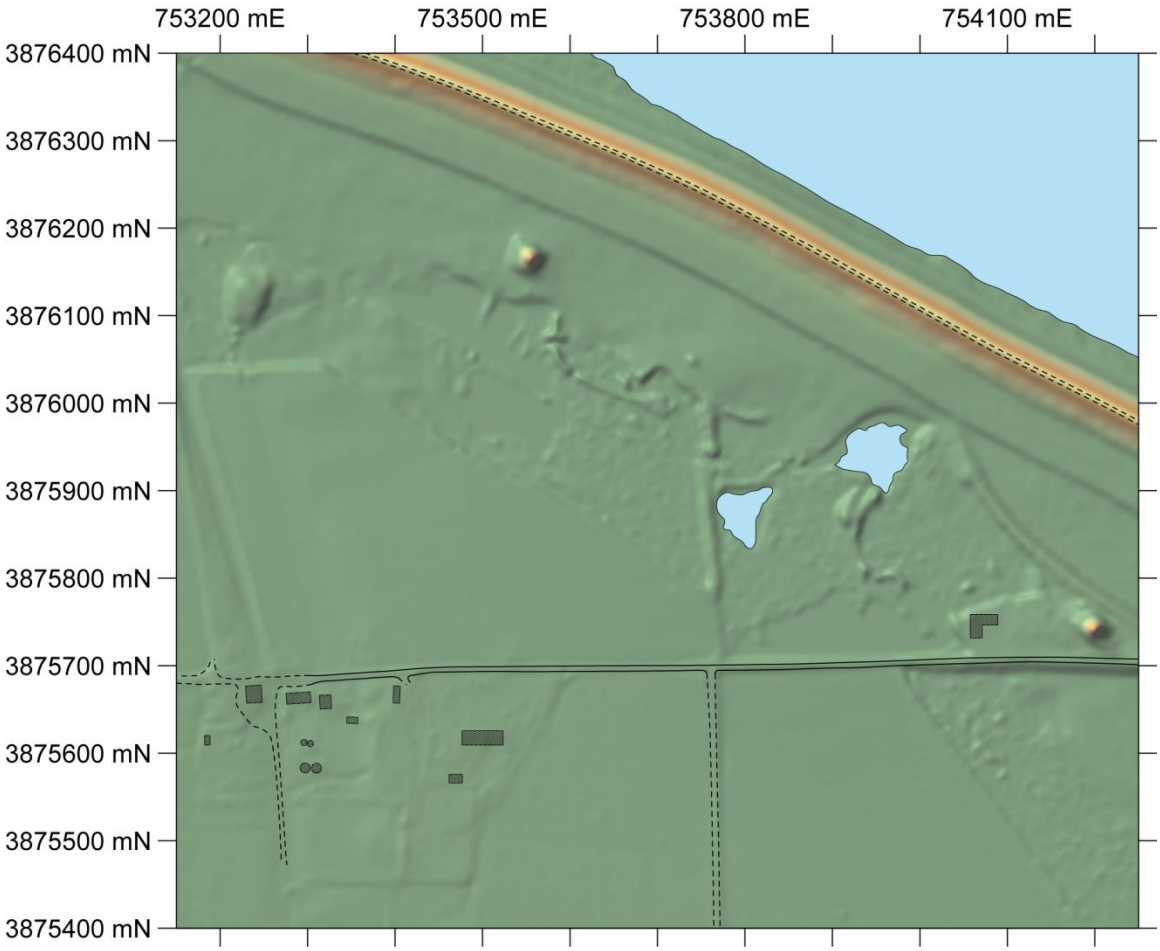

Figure 3 Edgefield, shaded relief map with cultural features.

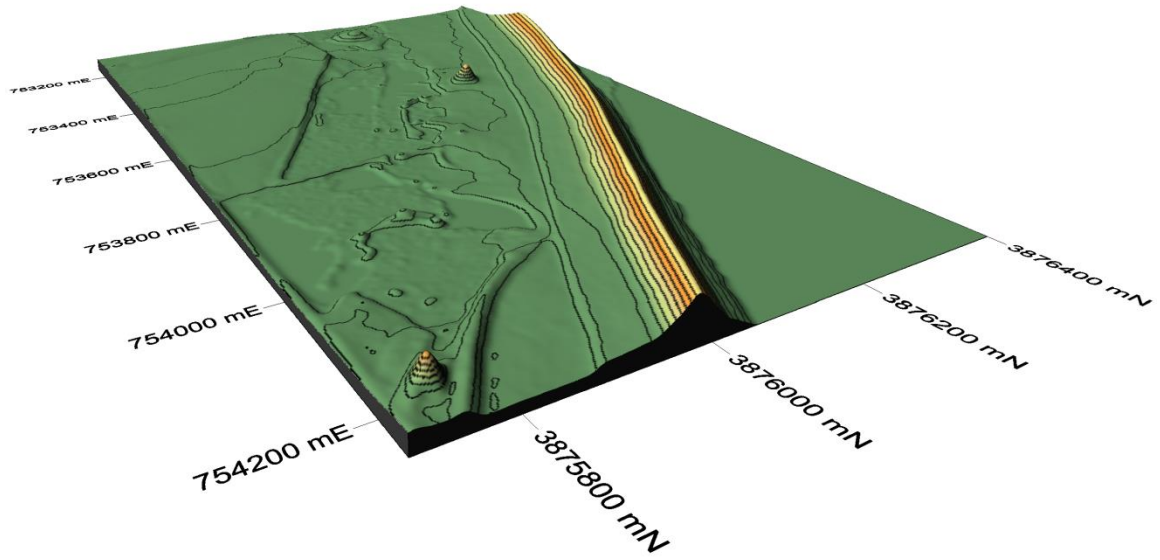

Figure 4 Edgefield, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.

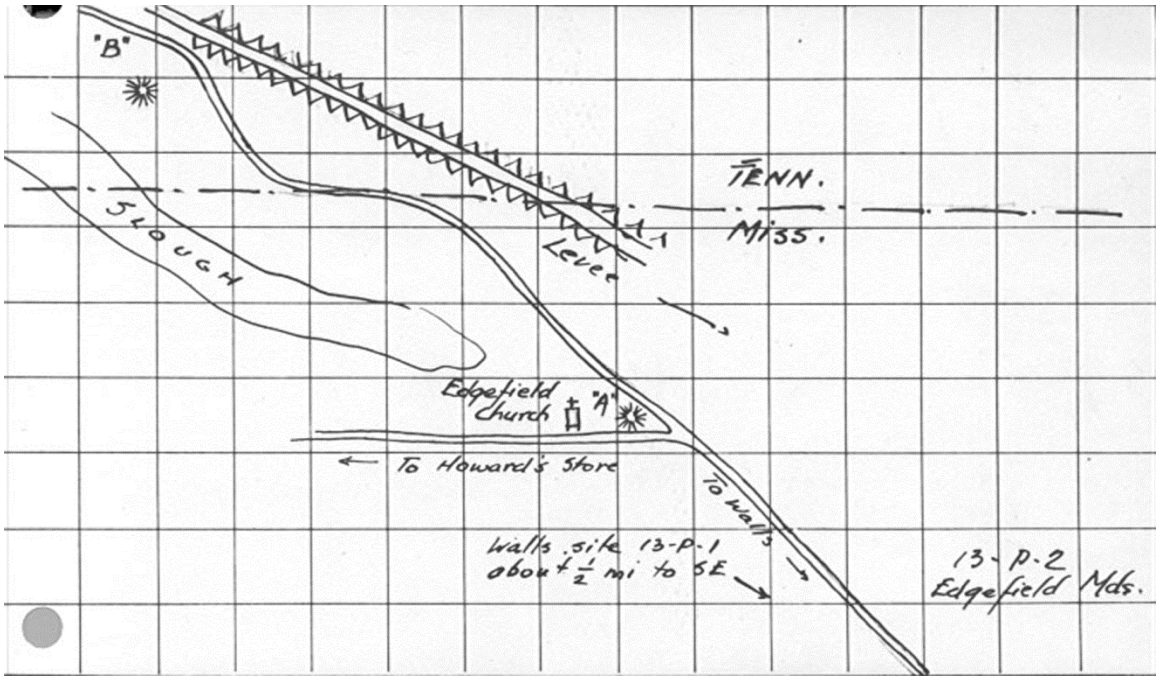

Figure 5 Edgefield, LMS (Phillips) sketch map 1940, LMS Archives Online.

Figure 6 Edgefield Mounds, Mound A, view to the south.

Figure 7 Edgefield Mounds, Mound A, view to the northeast.

Tunica County

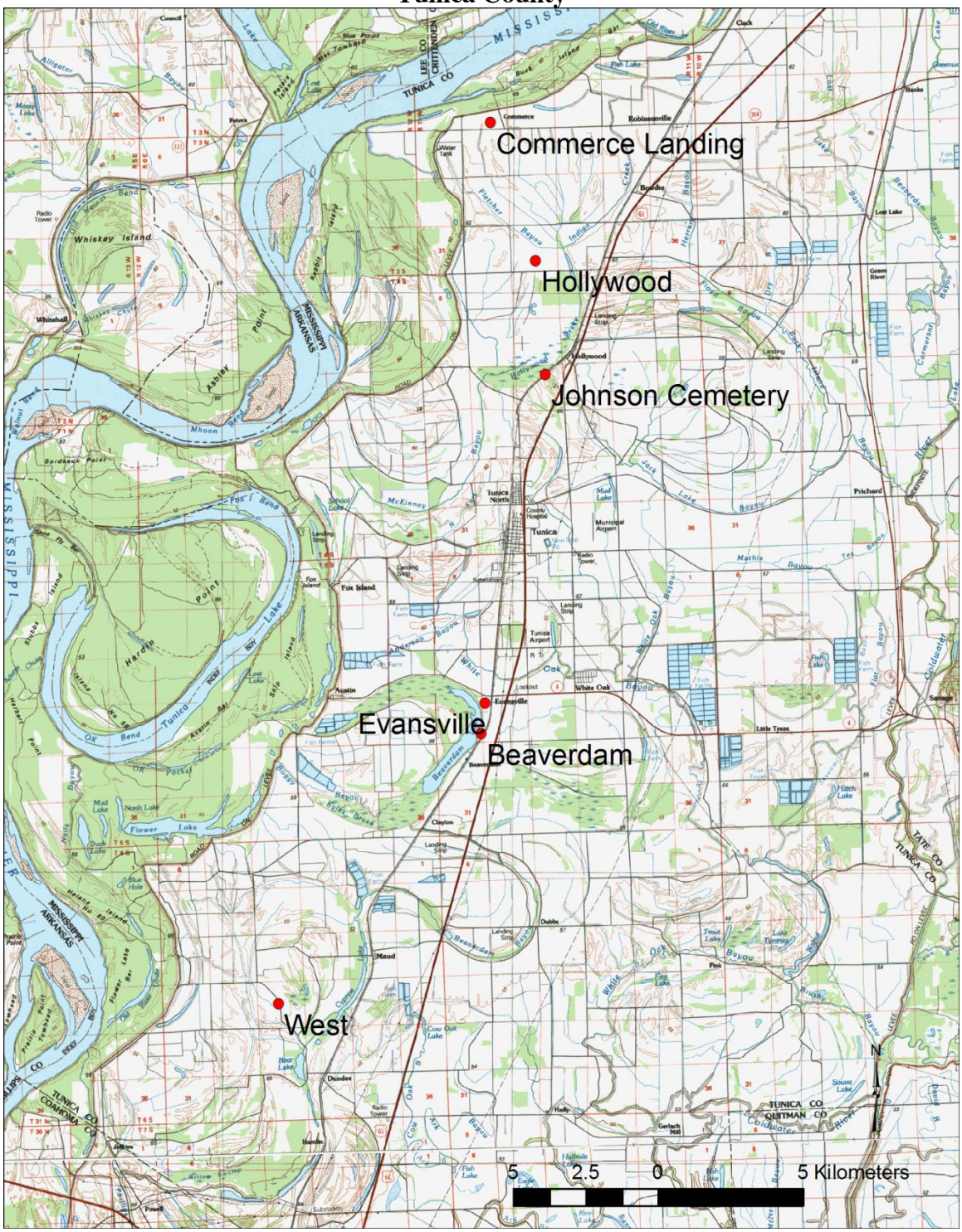

Figure 8 Tunica County Mounds Trial Sites.

Commerce (22 Tu 504)

Other Names: 13-O-11 (LMS)

Location: Tunica County: Southwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 17, Township 3 South, Range 11 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 739210E, 3856110N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Council, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1981.
Horse Shoe Lake, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1960.

Site Description: The Commerce site consists of a large rectangular platform mound exhibiting a ramp on its southern face. Five small mounds positioned west of the central mound were visible as late 1940, but are no longer evident. The main house of a farm headquarters is located immediately east of the central mound. Several other residences and outbuildings are also located in the immediate vicinity of the mound complex. The Commerce site takes its name from the now defunct port town of Commerce. Clarence B. Moore carried out the only known excavations at the Commerce site in 1911 and his site description is quoted by Brown (1926). Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951:321, Table 12) list the Commerce site in their table of small ceremonial centers.

History of Work: Moore (1911) excavated 29 burials from the top of the central mound which included a subadult burial with a shell gorget. He also recovered 12 vessels, 11 of which were plain ware and one having crude punctations. Moore noted that historic burials were also present at the mound summit.

Ford and Griffin surveyed the site in 1940, took photographs, made a surface collection, and drew a site map. The site map depicts a large mound with a south facing ramp and five small mounds to the west of the main mound.

Phillips (1970:938) used the surface collections from Commerce and Hollywood in his characterization of the Kent phase.

Current Conditions: The central mound is still visible, but has been impacted by historic construction and agricultural activity. The smaller mounds have been destroyed by this same activity. The Commerce site is blanketed by a contemporary occupation consisting of modern residences, outbuildings, and roads. The surrounding landscape is under cultivation.

Archival Materials:
The location of the material excavated by Moore in 1911 is currently unknown.

Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Ford and Griffin 1940 site card, sketch map, and photos

- 1947 sherd count

Recommendations: Perform small-scale auger testing around the perimeter of the lower slope of Mound A in search of pre-mound midden. The auger data will be used in locating a slope trench.

References: Brown (1926); Moore (1911); Phillips (1970); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951)

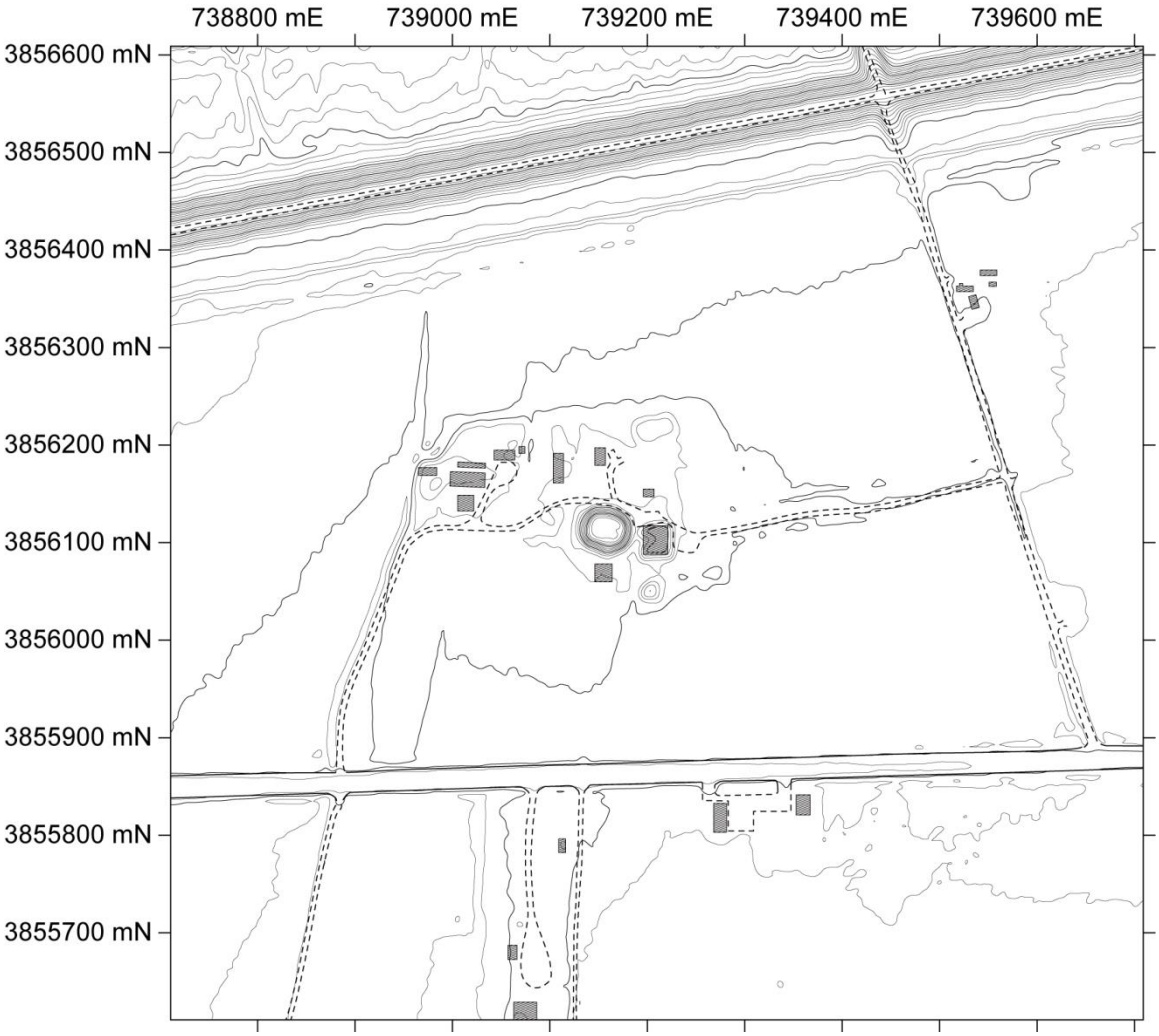

Figure 9 Commerce, contour map with cultural features.

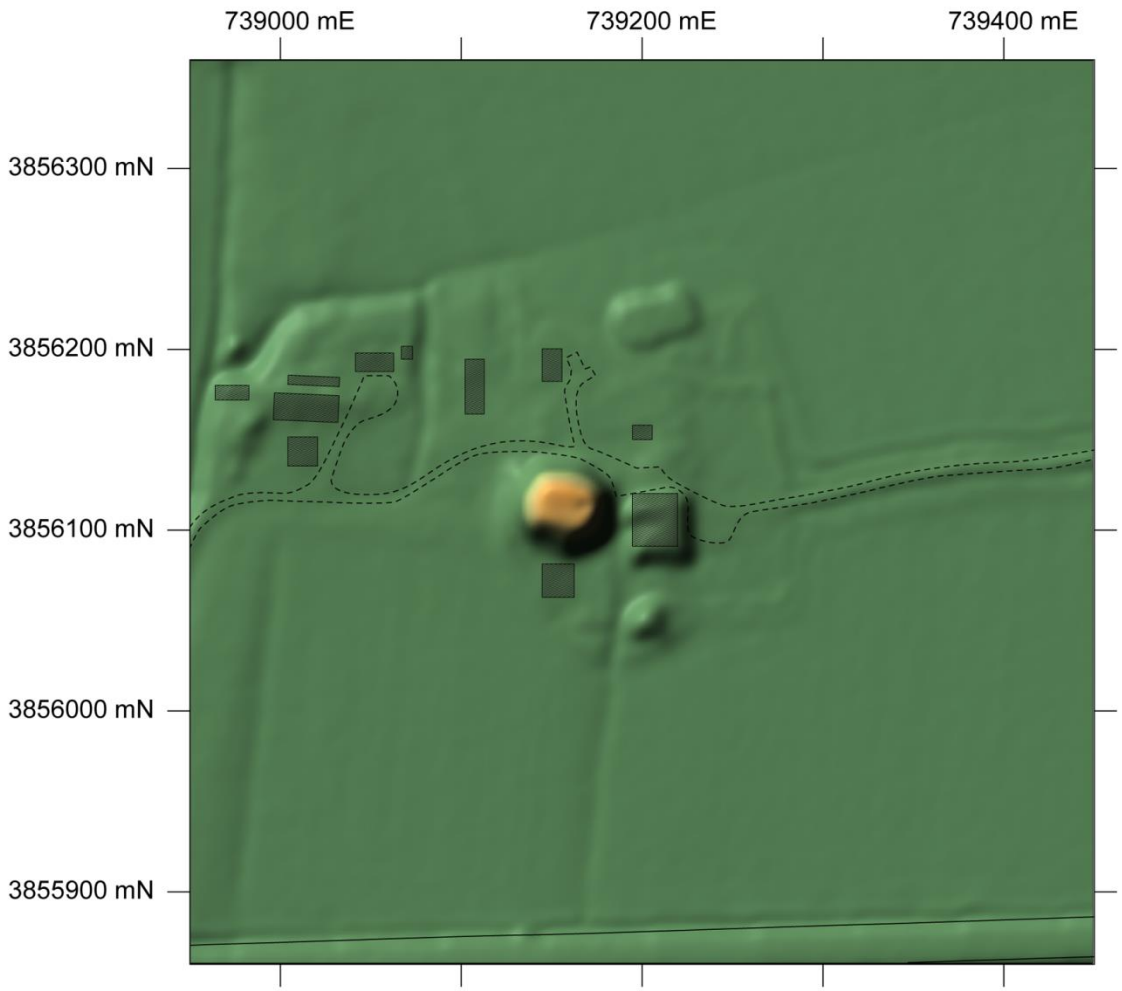

Figure 10 Commerce, shaded relief map with cultural features.

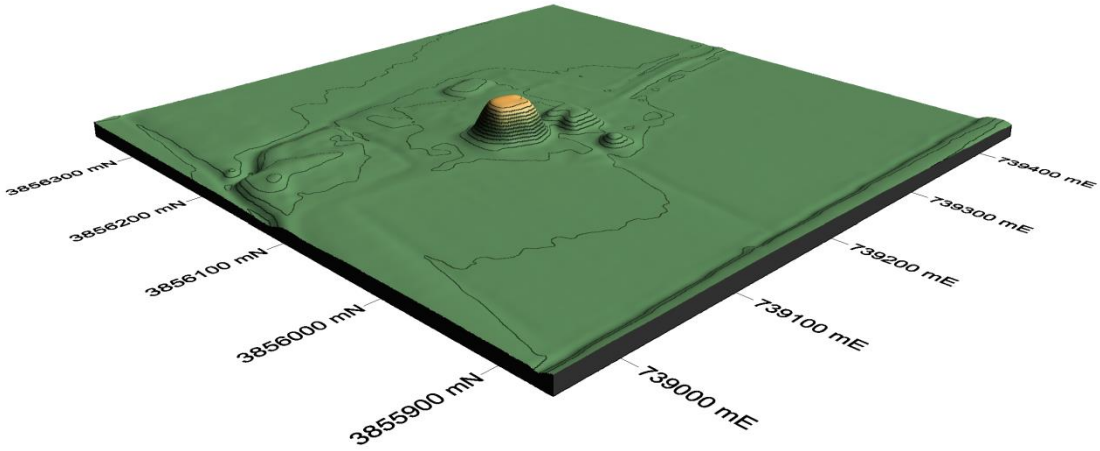

Figure 11 Commerce, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.

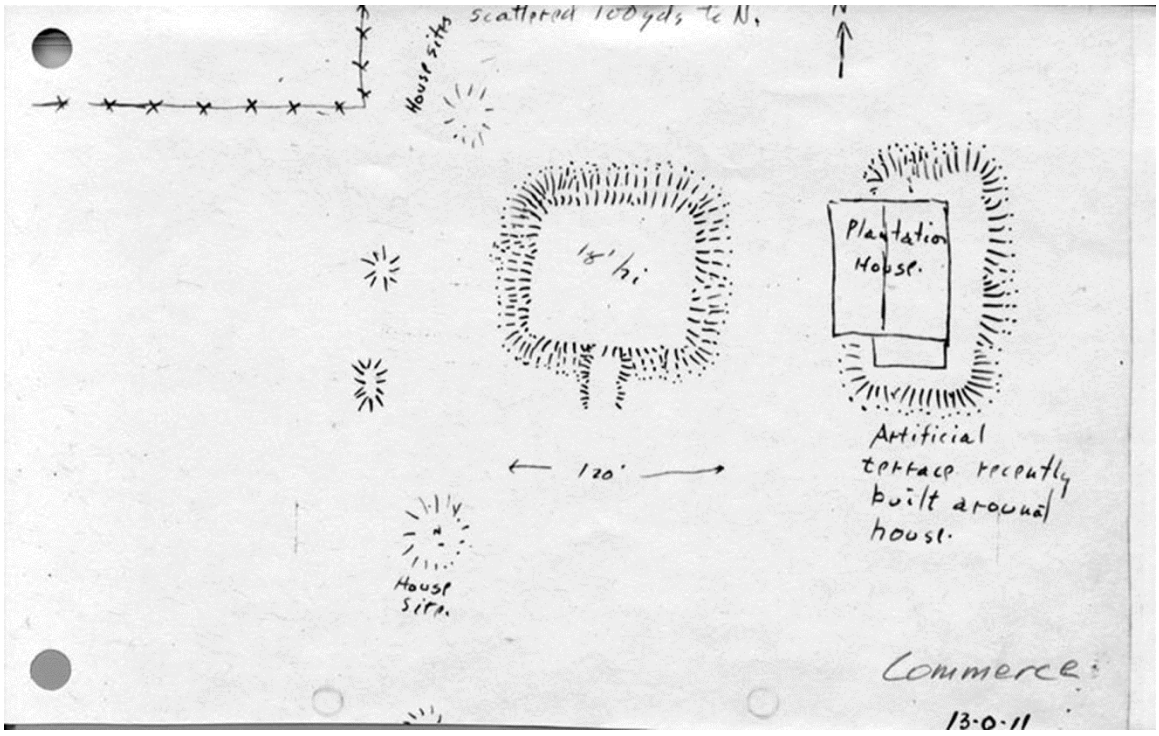

Figure 12 Commerce, LMS (Griffin, Ford) sketch map 1940, LMS Archives Online.

Figure 13 Commerce Mounds, view to the northwest.

Figure 14 Commerce Mounds, view to the northeast.

Hollywood (22 Tu 500)

Other Names: 13-O-10 (LMS); Bowdre; De Be Voise

Location: Tunica County: Southeast ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 33, Township 3 South, Range 11 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 740610 E, 3851512 N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Robinsonville, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1981. Horseshoe Lake, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1960.

Site Description: The Hollywood site consists of a large pyramidal platform mound surrounded on three sides by an earthen embankment which made-up of several small interconnected mounds which have come to be called the boundary mounds. An additional three small mounds occupy the edge of the crevasse to the east the platform mound. Mound A measures approximately 55m wide, 51m long, and 6m high. The boundary mounds were still visible as late as 1940 when Griffin visited the site and enclosed a roughly rectangular area measuring approximately 1.5ha. However, little indication of the embankment remains on the surface today.

History of Work: Brown visited the Bowdre site (now the Hollywood site) in 1923 and produced a sketch map of the site (Brown 1926:121). The sketch map indicates three contemporary structures occupy the summits of boundary mounds to the northeast and southeast of Mound A.

Charles Barton (Brown 1926:123) called the Hollywood site the "De Be Voise" site. He argued the site may have been one of those described by the De Soto chroniclers.

Ford and Griffin surveyed the Hollywood site in 1940, producing a sketch map and three photographs. Their sketch map and photographs show two structures still standing atop the eastern boundary mounds. Additionally, their sketch map does show three mounds occupying the interior of the plaza shown in the Brown map. Phillips revisited the site in 1947 to make a large surface collection.

Phillips (1970:938, Figures 445 and 447) used the Hollywood site to define his Kent phase of the Mississippian period. He also assigned the site to the earlier Baytown phase of the Baytown period.

In 1993 John Connaway, Richard Stallings, and Nancy Ross Stallings excavated several test pits at the Hollywood site after the site was donated to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (Stallings 1994)

In 1997 Jay Johnson, Richard Stallings, Nancy Ross-Ross-Stallings, Berle Clay, and Stephen Jones conducted broad scale remote sensing and ground truth investigation at the

Hollywood site. This included cartographic survey, controlled surface collections, multi-band aerial photography, resistivity, and magnetometry survey. These operations were followed up with test excavations as well as limited trenching using a backhoe (Johnson et al. 2000).

In 2001 Johnson led the University of Mississippi field school to the Hollywood site. The data recovered from this and previous work conducted at the site after 1997 resulted in several University of Mississippi Master's theses and reports (Haley 2002; Haley et al. 2002; Johnson et al. 2000; Johnson 2006; Peukert 2002; Reynolds 2002).

Between 2011 and 2013, Bryan Haley conducted research at the Hollywood site as part of his graduate studies at Tulane University. This work has resulted in an article (Haley 2014) describing his site structure analysis utilizing geophysical survey and targeted excavations aimed at understanding the development of the site.

Current Conditions: Mound A of the Hollywood site is clearly visible and in good condition. Agricultural activity has obliterated the three sided earthen embankment and three low mounds. Three mounds situated along a natural levee north of Mound A are still visible. Mound A and the three intact small mounds are wooded while the surrounding landscape is under cultivation.

Archival Materials:
Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Valley Archaeological Survey:

- Ford and Griffin 1940 site report, sketch map, and photo
- 1947 surface collection sherd count

Mississippi Department of Archives and History:

- Collections produced during the 1993 Connaway, Stallings, and Ross-Stallings investigations

Center for Archaeological Research, University of Mississippi:

- Collections and data produced during the Johnson and colleagues (2000) investigation
- Collections and data produced during the 2001 field school

Tulane University

- Geophysical data and excavated material collected by Haley

Recommendations: No further work is recommended for the Hollywood site. Work done by staff and students associated with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the University of Mississippi, and Tulane University beginning in 1993 and continuing today has provided enough data on the cultural, temporal, and functional characteristics of the site to fulfill the needs of this project.

References: Brown (1926); Edwards (2003); Haley (2002), (2014); Haley, Johnson, and Stallings (2002); Johnson et al. (2000); Peukert (2002); Phillips (1970); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951); Reynolds (2002); Stallings (1994)

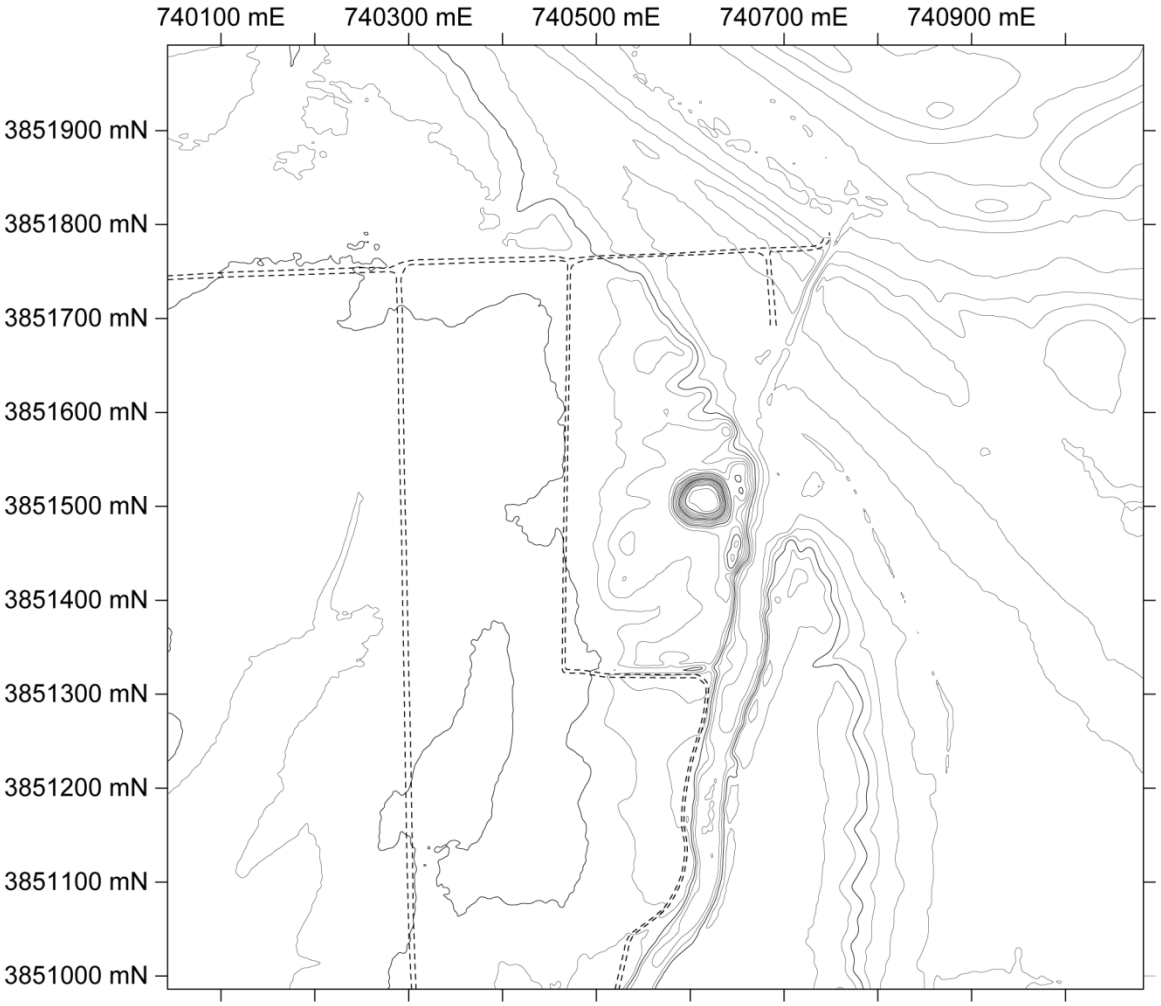

Figure 15 Hollywood, contour map with cultural features.

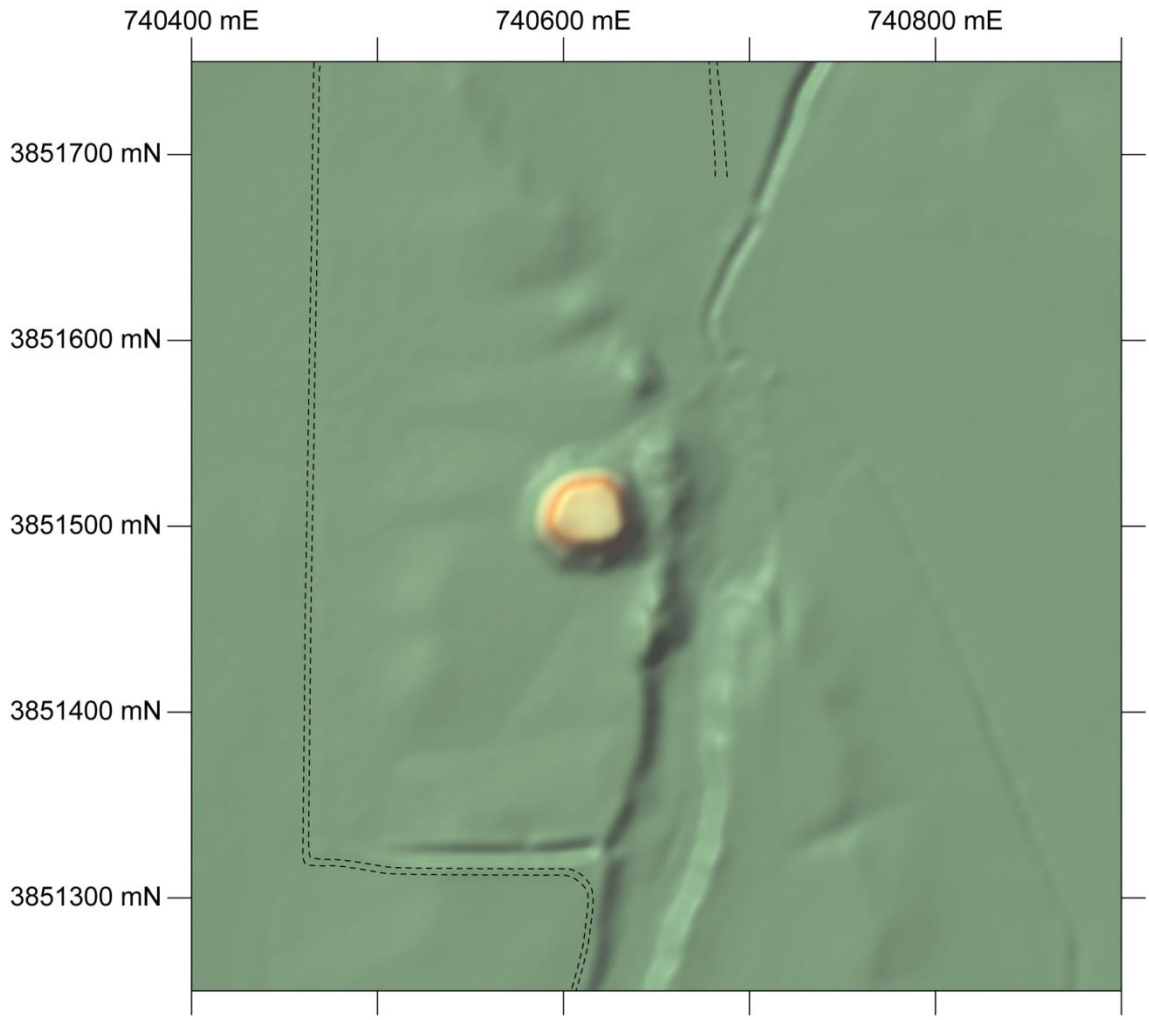

Figure 16 Hollywood, shaded relief map with cultural features.

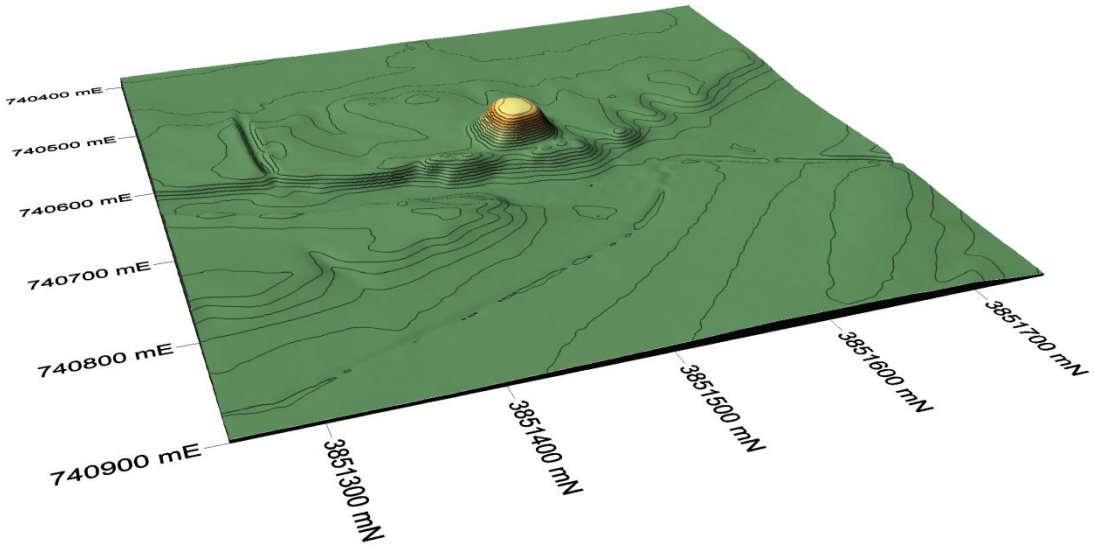

Figure 17 Hollywood, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.

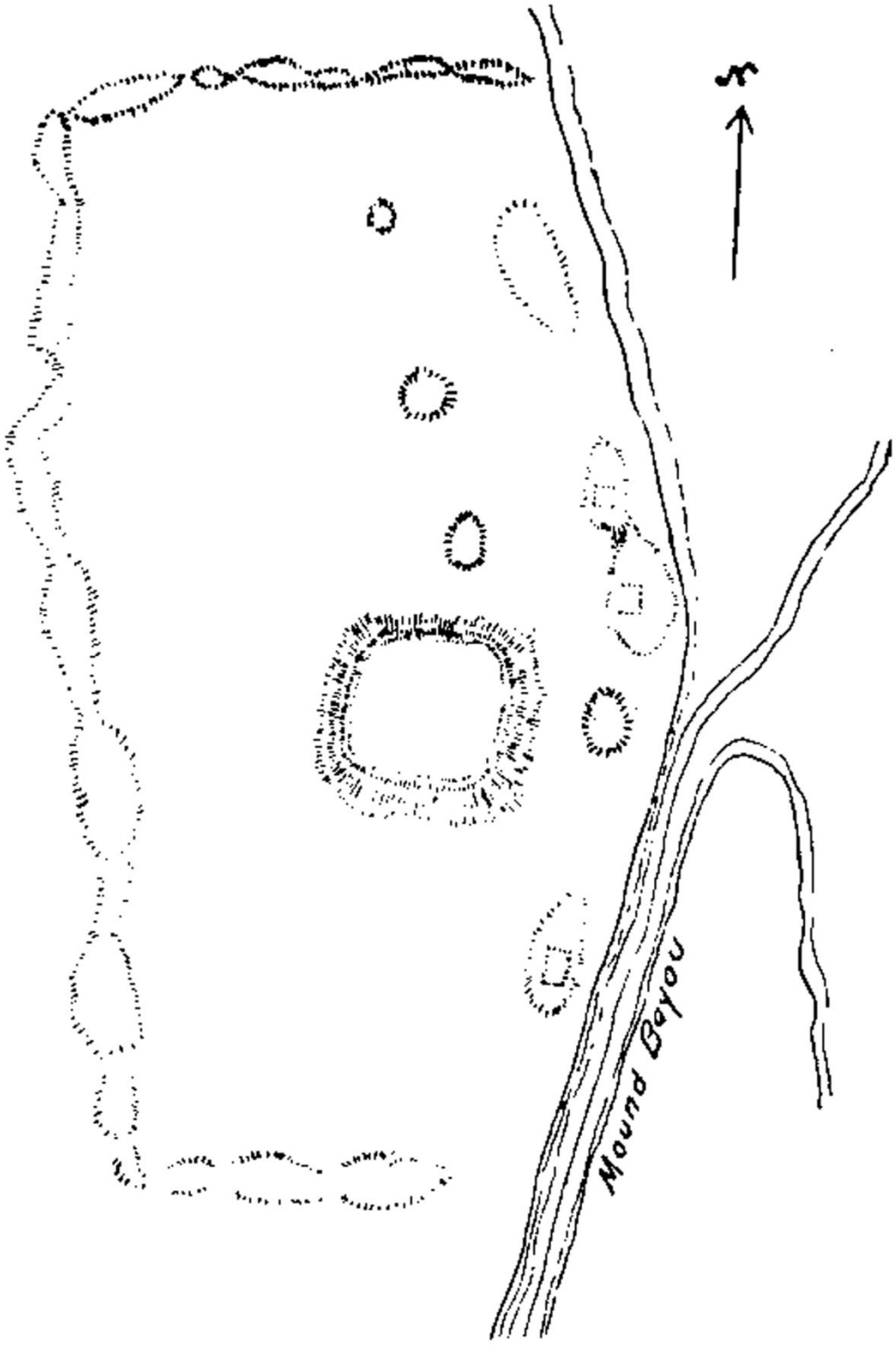

Figure 18 Hollywood, Brown (1926) map.

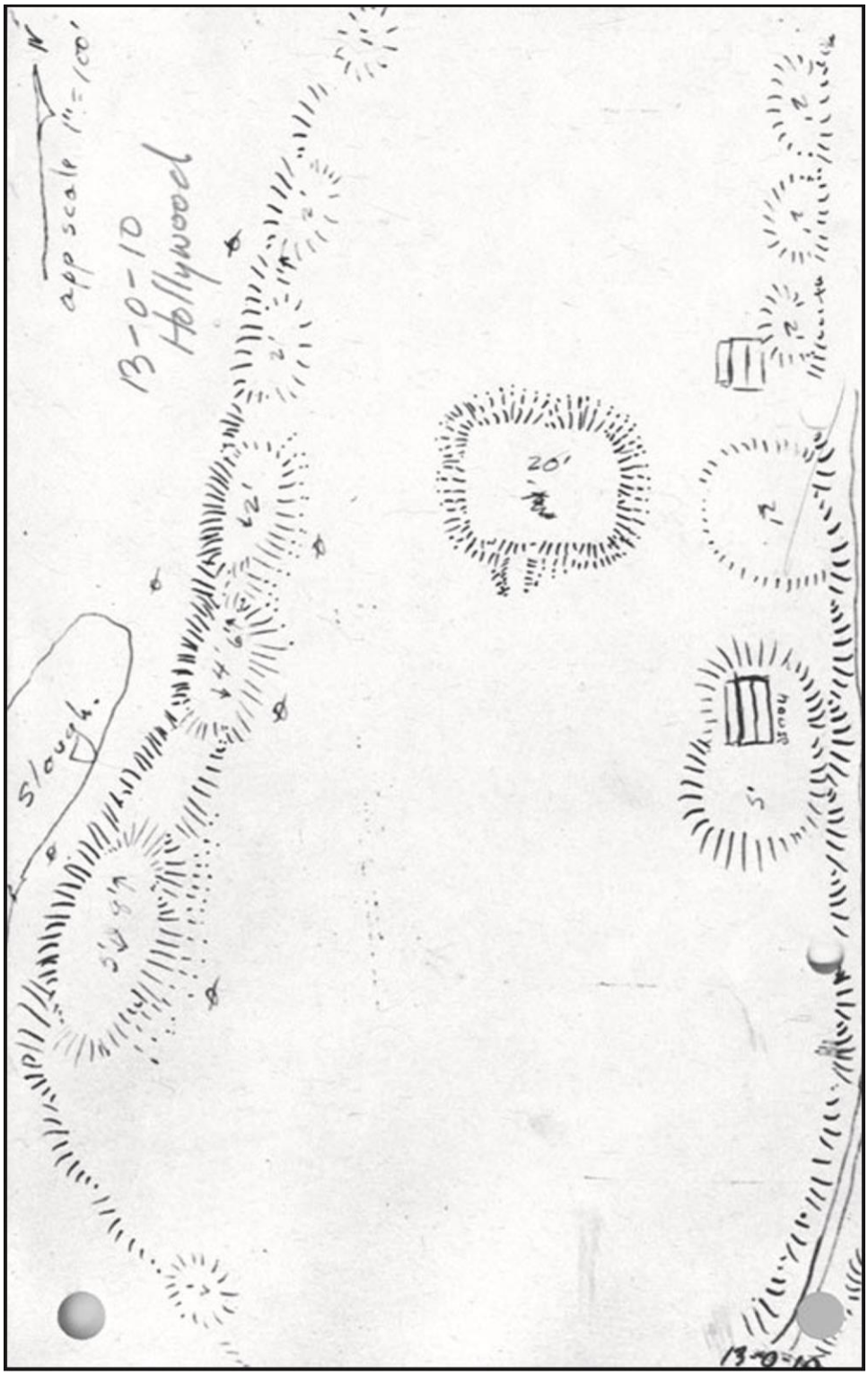

Figure 19 LMS (Griffin, Ford) sketch map 1940, LMS Archives Online.

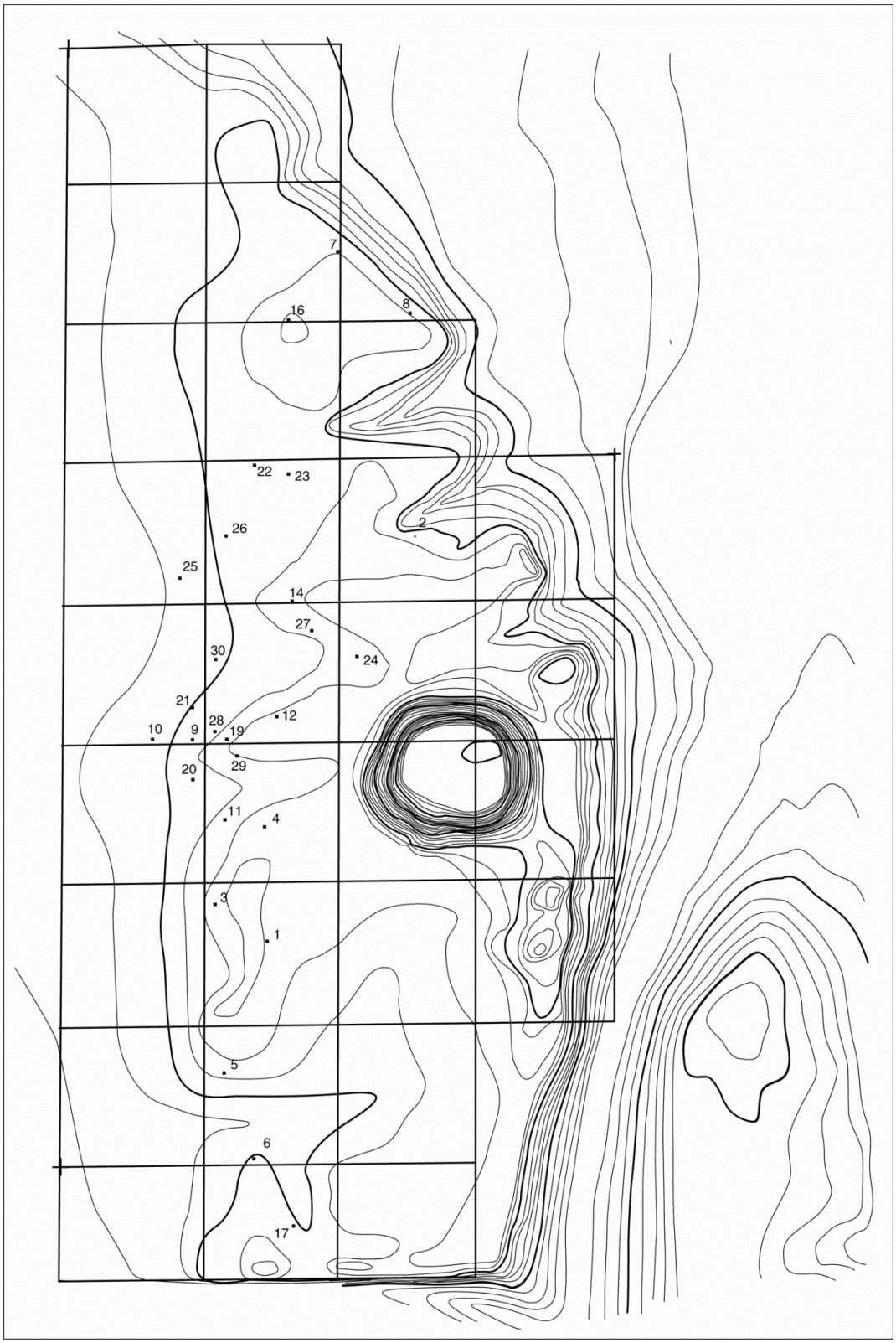

Figure 20 Hollywood, Johnson et al. (2000) map.

Figure 21 Hollywood Mounds, Mound A, view to the north.

Johnson Cemetery (22 Tu 516)

Other Names: 14-O-06 (LMS)

Location: Tunica County: Northwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 16, Township 4 South, Range 11 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 741138E, 3847453N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Hollywood, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1982. Clayton, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1955.

Site Description: The Johnson Cemetery site consists of a large mound measuring approximately 37m in diameter and 3.7m high and an associated village site. The original shape of the mound is difficult to discern due to erosion, but it appears to have been a platform mound. The "Johnson Cemetery" occupies the summit of the mound. Old U.S. Highway 61 runs to the northwest of the mound and an abandoned railroad bed passes just to the southeast of the mound.

History of Work: In 1911, Moore described the site as being approximately two miles northeast of Mhoon Landing, with the mound measuring approximately 37m long, 46m wide and 4m tall. He also described evidence of a village site, human bone fragments, lithic debitage and tools, and sherds pulled up during plowing. In addition to these observations he excavated four human burials.

In 1926, Brown described the Johnson Cemetery site as being "just south of Hollywood, Tunica County, at the railway mile-post marked N.O. 420" (Brown 1926:117). He estimated the mound approximately 4.25m in height and noted the presence of a "negro burying-ground" at its summit. Brown also noted copious amounts of burnt daub and some ceramic and lithic material scattered around the mound.

In 1927, Barton described the Johnson Cemetery site as having two mounds. He reckoned the height of the first mound at approximately 3.7m tall and the other smaller. The smaller mound hosted a house at its summit while the larger hosted a cemetery (Barton 1927:85).

In 1940 Phillips surveyed the Johnson Cemetery site. He made a surface collection and described the mound as square-based and approximately 3.7m tall. Phillips confirmed Brown's earlier observations concerning types and quantities of artifacts around the mound, noting a large amount of daub and few other artifacts. Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951) dated the site to the Late Mississippian period.

Current Conditions: The mound at the Johnson Cemetery site is clearly visible and in good shape despite the presence of a cemetery, damage from railroad activity, and cultivation. The mound is wooded while the surrounding landscape is under cultivation.

Archival Materials:
The location of material excavated by Moore in 1911 is currently unknown

Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Site description, Photograph, 1947 sherd count: 80 sherds

Recommendations: Perform small-scale auger testing around the perimeter of the lower slope of Mound A in search of pre-mound midden. The auger data will be used in locating a slope trench.

References: Barton (1927); Brown (1926); Moore (1911); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951)

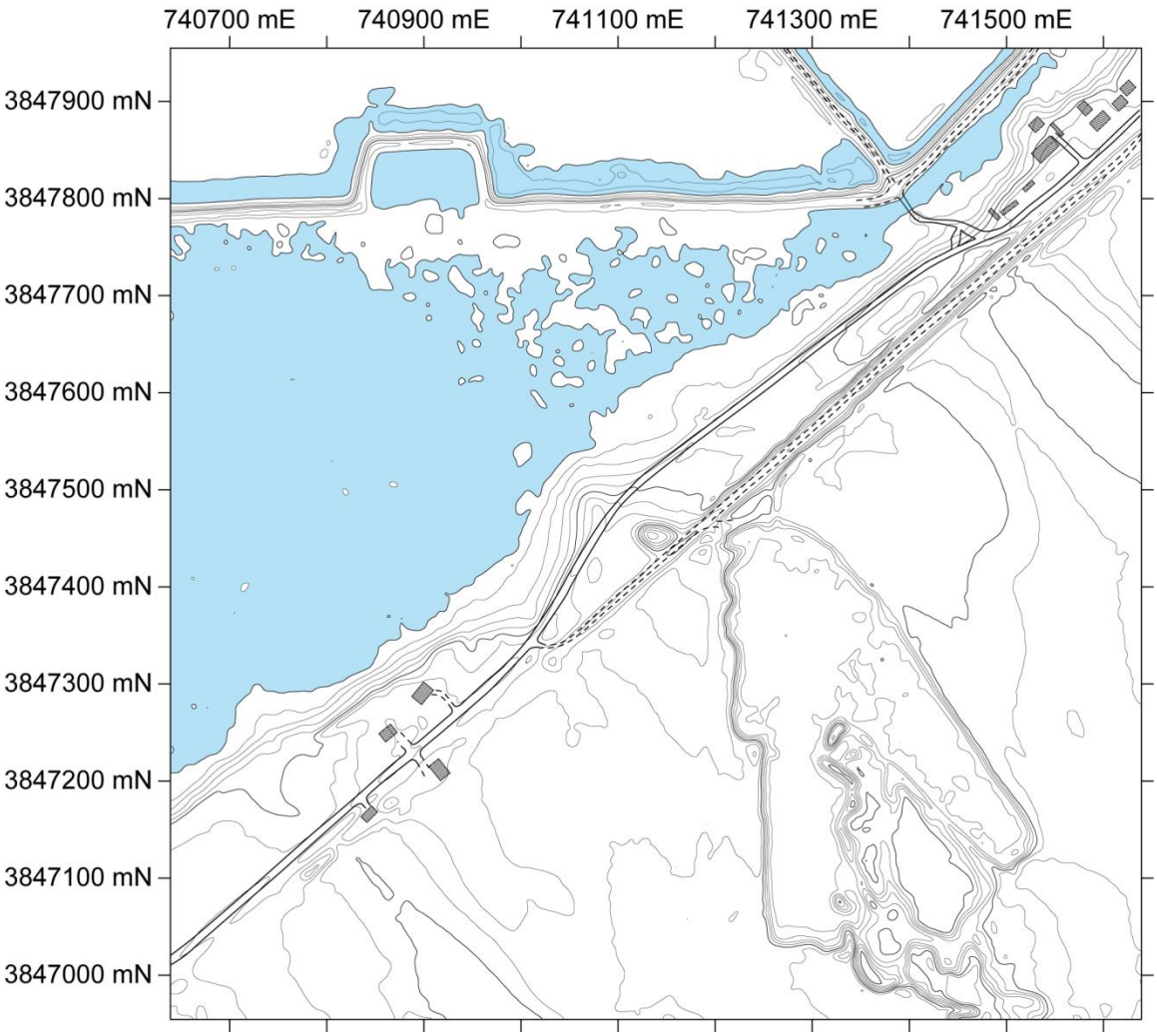

Figure 22 Johnson Cemetery, contour map with cultural features.

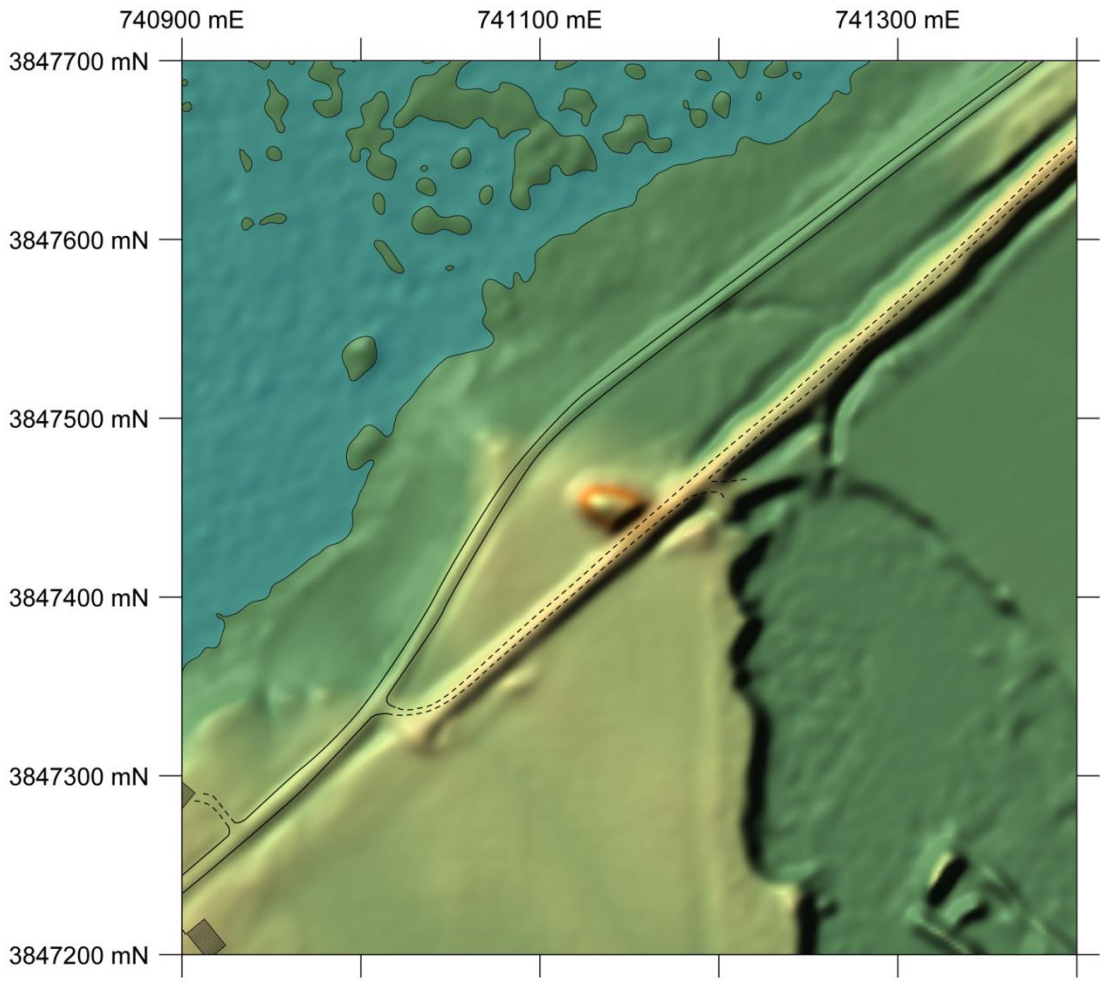

Figure 23 Johnson Cemetery, shaded relief map with cultural features.

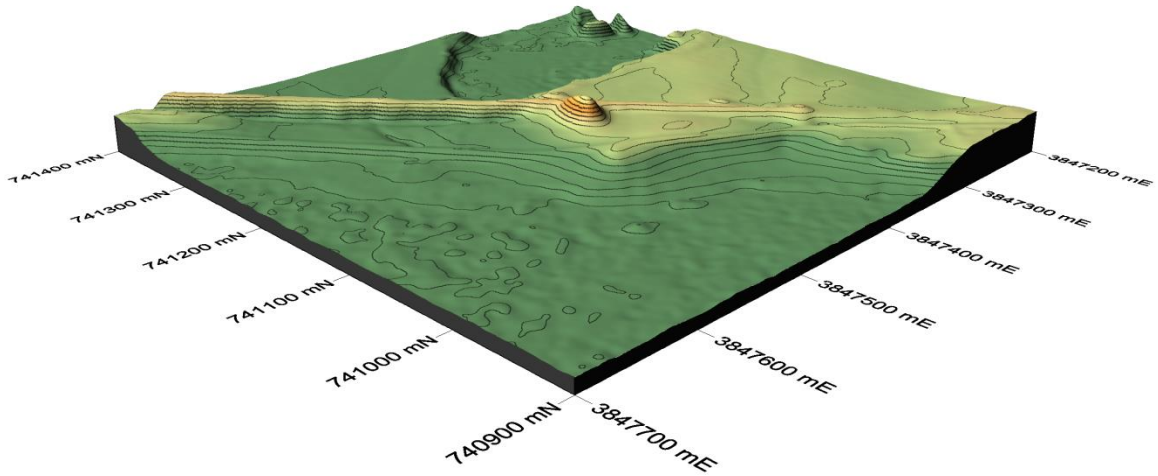

Figure 24 Johnson Cemetery, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.


Figure 25 Johnson Cemetery Mound, view to the north.

Evansville (22 Tu 502)

Other Names: 14-O-1 (LMS)

Location: Tunica County: Northwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 20, Township 5 South, Range 11 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 739014E, 3836080N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Tunica, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1981.
Clayton, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1955.

Site Description: The Evansville site consists of a large, rectangular platform mound surrounded by several smaller mounds and a village site. The site lies on the eastern edge of Beaverdam Lake. Mound A is approximately 18m long north to south, 30m wide east to west, and 3.5m tall. The east side of Mound A is slightly shorter than the west side, giving it the appearance of bi-level platform mound. Mound B is a circular mound lying approximately 160m northwest of Mound A and measuring approximately 30m in diameter and 1m tall. The is an abandoned schoolhouse on the summit of Mound B.

History of Work: Brown (1926) noted at least four mounds at the Evansville Site. He described Mound A as located at the west end of Evansville's main street and heavily damaged by erosion and cultivation. Brown's description also indicates the mound was taller in 1926, measuring approximately 5.5m tall on its west end and 4.25m on its east end. When Brown visited the site, the schoolhouse atop Mound B was present. He also describes a "small mound in cultivation" located approximately 69m southwest of Mound A (Brown 1926:116-117). Finally, Brown found daub approximately 122m north of the small mound under cultivation, and borrow pits to the north and east of the two largest mounds.

Phillips, Ford, and Griffin surveyed the Evansville site in 1940. This work included making a surface collection, producing a sketch map, and one photograph. They noted the presence of large platform mound (Mound A) and three smaller mounds. Their survey notes also indicate they considered the mounds at the Owens site (22 Tu 512, 14-O-02 [LMS]) and Beaverdam site (22 Tu 513, 14-O-03 [LMS]) to have been similar to Mound A of the Evansville site before cultivation had damaged them.

Phillips (1970, Figures 444-447) reexamined the Evansville site and identified occupations dating to the Helena phase of the Marksville period, Coahoma phase of the Baytown period, Walnut Bend phase of the Coles Creek period, and the Kent phase of the Mississippian period.

Current Conditions: Mound A of the Evansville site is still visible, but has suffered much degradation from erosion and cultivation. Mound B is not readily apparent to the casual observer and the historic period schoolhouse still occupies its summit, although it

is in state of disrepair. Brown's "small mound in cultivation" is detectable southwest of Mound B and is much reduced. All of the mounds are wooded and the surrounding landscape is under cultivation. There is a farm headquarters to the east of Mound A consisting of residences, outbuildings, an abandoned commissary, and roads.

Archival Materials:
Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1940 site report, sketch map, and photo
- 1947 sherd count: 765 total collected

Recommendations: Perform small-scale auger testing around the perimeter of the lower slope of Mound A in search of pre-mound midden. The auger data will be used in locating a slope trench.

References: Brown (1926); Phillips (1970); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951)

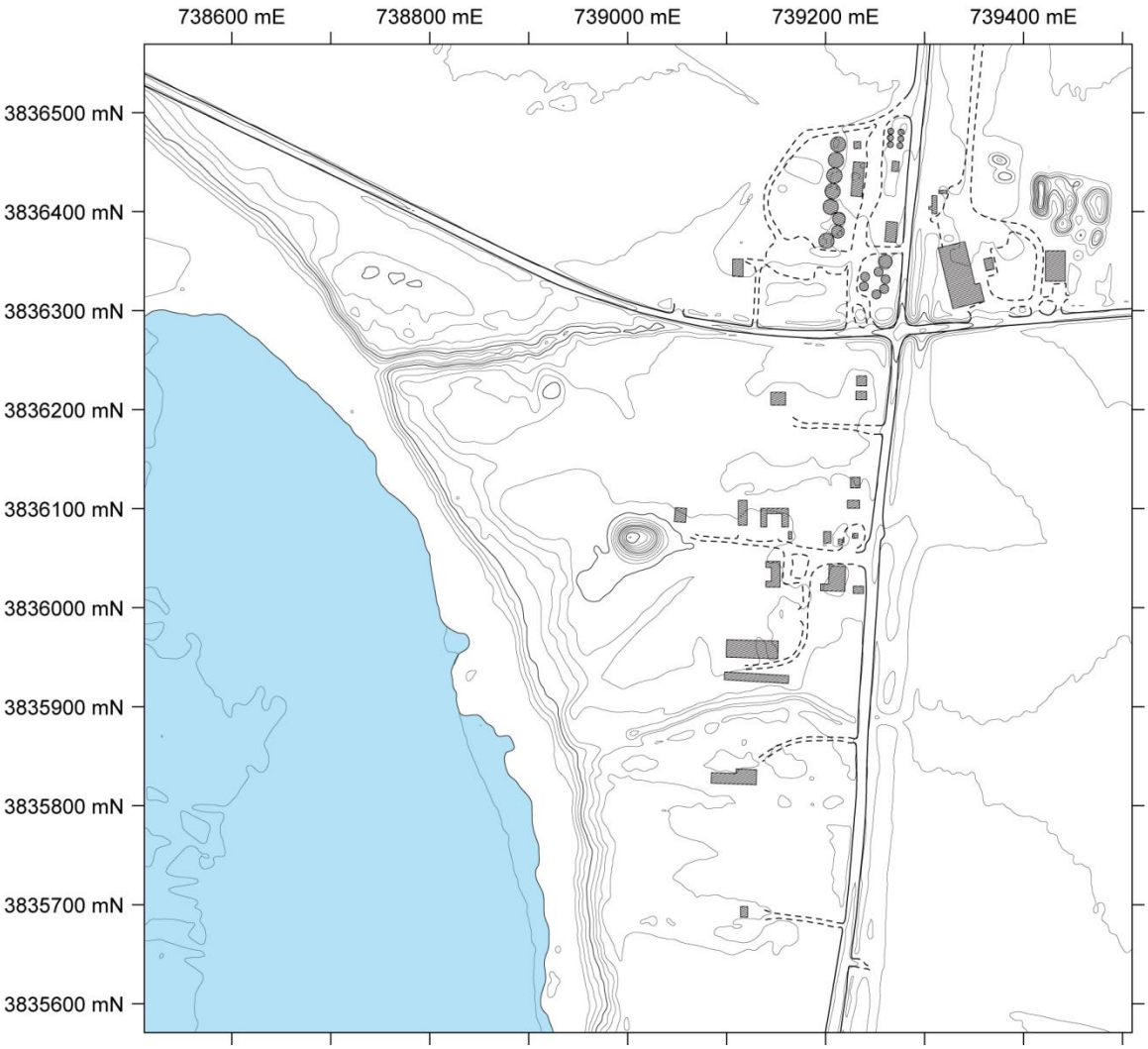

Figure 26 Evansville, contour map with cultural features.

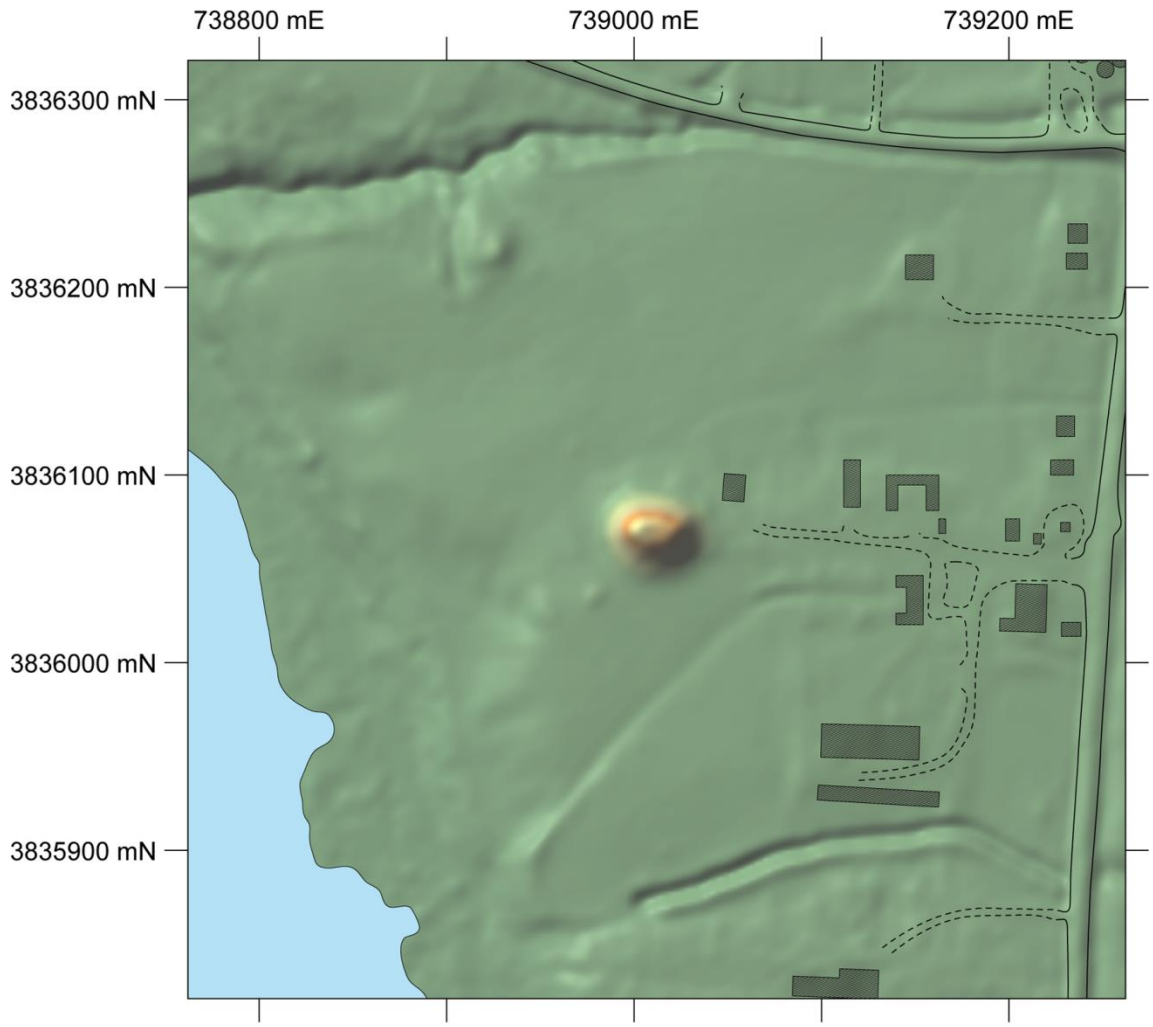

Figure 27 Evansville, shaded relief map with cultural features.

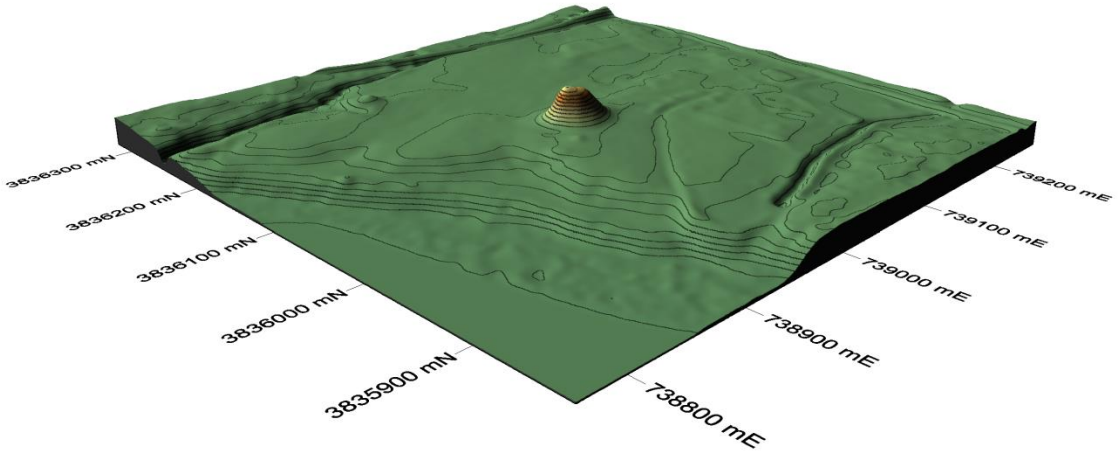

Figure 28 Evansville, oblique relief with 50cm contours.

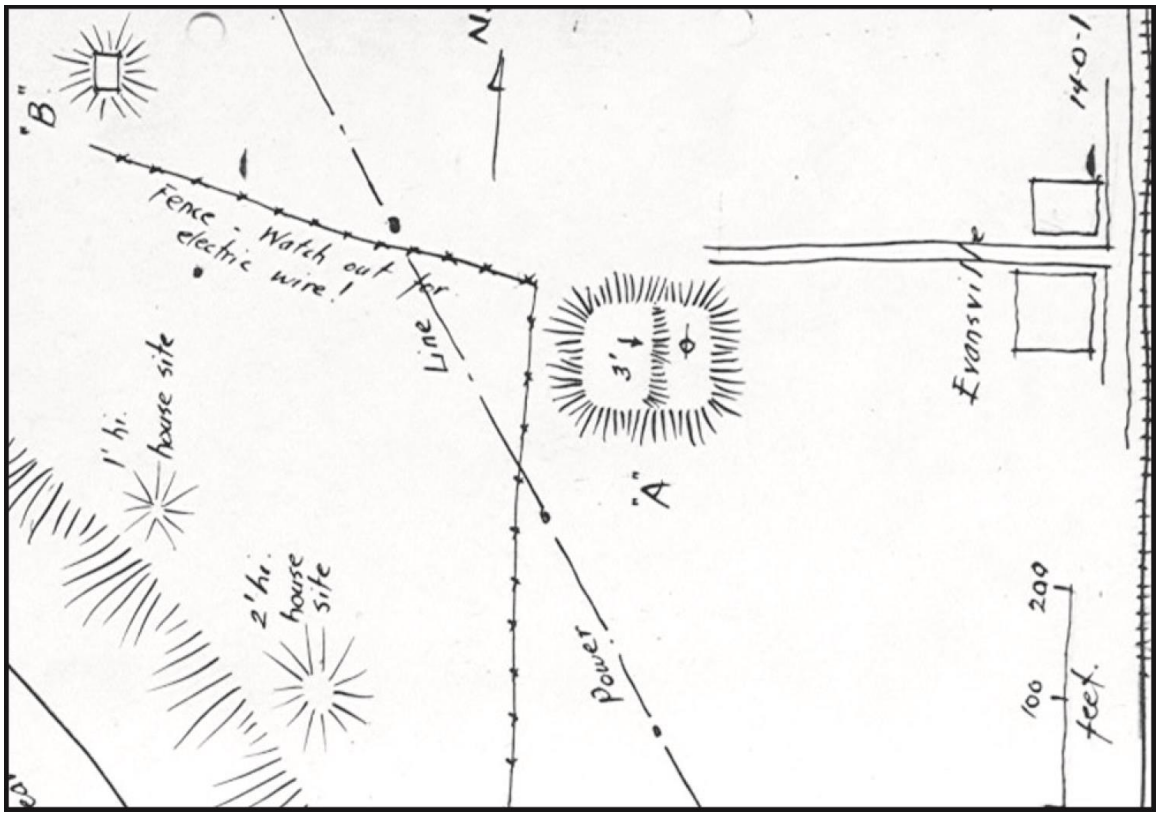

Figure 29 Evansville, LMS (Griffin, Phillips) sketch map 1940.

Figure 30 Evansville, Mound A, view to the west.

Figure 31 Evansville, Mound B, view to the west.

Beaverdam (22 Tu 513)

Other: 14-O-3 (LMS)

Location: Tunica County: Southeast ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 19, Township 5 South, Range 11 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 738860E, 3834987N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Tunica, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1981.
Clayton, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1955.

Site Description: The Beaverdam site is a large village which include two mounds. The site is situated on the east bank of Beaverdam Lake. Early observations of Mound A (Brown 1926) suggest it was a two-level rectangular mound. However, it appears rounded today and is approximately 37m in diameter and 3.4m high. A historic period cemetery occupies the summit of Mound A. Mound B is located approximately 42m southwest of Mound A, is .6m high, and exhibits small quantities of daub. Several more features similar to Mound B are present along Beaverdam Lake for approximately 180m to the south of Mound A. Brown (1926:117) also noted depressions to the east and north of the large mound which may have been borrow pits from which earth was mined during mound construction.

History of Work: A Dr. Southworth collected pottery from the Beaverdam site in ca. 1880 (Brown 1926:117).

In 1926, Brown described the "Mound on Beaver Lake" as being a large two-level, rectangular mound, a half mile south of Evansville, Mississippi. At the time of Browns observations, the mound showed signs of cultivation and a Historic period cemetery was present at its summit. Brown noted that plowing was turning-up pottery fragments between Evansville and the mounds, with the first ¼ mile south of Evansville exhibiting a particularly dense artifact scatter.

In 1940 Griffin and Ford conducted a survey of the Beaverdam. They described the site as a large village site with large and small mounds (Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1951:50). They determined the site to be the one described by Brown (1926:117) and assigned it to the Early Mississippian period. Their survey activity also included making a surface collection around the site. The collection included a skull plowed out of Mound A and wattle from Mound B. The density of domestic refuse at the site were described as, "scanty" (Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1951:321).

In 1970 Phillips assigned the Beaverdam site to the Coahoma phase of the Baytown period (Phillips 1970:904, Figure 445) and the Kent phase of the Mississippian period (Phillips 1970:928, Figure 448)

Current Conditions: Mound A of the Beaverdam site is clearly visible despite damage done to the site as a whole from erosion and agricultural activity. Mound B is much reduced and not readily apparent to the casual observer. Mound A is grown up in grass and the surrounding landscape is under cultivation.

Archival Materials:
Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Ford and Griffin survey and surface collection
- Sketch map of site
- Photograph of site taken from the east
- Sherd Count in 1947: 109 sherds

Recommendations: Perform small-scale auger testing around the perimeter of the lower slope of Mound A in search of pre-mound midden. The auger data will be used in locating a slope trench.

References: Brown (1926); Phillips (1970); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951)

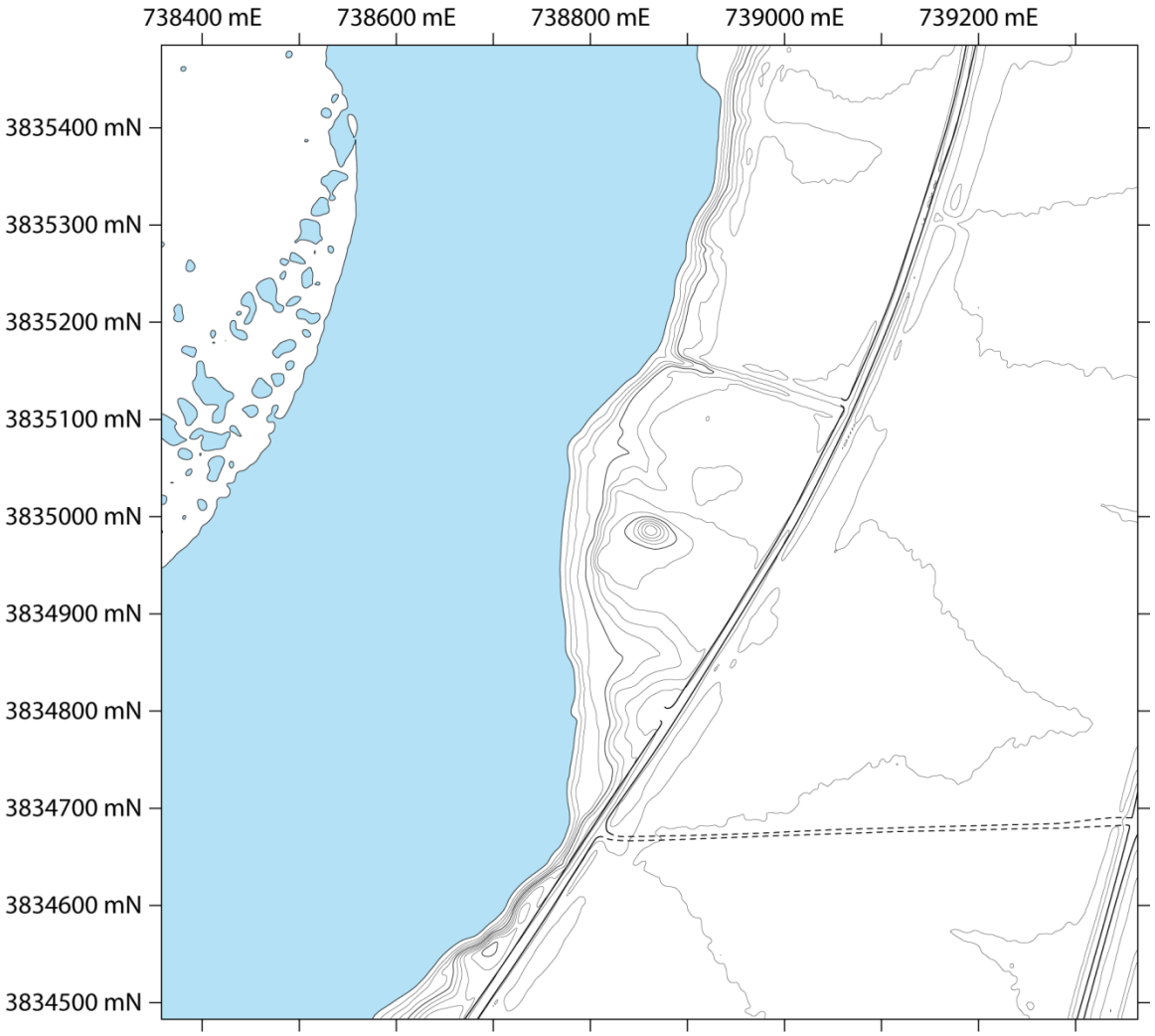

Figure 32 Beaverdam, contour map with cultural features.

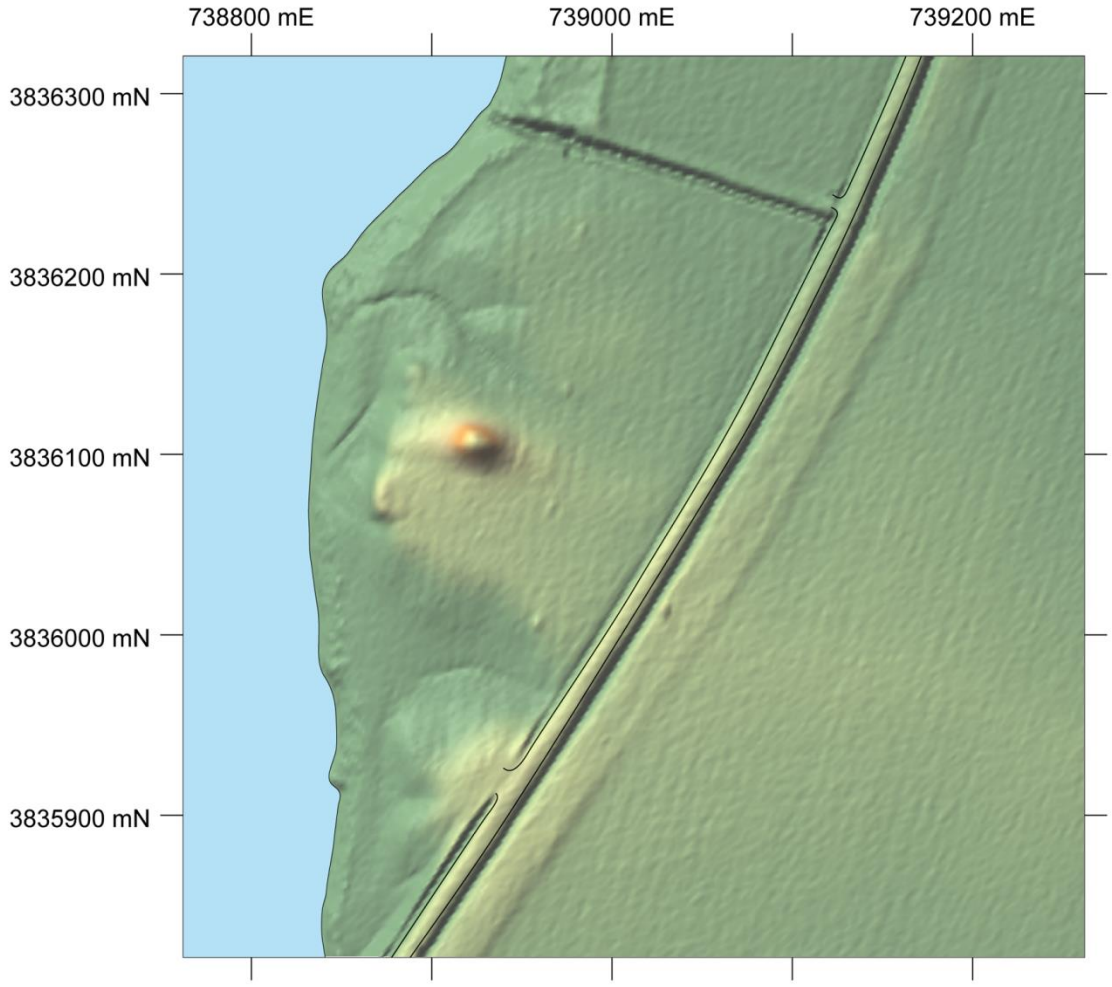

Figure 33 Beaverdam, shaded relief map with cultural features.

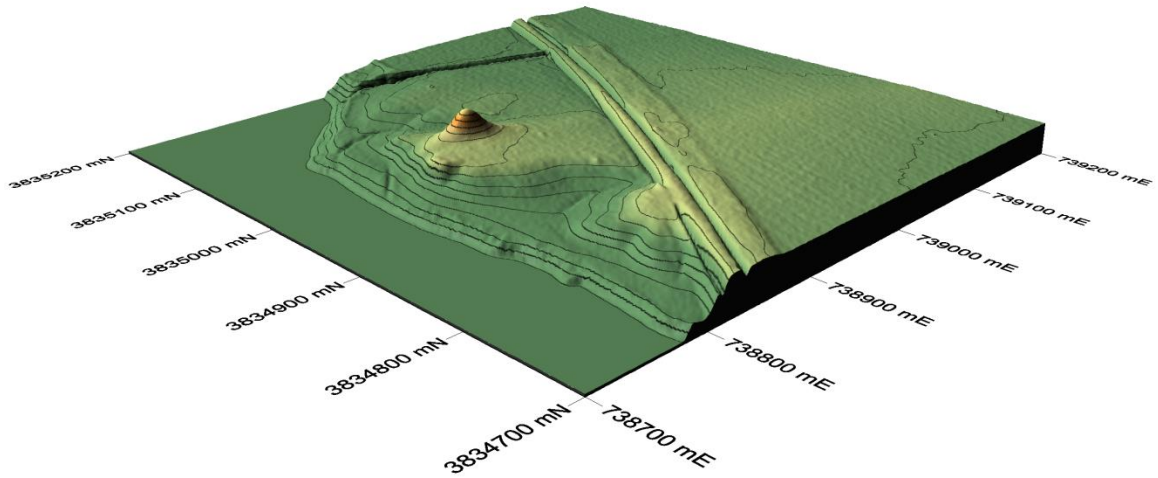

Figure 34 Beaverdam, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.


Figure 35 Beaverdam, Mound A, view to the northwest.

West Mounds (22 Tu 520)

Other Names: 14-O-10 (LMS); Hood Mounds

Location: Tunica County: Center of Section 21, Township 6 South, range 12 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 731826E, 3825567N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Dundee, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1982.
Clayton, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1955.

Site Description: West Mounds consists of large platform mound, two or perhaps three smaller mounds, a plaza, and an village site. Mound A is a large, ramped, rectangular platform mound. It measures approximately 112m wide, 91m long, and 2.7m in height. There is a house on the top of Mound A with associated outbuildings, and drives. Mound B is sub-rectangular mound located 32m east of Mound A. It measures approximately 45m in diameter and 1.5m tall. Mound C is a circular mound positioned on the edge of a slough located 337m south of Mound A. It measures approximately 36m in diameter and 2.25m tall. Lower Mississippi Survey archives indicate the plaza area is approximately 61m long, and oriented east and away from Mound A. Mound D is a circular feature located 118m south-southeast of Mound A. It measures approximately 29m in diameter and not more than 1m in height. This mound was not mentioned in the most recent publications of work at West Mounds and may not be a cultural feature (Buchner 1998). A farm headquarters is located to the southeast of Mound D which inlcudes a residence, outbuildings, work areas, silos and drives.

History of Work: Brown (1926:116) may be referring to Mound A of the West Mounds when he mentions a mound "two miles north-west of Dundee" (Ryan et al. 2004:3-19).

In 1940 Phillips surveyed West Mounds as part of the Lower Mississippi Survey. This work consisted of producing a sketch map and making a surface collection. Phillips noted the presence of a tenant house occupying an apron feature attached to the east side of Mound A. Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951:321, Table 12) note a height for Mound A of approximately 5.5m. This indicates Mound A has lost nearly 3m of height since Phillips visited the site in the late 1940s.

In the late 1960s or early 1970s members of the Mississippi Archaeological Survey surveyed West Mounds (Starr 1984). They noted the tenant house mentioned by Phillips in 1940 was still standing at Mound A. They went on to note that Mound B was in fair to good condition while Mound C was recently or still was being pot-hunted.

In 1970 employees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History visited West Mounds and made a small surface collection.

Phillips (1970:940) used the West Mounds to define his "Parchman" phase of the Mississippian period. He also identified an earlier component dating to the Coahoma phase of the Baytown period (Phillips 1970, Figure 445).

In 1984 Starr analyzed a Mississippi Department of Archives and History curated ceramic assemblage collected from West Mounds in 1970. She concluded that West Mounds shows evidence for a pre-Mississippian occupation dating to the Coahoma phase in addition to a strong Mississippian component (Starr 1984:197).

In 1988 and 1989 David Dye and Andrew Buchner led the Memphis State University (now University of Memphis) Field School to West Mounds. They noted that the tenant house occupying the Mound A apron had been destroyed and a new residence built at the summit. The contours of the mound had also been reshaped. These events explain Mound A's loss of height since 1947.

The Memphis State University field school investigations are summarized in a book chapter (Buchner 1996) and article (Dye and Buchner 1988) authored by the primary investigators. The two consecutive field schools made a broad scale surface collection at West Mounds and excavated at Mounds A and B, revealing two building stages for the former and single one for the latter. A burned structure with collapsed walls and several elaborately decorated miniature vessels was exposed on the stage 1 surface of Mound A. A suite of radiocarbon dates suggest an unusually late, 17th and perhaps early 18th entury date for Mound A. However, no European trade goods were recovered.

Current Conditions: Mounds A, B, and C at West Mounds are still clearly visible. Mound D is not readily visible and it may not be a cultural feature. The site has been impacted by recent construction activity, especially Mound A. The immediate surroundings of Mound A are under cultivation. Mound B is under cultivation. Mound C is wooded and its surroundings are under cultivation. Mound D has been impacted by farm headquarters related activity.

Archival Materials:
Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Survey:
Phillips 1940 site report, sketch map, and photos
1940 surface collection, 1947 sherd count

Mississippi Department of Archives and History:
1970 surface collection

University of Memphis:
1988 and 1989 field school collections

Recommendations: No further work is recommended for the West Mounds. Work done by staff and students from Memphis State University has provided sufficient data on the cultural, temporal, and functional characteristics of the site to fill the needs of this project.

References: Buchner (1996); Dye and Buchner (1988); Phillips (1970); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951); Starr (1984)

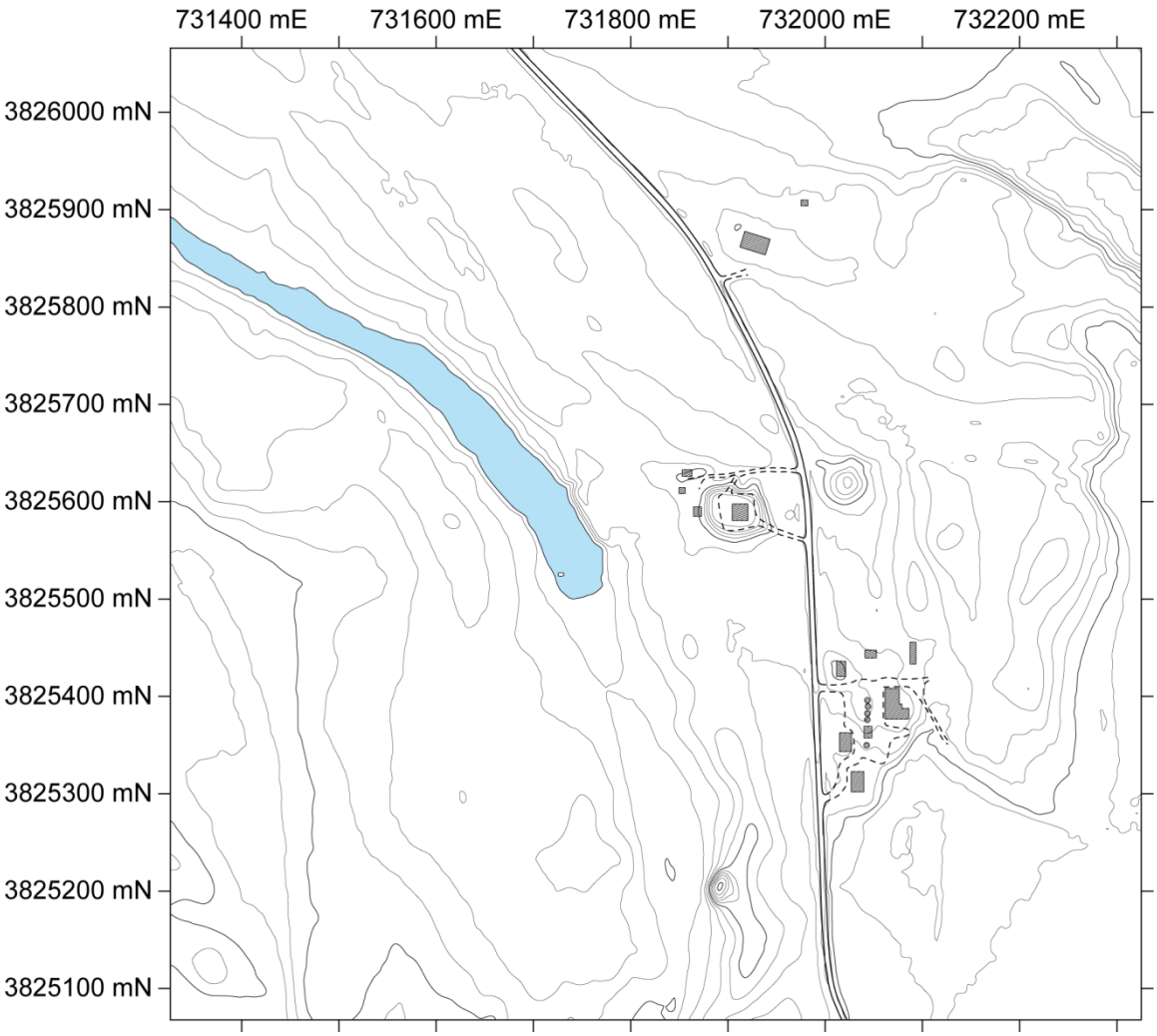

Figure 36 West Mounds, contour map with cultural features.

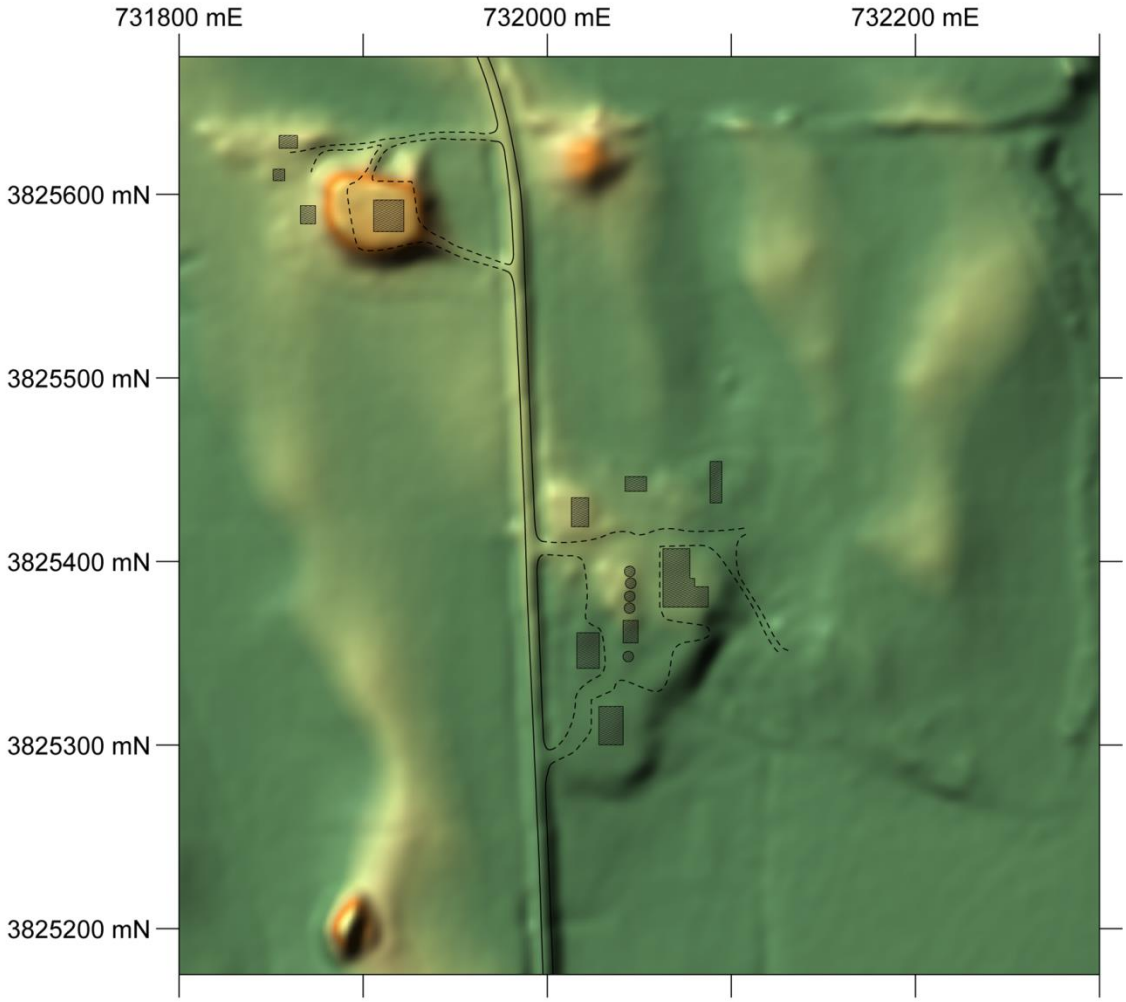

Figure 37 West Mounds, shaded relief map with cultural features.

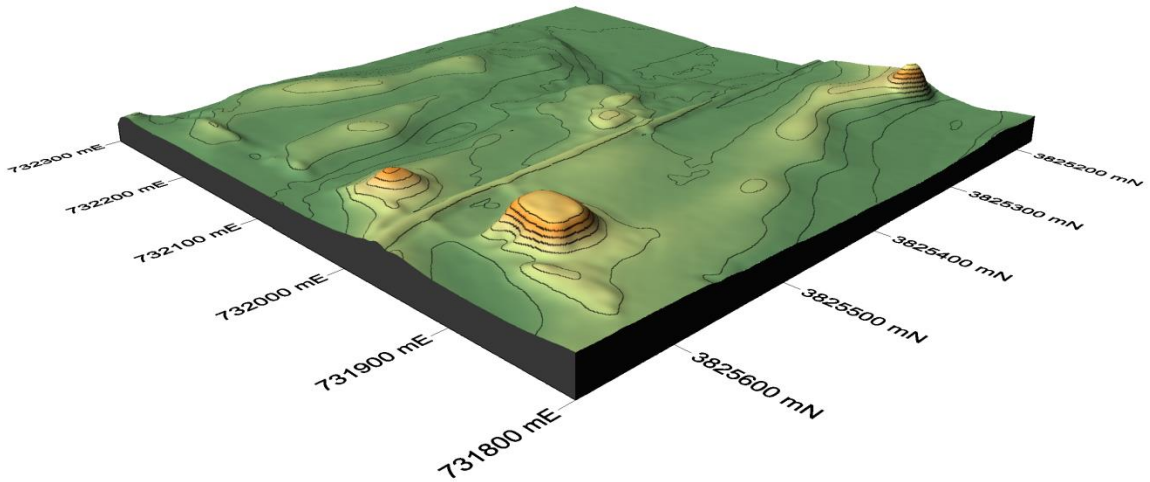

Figure 38 West Mounds, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.

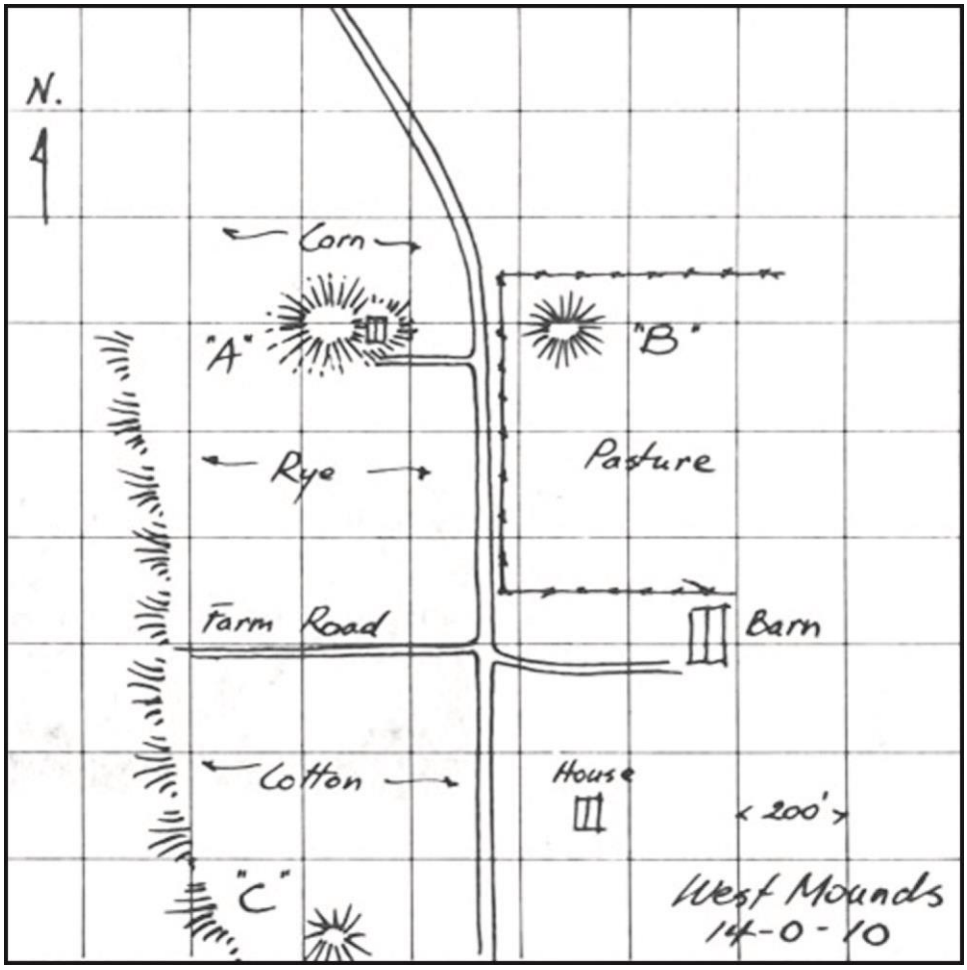

Figure 39 West Mounds, LMS (Phillips) sketch map 1947, LMS Archives Online.

Figure 40 West Mounds, Mound A, view to the northwest.

Figure 41 West Mounds, Mound C, view to the west.

Coahoma County

Figure 42 Tunica and Coahoma Count Mound Trail Sites.

Barbee (22Co510)

Other: 22 Co 560 (McNight Site); 15-O-02 (LMS)

Location: Coahoma County: Northeast ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 36, Township 30 South, Range 3 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 733393E, 3812692N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Lula, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1969.
Marks, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1970.

Site Description: The Barbee site consists of a single, small conical mound surrounded by a historic cemetery. Phillips, Ford and Griffin (1951:52) reported the site consisted of multiple, small conical mounds and an associated village site. The sole remaining mound measures approximately 30m in diameter and 2m tall. The site is located on the south bank of Carter Bayou.

History of Work: Phillips surveyed the Barbee Site in 1940 as part of the Lower Mississippi Survey. He noted the presence of small conical mounds and an associated settlement cluster. He made a small surface collection and, at the time of the survey, the largest mound measured approximately 30.5m in diameter and 2.4m high.

Phillips (1970:928, Figure 447) included the Barbee site in the Parchman phase of the Mississippian period. However, this assessment contradicts an earlier statement he made indicating the site is a "pure" manifestation of the Coahoma phase of the Baytown period.

In 1996 John Connaway recorded the "McNight" site, a habitation area approximately 80m west of the Barbee site. Despite this locus having been originally included in Phillips 1940 survey, he assigned it a new site number: 22 Co 560, perhaps because it is on the other side of Highway 61.

Mary E. Starr made a surface collection around the Barbee site in 1983. Later she (Starr 1984:184) reassessed the Lower Mississippi Survey collections, Phillips' chronological assessment, and her surface collection; concluding the site is almost certainly a Late Woodland mound dating to the Baytown period of the Lower Mississippi chronology.

In 1992 Bruce Gray followed Connaway and continued to use the "McNight" site to refer to the habitation portion of the Barbee during a shovel test survey conducted as part of proposed addition of two more lanes to Highway 61. This work revealed the presence of intact features below the plow zone (Gray 1992).

In 1996 Doug Sims began used heavy equipment to remove the plow-zone at the McNight site in order to expose intact features.

In 1999 Richard Walling and Shawn Chapman continued the data recovery excavations at the McNight site begun by Sims. Their excavation focused wholly on areas within the site that would be impacted by impending road construction along Highway 61. They encountered numerous Middle, Late, and Transitional Woodland period pit features, as well as the remains of two Mississippi period wall trench houses (Walling and Chapman 1999).

Ryan and colleagues (2004:Chp 7, 407-416) report on another survey at the McNight portion of the Barbee site. A large surface collection was made in addition to limited shovel testing. Their findings supported a dominant Baytown period assignment for the site. Additionally, the survey work revealed substantial mid-19th century and late 19th to early 20th century Euroamerican components.

Current Conditions: The mound is clearly visible and in good shape despite the presence of a cemetery. The construction and expansion of Highway 61 bisected the surrounding occupation defined by the McNight site. Maintenance associated with the cemetery keeps the area around the mound free of brush. The surrounding landscape is under cultivation.

Archival Materials:
Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Phillips' 1940 site card and surface collection

Mississippi Department of Archives and History:

- Starr's 1983 surface collection

Mississippi Department of Transportation, Environmental Division:

- Gray's 1996 shovel test survey collection
- Sims' 1996 data recovery collection
- Walling and Chapman 1999 data recovery collection
- Ryan and colleagues' 2004 shovel test survey and surface collections

Recommendations: No further work is recommended for the Barbee site. Historic burials on and around the mound preclude any subsurface testing. Additionally, work at the McNight site (22 Co 560), which should probably be thought of as part the Barbee site, has provided a wealth of data on the cultural, temporal, and functional characteristics of the site.

References: Gray (1992); Phillips (1970); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951); Ryan et al. (2004); Sims (1996); Starr (1984)

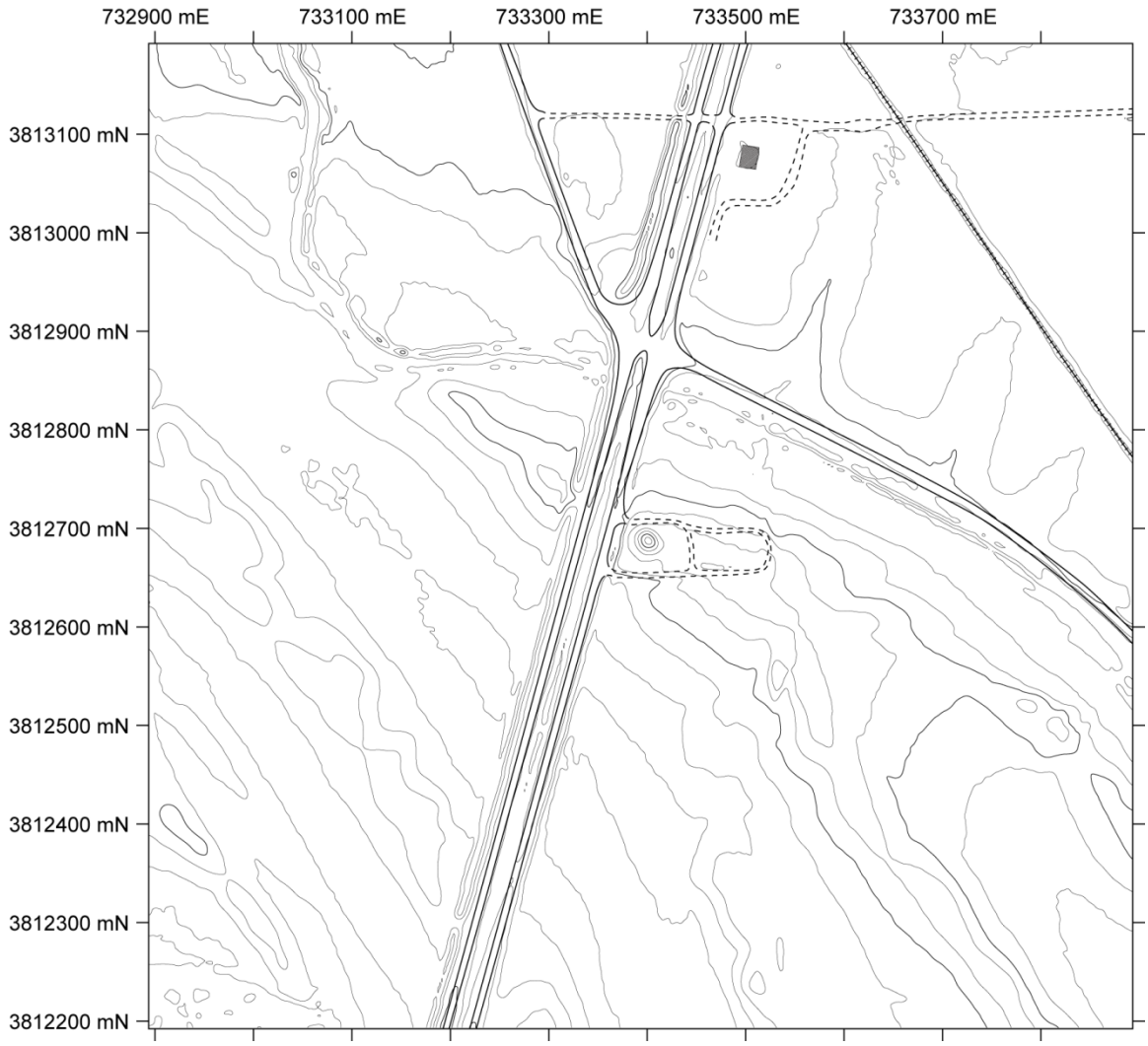

Figure 43 Barbee, contour map with cultural features.

Figure 44 Barbee, contour map with cultural features.

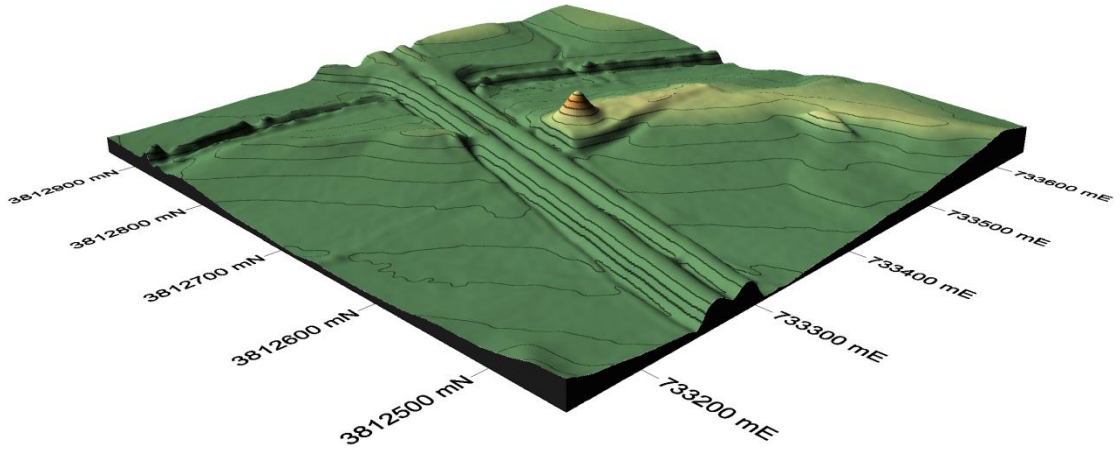

Figure 45 oblique relief map with 50cm contours.

Figure 46 Barbee, view to the northeast.

Salomon (22 Co 504)

Other: 15-O-1 (LMS); Salomon Mound; Salmon; Coahoma Mounds; Hull Place; Hull Cemetery

Location: Coahoma County: Northeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 22, Township 29 North, Range 3 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 730782E, 3806851N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Lula, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1969.
Marks, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1970.

Site Description: Today the Salomon site consists of two closely positioned platform mounds, an associated village site, and two historic period cemeteries situated atop two of the mounds. The site is situated on the southern bank of Hull Brake. As late as the 1940s the site included three large mounds and as many as eight smaller mounds arranged around a central plaza. However, the smaller mounds were destroyed by agricultural activity and a large mound was destroyed to provide road fill for a Coahoma County road project.

Mound A is a large platform mound with a probable ramp on its southeast side. It measures approximately 71m long (southwest to northeast), 44m wide (southeast to northwest), and 8m tall. Mound A's position on the edge of Hull Brake gives it the appearance of being nearly twice its actual height when viewed from the northwest. There is a mid to late 19th century cemetery on top of Mound A with several impressive monuments. Immediately to the southwest of Mound A is another platform mound measuring approximately 35m in diameter and 2m tall. There is a smaller historic cemetery on this mound as well. The two mound a joinedThe Coahoma County Road Department destroyed Mound B in 1958 when they used it for road fill. However, Lower Mississippi Survey archives note Mound B was 4.6m tall. It's basal dimensions were not recorded. Mound B was positioned opposite Mound A, across a plaza measuring 122m across (cf. Starr 1984:172 for alternate plaza dimension of 69m).

History of Work:
Brown (1926:106) described the Salomon site as "a group of mounds consisting of two large mounds and several small ones… [with] recent burials on the tallest."

In 1940 Ford and Griffin surveyed the Salomon site. They produced a sketch map, four photographs and made a surface collection of artifacts. At the time two mounds sat on each side of Mound A. The one on the northeast (now destroyed) showed damage from cultivation, and the one to the southwest (still extant) held a cemetery. A fourth mound (Mound B, now destroyed) was located across the road and covered in trees. They also noted the presence of house sites in a nearby plowed field. Ford and Griffin estimated the plaza area between the large mounds as measuring approximately 122m long, with

four rectangular and six square mounds surrounding it on either side. They noted little surface material within the plaza area. Phillips, Ford, Griffin (1951) placed the Salomon site in the Middle Baytown through Early Mississippian periods.

In 1968 Sam McGahay of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History visited the Salomon site. He noted that most of the mounds noted by Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951) had been plowed away, with the exception of Mounds A, C, and D. Interviews with local collectors indicated that burials and associated artifacts were uncovered during the destruction of Mound B in 1958. Among the artifacts reported were a drilled sherd, large chunkey stones, a large polished celt, a fragment of an effigy bottle, several projectile points, and other formal stone tools (Starr 1984:171).

Phillips (1970, Figures 444-447) placed the Salomon site in the Dorr phase of the Marksville period, the Coahoma phase of the Baytown period, the Peabody phase of the Coles Creek period, and the Parchman phase of the Mississippian period.

In 1977 Ian Brown surveyed the Salomon site. He included Mound A as the only remaining mound, apparently considering the Mound A's companion mound immediately to the southwest as a ramp. In 1979 Ian Brown revisited the Salomon site and revised his earlier assessment of the southwest mound, considering it a part of a double mound including Mound A.

In 1983 Connaway visited the Salomon site as part of his effort to nominate it to the National Register for Historic Places, a goal he achieved in 1984. He noted the presence of aprons on the northeast and southwest sides of Mound A as well as a ramp on the southeast side of Mound A. The plaza was recorded as 69m across, circled by large concentrations of daub, which he considered marking the locations of habitation features. Later Starr (1984:172) argued the ceramics recovered from the site fit well with a Parchman phase occupation.

In 1987, Connaway returned to the Salomon site to conduct a shovel testing survey. He mapped a prehistoric midden associated with the site. A sample of the midden contained 48 sherds, 5 lithics, and 3 potential human long bone fragments (Connaway 1987:6-7).

Current Conditions: Mound A and its companion mound to the southwest at the Salomon site are in good condition while all other mounds previously noted at the site have been destroyed. The remaining mounds are wooded and the landscape to the southeast is under cultivation.

Archival Materials:
Peabody Museum, Harvard University: Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Griffin and Ford survey, plane table map
- Photos
- Sherd count done in 1947: 1491 sherds
- List of ceramic and vessel types found, general surface collection findings
- Brown's Survey

- Brown's 1978 Collections (C43)

Mississippi Department of Archives and History:
- Connaway's 1987 shovel testing material

Recommendations: Perform small-scale auger testing around the perimeter of the lower slope of Mound A in search of pre-mound midden. The auger data will be used in locating a slope trench.

References: Brown (1926); Brown (1978); Connaway (1987); Phillips (1970); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951); Starr (1984)

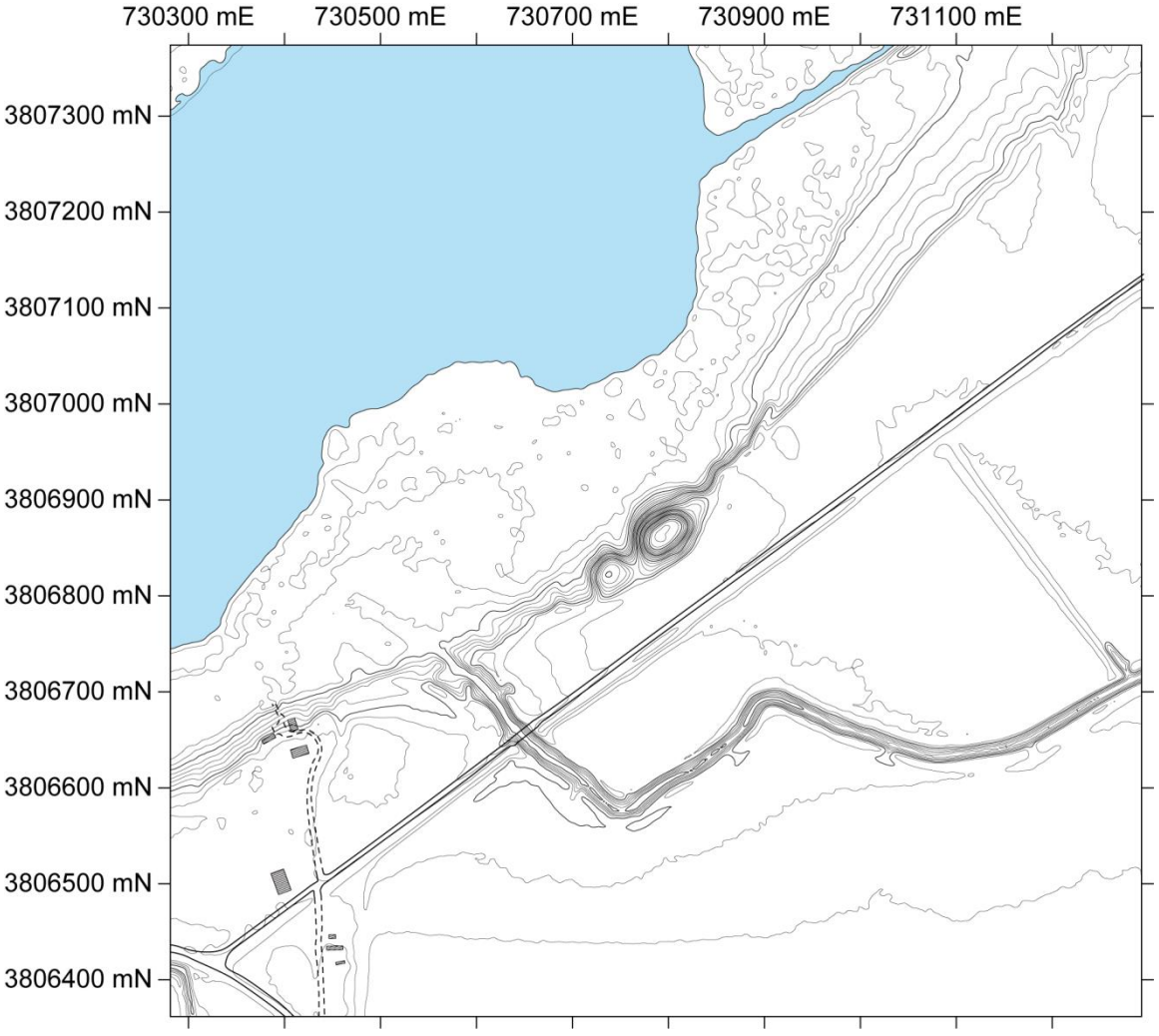

Figure 47 Salomon, contour map with cultural features.

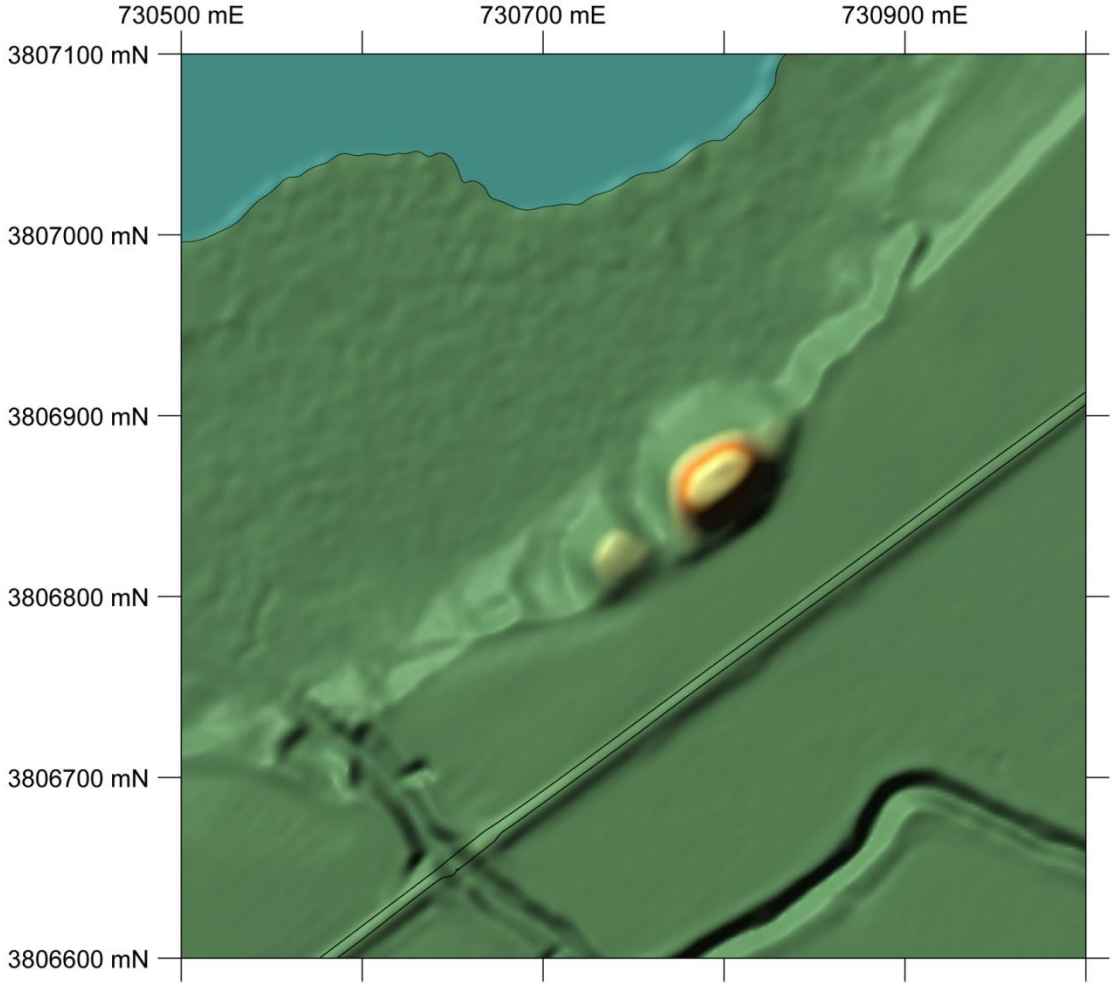

Figure 48 Salomon, shaded relief map with cultural features.

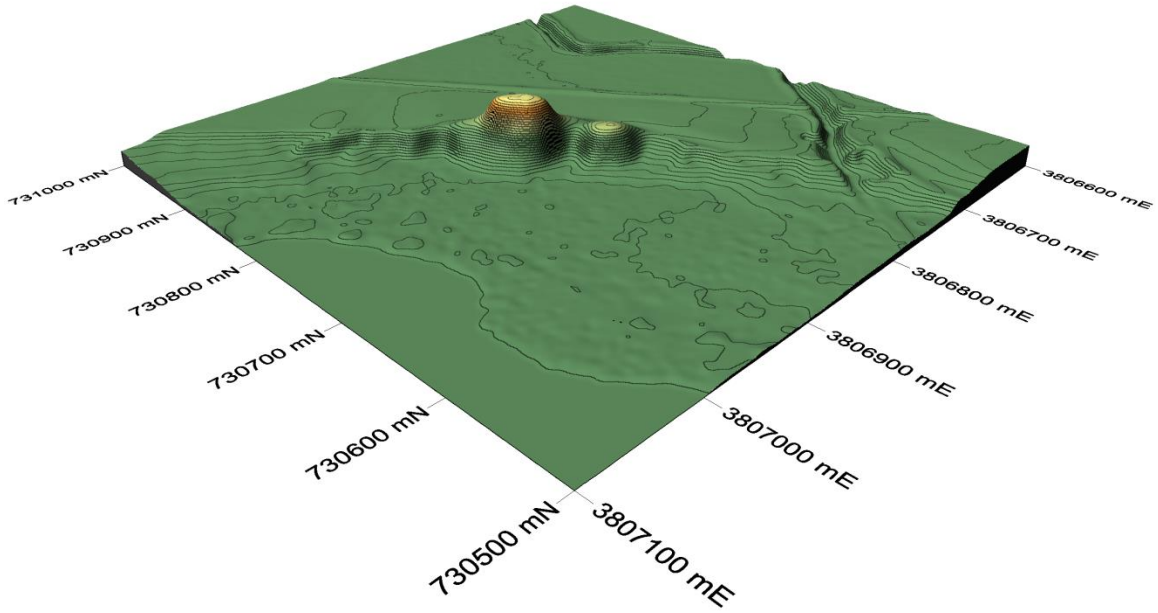

Figure 49 Salomon, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.

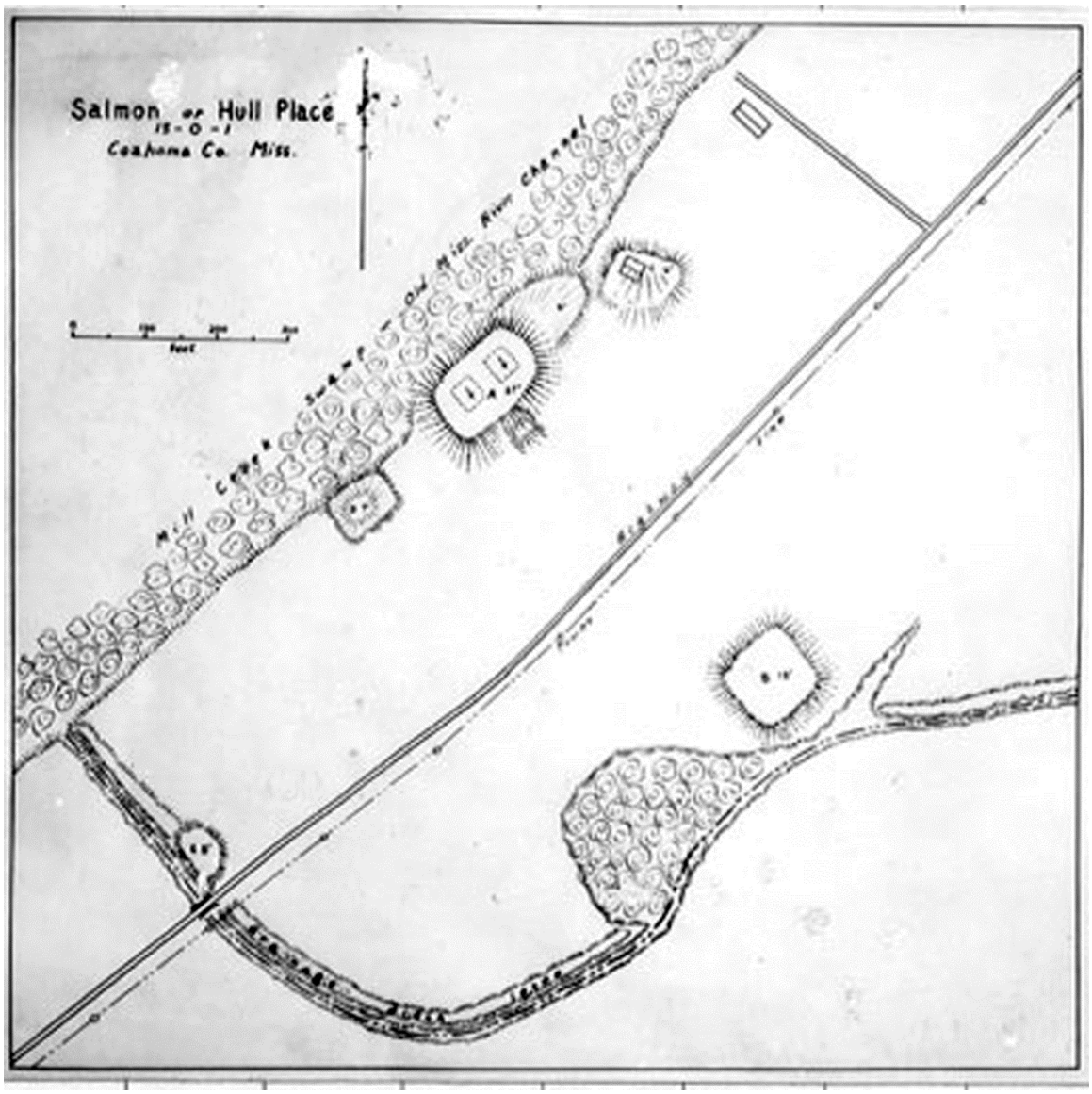

Figure 50 Salomon, LMS (Griffin, Ford) sketch map 1940, LMS Archives Online.

Figure 51 Salomon, Mound A, view to the northwest.

Alcorn Cemetery Mound (22 Co 508)

Other Names: Co-15

Location: Coahoma County: Northwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 13, Township 28 North, Range 3 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 733038E, 3798536N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Jonestown, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1971. Marks, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1970.

Site Description: Alcorn Mound consists of single platform mound and 19th to Modern period cemetery located at the mound's summit. A boundary fence surrounds the site. Alcorn Cemetery Mound was missed by the Lower Mississippi Survey despite its clearly recognizable form and well-maintained cemetery. In 1968 John Connaway reported the mound as measuring 52m by 37m. at its base and 2m in height. Connaway reported "very little" cultural material at the site. The cemetery is attributable to the Alcorn family and covers most of mound summit. There are at least 30 monuments present, some of which are quite large. A statue of James Lusk Alcorn, a Confederate General and the governor of Mississippi following the Civil War, is one of the main monuments. The oldest grave marker is for General Alcorn's parents who died in 1859. The most recent marker dates to 1984. The Alcorn cemetery is noteworthy in that it is integrated, including graves of three family servants dating from 1882 to 1974 (Ann Russell, personal communication 2013).

History of Work: In 1882 Edward Palmer of the Smithsonian Institution visited Alcorn Cemetery Mound, but did not excavate at the site (Ryan et al. 2004:3-101).

Nan Russell recorded grave stone inscriptions at the Alcorn cemetery. Mrs. Russell is the wife of James Russell, the great grandson of Governor Alcorn and one of the trustees for the cemetery.

John Connaway recorded Alcorn Cemetery Mound in 1968. He provided a brief description of the mound's dimensions, affiliated cultural material, and noted the presence of the Alcorn family cemetery.

Current Conditions: The mound is clearly visible and in good shape despite the presence of a cemetery. Maintenance associated with cemetery keeps the mound free of brush. Trees surround the mound on its south and west sides. The surrounding landscape is under cultivation.

Archival Materials: None

Recommendations: Perform small-scale auger testing around the perimeter of the lower slope of Mound A in search of pre-mound midden. The auger data will be used in locating a slope trench.

References: Ryan et al. (2004)

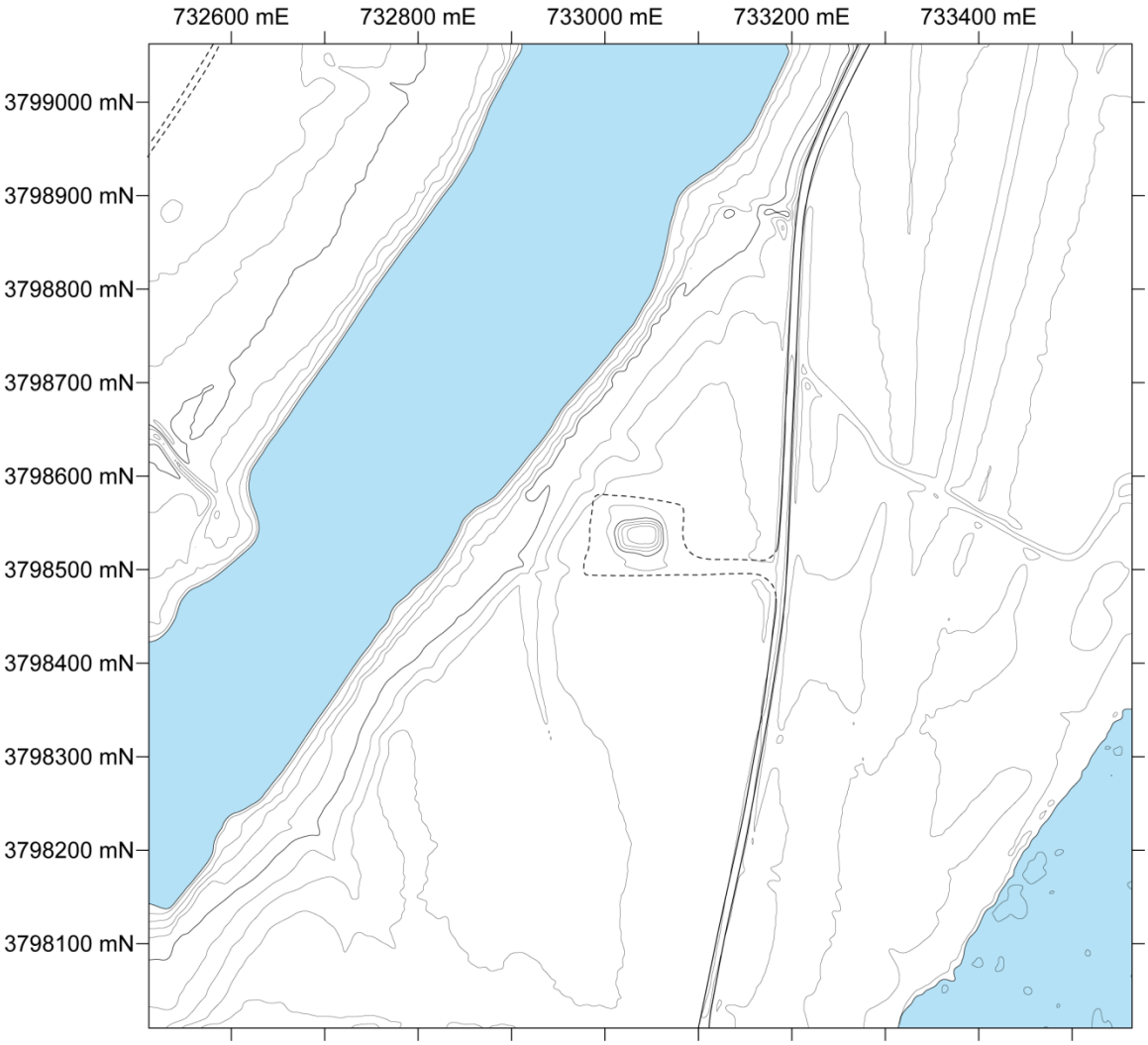

Figure 52 Alcorn Cemetery, contour map with cultural features.

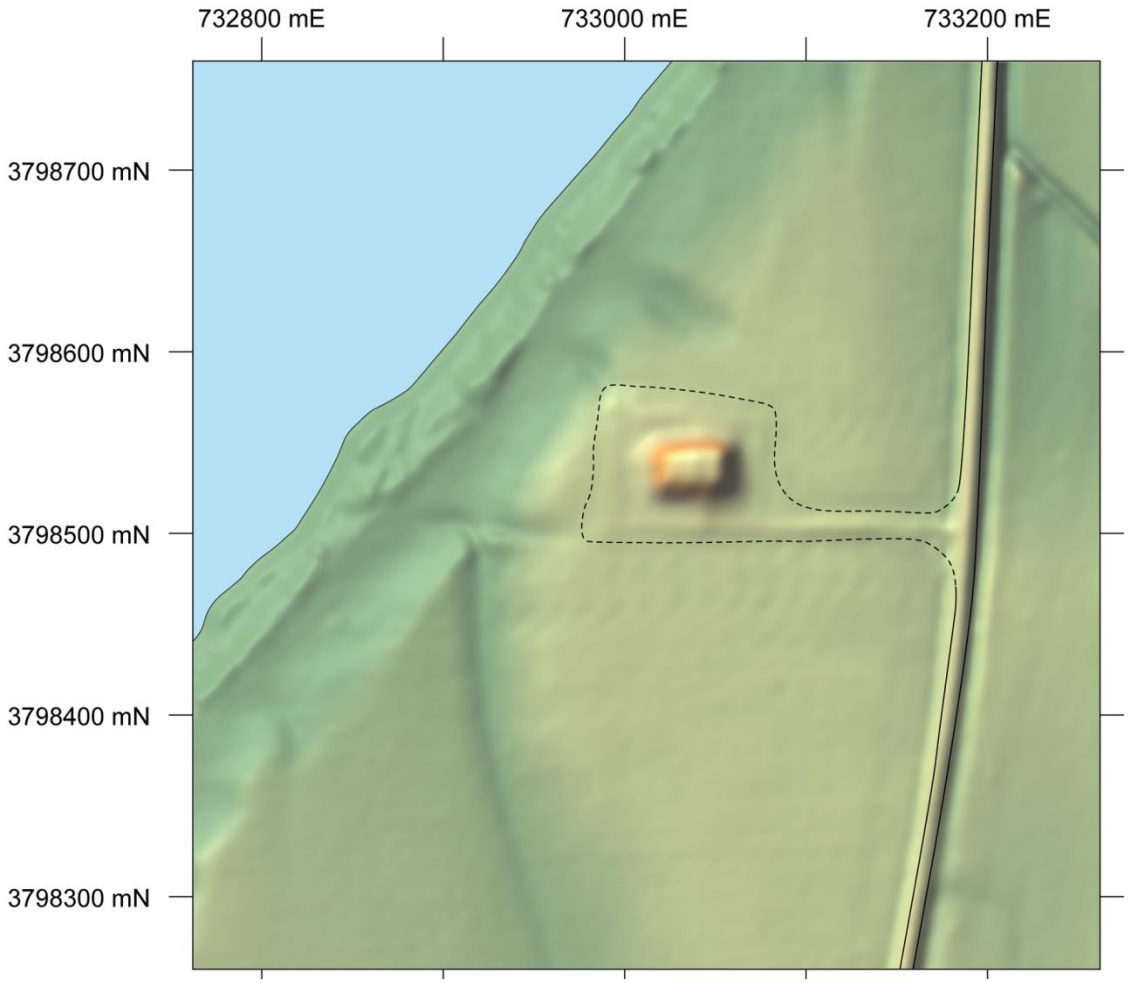

Figure 53 Alcorn Cemetery, shaded relief map with cultural features.

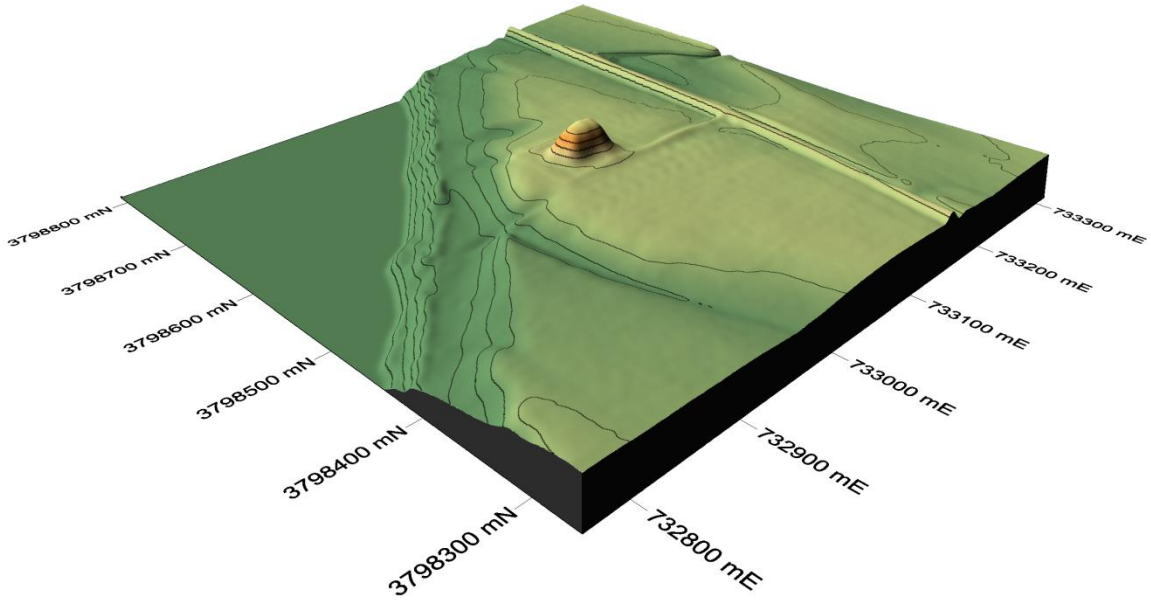

Figure 54 Alcorn Cemetery, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.

Figure 55 Alcorn Cemetery, view to the northwest.

Carson Mounds (22 Co 505)

Other Names: Lower Mississippi Survey: Montgomery (15-N-6); Stovall (15-N-7), Carson (15-N-8).
MDAH: Carson (22 Co 505), includes Carson and Stovall; Montgomery (22 Co 518)

Location: Coahoma County: South ½ of Southwest ¼ of Section 13; South ½ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 14, North ½ of Northeast ¼ of Section 23, Township 28 North, Range 5 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 713739E, 3797300N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Friars Point, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 19.
Farrell, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 19.

Site Description: The Carson Mounds consist of not less than 87 mounds stretching for nearly a mile along an east-west elevation created by the crevasse splay of an abandoned channel of the Mississippi River. The site was mapped by William Henry Holmes and first reported by Cyrus Thomas (1894). The Holmes map shows seven relatively large, lettered mounds, a large earthen embankment, and another 80 small mounds. The Lower Mississippi Survey divided the mounds mapped by Holmes into three sites based on apparent temporal differences revealed during ceramic analyses of surface collections made at the mound complex (Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1951:372). However, ongoing archaeological work at the site headed by John Connaway and Jay Johnson, and carried out by volunteers and six consecutive seasons of the University of Mississippi field schools have demonstrated that the mound complex's various features were built according to a common orientation; suggesting the site as whole developed simultaneously.

History of Work: The site was first mapped by Holmes as part of a major mound survey conducted by the Bureau of American Ethnography during the final quarter of the 19th century (Thomas 1894). A detailed and remarkably accurate site map along with mound descriptions and brief discussions of mound excavations is included in Cyrus Thomas' 1894 report of the mound survey.

Brown (1926) reproduced the Holmes' map and mound descriptions. He added a photograph of Mound E and reports that a badly deteriorated skeleton was uncovered in the saddle between the two conjoined mounds that make up Mound E during the excavation for a recent burial.

Ford and Griffin conducted a survey of the site in 1940. They made surface collections around a low mound located in a cultivated field to the south of Mound A and north of the section line road that runs east-west through the site. They labeled this the "Montgomery Mound" (15-N-6) and kept this surface collection separate from a second

conducted around Mound B, which they called the "Stovall Mound" (15-N-7). The rest of the site, including Mounds C through F, was dubbed the "Carson" site (15-N-8) (Phillips, Ford, and Griffin 1951:372).

In 1951 avocational archaeologists from Memphis conducted limited excavations in the vicinity of Mound A at the Carson Mounds. This work was reported by Kenneth Beaudoin (1952). The 1951 excavations exposed burials and house floors. Significantly, portions of the earthen embankment mapped by Holmes were still visible in a cultivated field to the north and east of Mound A.

Phillips (1970:940, Figures 444-447) identified the following phases at the Carson Mounds: Dorr phase of the Marksville Period; Coahoma phase of the Baytown period; Peabody phase of the Coles Creek period; and Parchman phase of the Mississippi period.

In 1978 Ian Brown visited the site as part of his survey of Mississippian period sites in Coahoma County. He conducted surface collections in several locations running the length of the site. Brown also noted areas of the site where surface artifacts were not evident. His analysis revealed a minor Woodland period occupation south of the mounds.

In the late 1970s Jeffery Brain of the Peabody Museum studied a collection of Carson site artifacts (mostly ceramics) in the possession of Bert Jaeger, a member of the Clarksdale chapter of the Mississippi Archaeological Association. Dabney Pellegrin, wife of John Pellegrin (who lived in the house on top of Mound C), amassed the Jaeger collection in the first half of the 20th century by paying the children of tenant farmers living on the site a few pennies for interesting pieces (John Connaway, personal communication 2013). In a 1979 letter from Brain on file in the Lower Mississippi Survey archives, Brain thanked Jaeger for loaning the collection and discussed the significance of the collection. He noted that the Jaeger collection contained evidence for Early Mississippian contact between the Yazoo Basin and the American Bottoms to the east of St. Louis: Cahokia Cordmarked and Kimmswick Fabric Impressed sherds. Brain also mentions several sherds dating to the Middle Mississippi period. He goes on to mention late varieties of Barton Incised which are common to Haynes Bluff, a site in the southern Yazoo Basin dating to the period of initial European contact. Finally, he notes a few complicated stamped sherds that resemble Mississippian types from Northern Georgia. There are photographs of several of these sherds in the Lower Mississippi Survey archives.

In 1983 Starr reexamined the Lower Mississippi Survey and Brown tabulations of ceramics from Carson in her study of Parchman phase sites in the Northern Yazoo Basin (Starr 1984:175-182). She also reexamined the Jaeger collection. She concluded that the Carson material falls within the defined range for the Parchman phase.

In 1986 Jay Johnson visited the Carson Mounds as part of his of study of Poverty Point period components in the Yazoo Basin. Brown (1978) described what he thought to be Poverty Point period blades made of light tan and white chert and concentrated in an area southwest of Mound F. Johnson (1987) found that the Mound F blades area are

technologically identical to blades recovered from Cahokia. The white chert that Brown described is a Midwestern material from the Berlington formation. In fact, Cahokia microliths, made of Burlington chert, are an early marker in the American Bottom of west central Illinois and the Mississippi River floodplain in intervening portions of Arkansas. Although these blades are common at the Carson Mounds, they are rare in the Yazoo Basin.

In the fall of 2007, Brent Lansdell made surface collection at the Carson Mounds as part of his Master's research at the University of Mississippi. During that work he came upon land-leveling operations in the field to east-northeast of Mound A that exposed wall-trenches, stockade lines, large pits, and burials. This area coincides with the northern half of the area enclosed by the earthen embankment shown in Holmes' 1894 map. These discoveries prompted John Connaway of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) to immediately begin archaeological work at the Carson Mounds.

The University of Mississippi, under the direction of Jay Johnson, began working in the same area in the summer of 2008 and has returned every summer since. Several thesis projects have been part of this work.

Jenna James completed her MA thesis on an analysis of the mortuary ritual evident in on of the mass burial pits from Carson in 2010.

In 2010 Jayur Metha began work at Carson Mounds while employeed with the MDAH and subsequently made it the focus of his dissertation research when he left the MDAH to attend Tulane University.

In 2012 Erica Carpenter analyzed excavation data from the top of Mound C at the Carson Mounds. This work was made possible when a residence occupying the summit of Mound C was razed (Carpenter 2013).

The 2014 Carson field school provided data for two theses. Todd McLeod, working with John Connaway (2014), will develop an architectural sequence for the structures which have been uncovered in during the past several seasons of work in the area to the east of Mound A. Among these features are possible charnel house structures, palisade walls, wall trench houses, burial pits, and semi-subterranean structures with wall trenches at the bottom edges of the pits. Similar structures are early period features at Cahokia and several early Mississippian sites in Arkansas. Sam Butz (2014) directed test excavations in Mound B, what was thought to be a twin mound but there is strong evidence that it was built as a ridge mound, another early Mississippian architectural feature.

Current Conditions: Five of the Carson Mounds are clearly visible today. The remaining mounds and earthen embankment documented in the Holmes' map are much reduced or destroyed. The several tenant houses and a farm headquarters are currently located among the mounds. Mounds A, B, C, D, and F are owned by the Archaeological Conservancy. Agricultural activity, especially land-leveling has impacted the remainder

of the site. All of the intact mounds are wooded with the exception Mound C and D. The remainder of the site and surrounding landscape are under cultivation.

Archival Materials:
The location of the material excavated by Beaudoin in 1952 is currently unknown

Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Peligrin Collection
Material collected by Connoway during ongoing excavations to the east of Mound A.

Center for Archaeological Research, University of Mississippi:
- Excavated material from six field schools

Recommendations: No further work is recommended for the Carson Mounds. Work conducted by MDAH and the University of Mississippi since 2008 has provided sufficent data on the cultural, temporal, and functional characteristics of the site.

References: Thomas (1894); Brown (1926); Beaudoin (1952); Brown (1978); Butz (2014); Carpenter (2013); James (2010), Johnson (1987); Lansdell (2009); McLeod and Connaway (2014); Phillips (1970), Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951); Starr (1984)

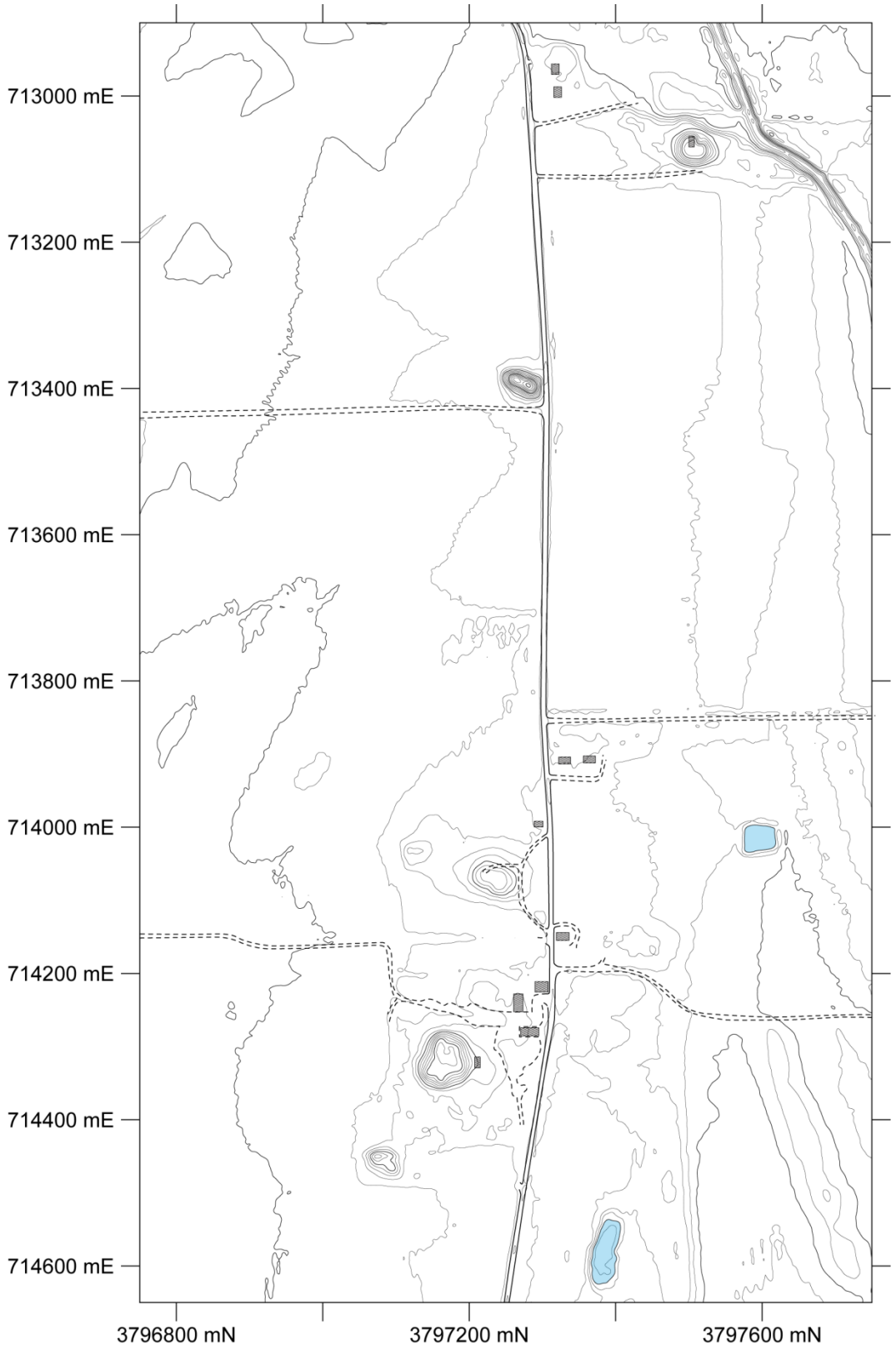

Figure 56 Carson Mounds, contour map with cultural features.

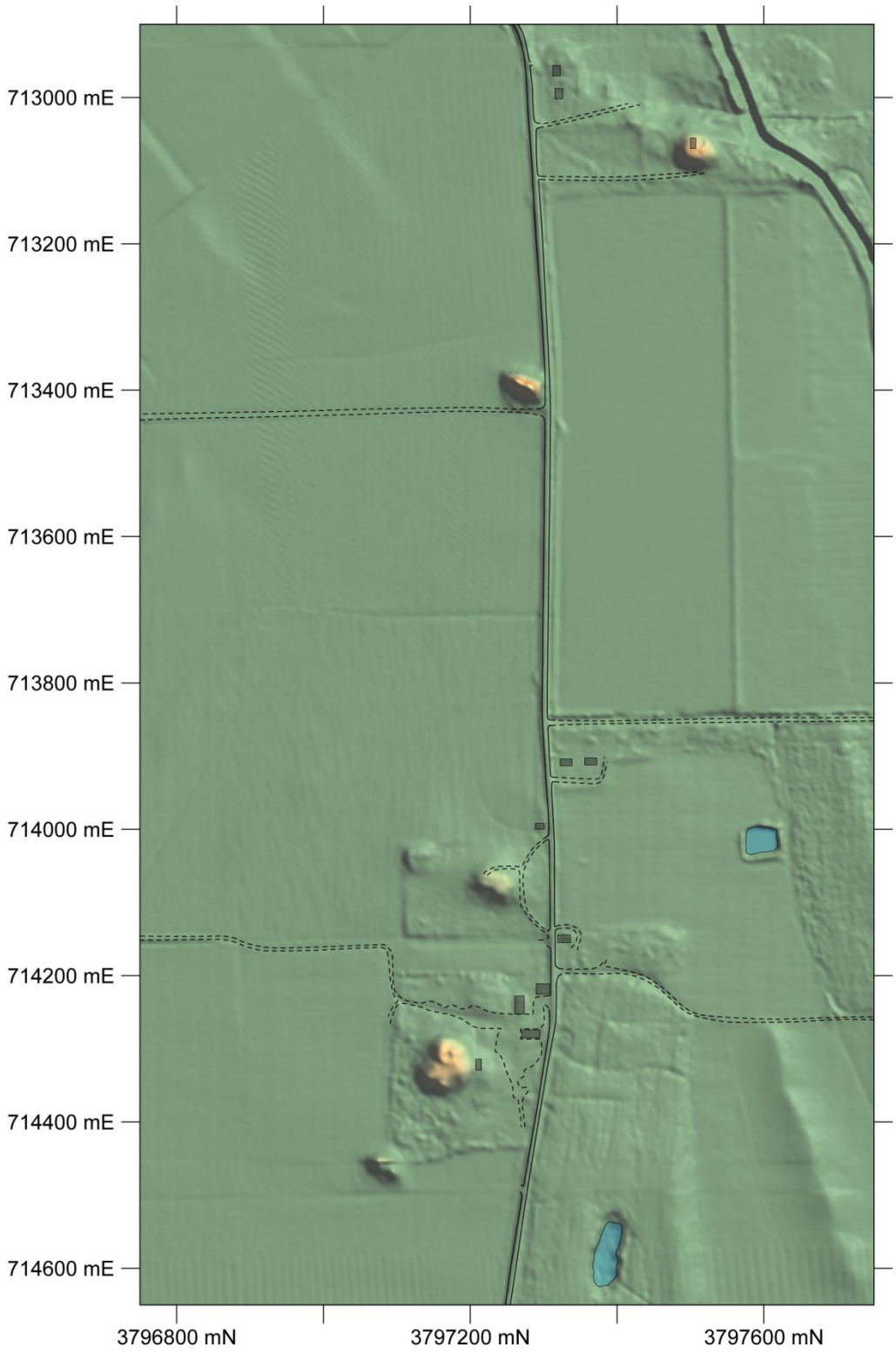

Figure 57 Carson Mounds, shaded relief with cultural features.

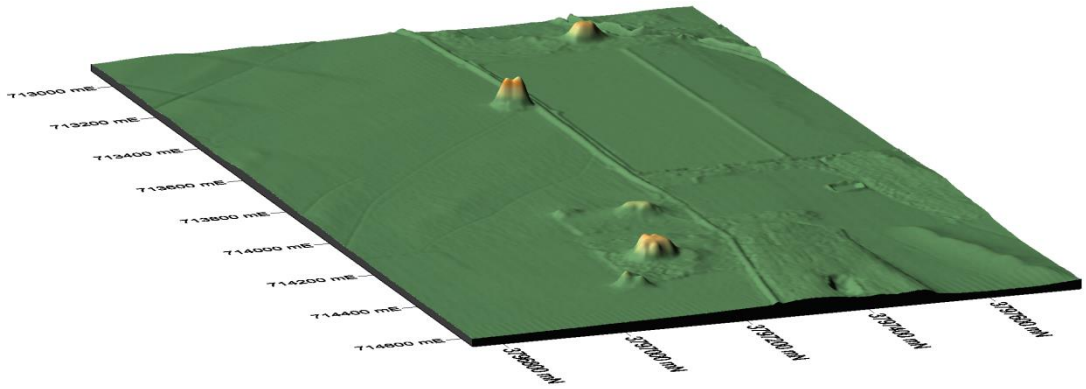

Figure 58 Carson Mounds, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.

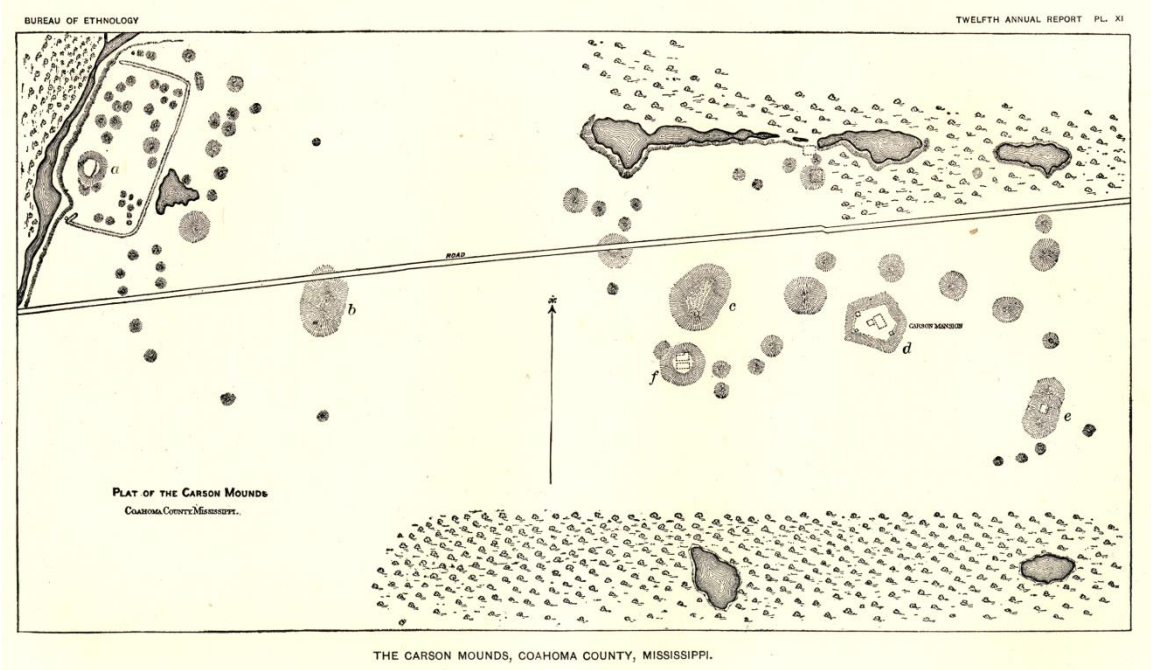

Figure 59 Carson Mounds, Thomas 1894.

Figure 60 Carson Mounds, Mound A, view to the northwest.

Figure 61 Carson Mounds, Mound B, view to the east.

Figure 62 Carson Mounds, Mound C, view to the south.

Figure 63 Carson Mounds, Mound D, view to the south.

Figure 64 Carson Mounds, Mound E, view to the northwest.

Dunn (22 Co 632)

Other Names: 16-O-1 (LMS); 22-Qu-680

Location: Coahoma County (Quitman in LMS): Northwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 14, Township 27 North, Range 3 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 732633E, 3789043N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Sabino, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1967. Tutwiler, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1969.

Site Description: The Dunn site consists of three mounds. Mound A is large oval-shaped mound measuring approximately 91m long by 30m wide and 5m tall. Mounds B and C appear as short rises less than 1m high. Modern houses and farm buildings are located among the mounds with one residence sitting on top the low rise which was Mound B.

History of Work: Phillips surveyed the Dunn site in 1940, noting prehistoric material around Mound C only. Phillips encountered abundant amounts of daub but few ceramic sherds in a cotton field east of Mound C.

Phillips (1970:904, Figure 445) assigned the Dunn Site to the Coahoma phase of the Baytown period.

Current Conditions: Mound A at the Dunn site is clearly visible despite apparent erosion damage to its south and east sides. Mounds B and C are much diminished, appearing as low rises. All of the mounds are wooded, while the surrounding landscape is under cultivation.

Archival Materials:
Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Survey by Phillips in 1940
- Sherd count in 1947: 94 sherds
- Site photos: Mound A from southwest (probably from northwest instead), North end of Mound A, Mound A from the southwest
- Sketch map

Recommendations: Perform small-scale auger testing around the perimeter of the lower slope of Mound A in search of pre-mound midden. The auger data will be used in locating a slope trench.

References: Phillips (1970); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951)

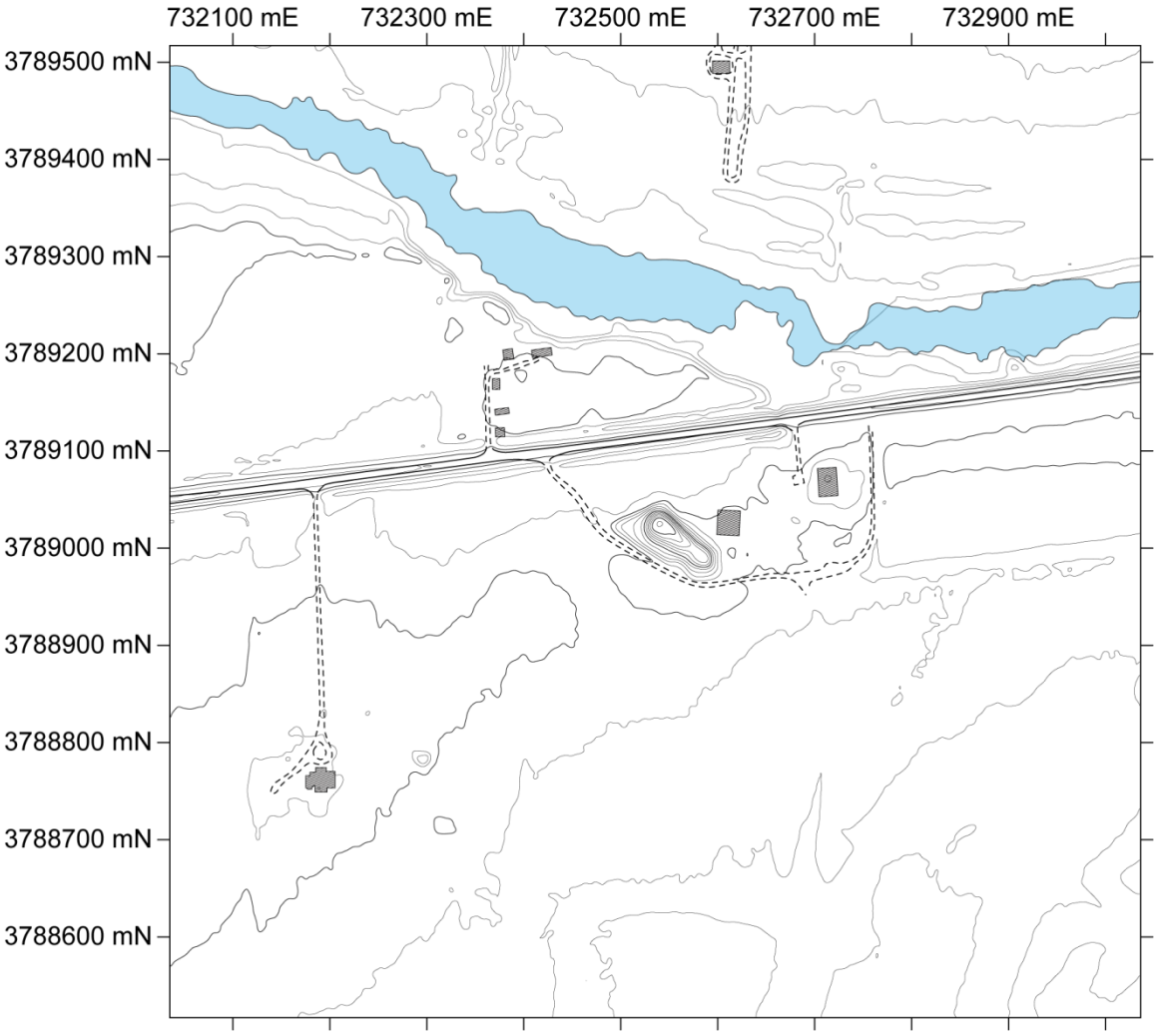

Figure 65 Dunn, contour map with cultural features.

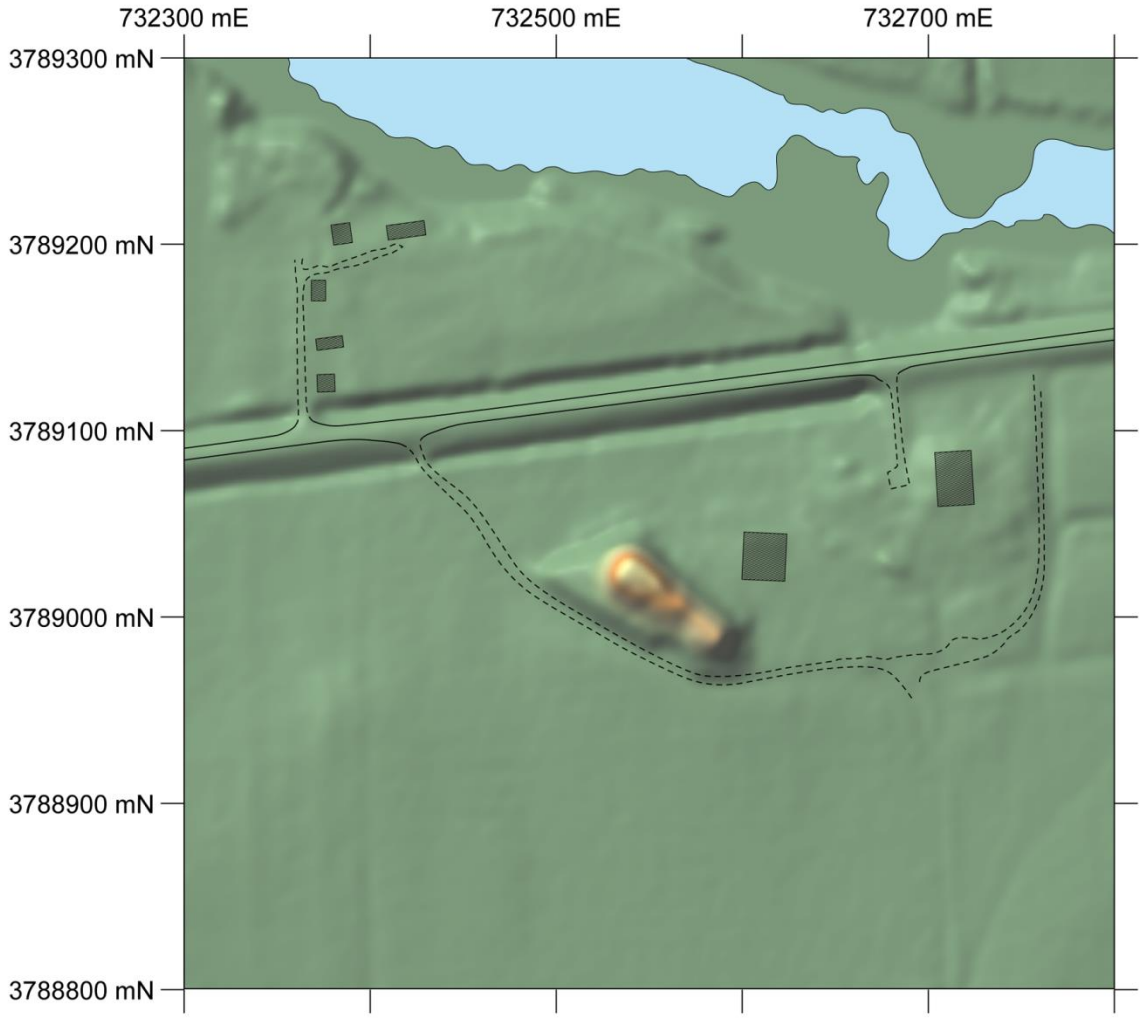

Figure 66 Dunn, shaded relief with cultural features.

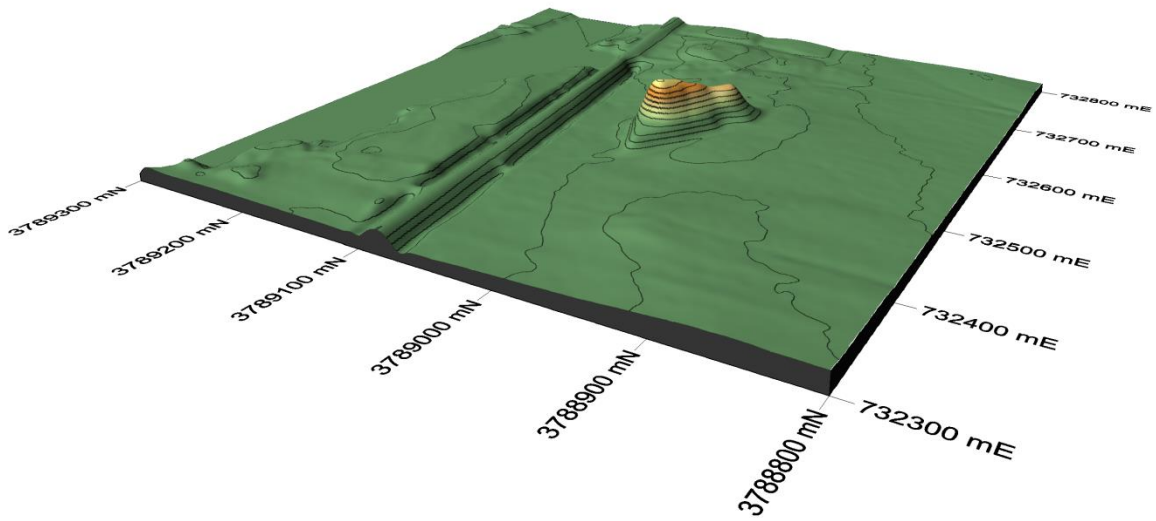

Figure 67 Dunn, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.

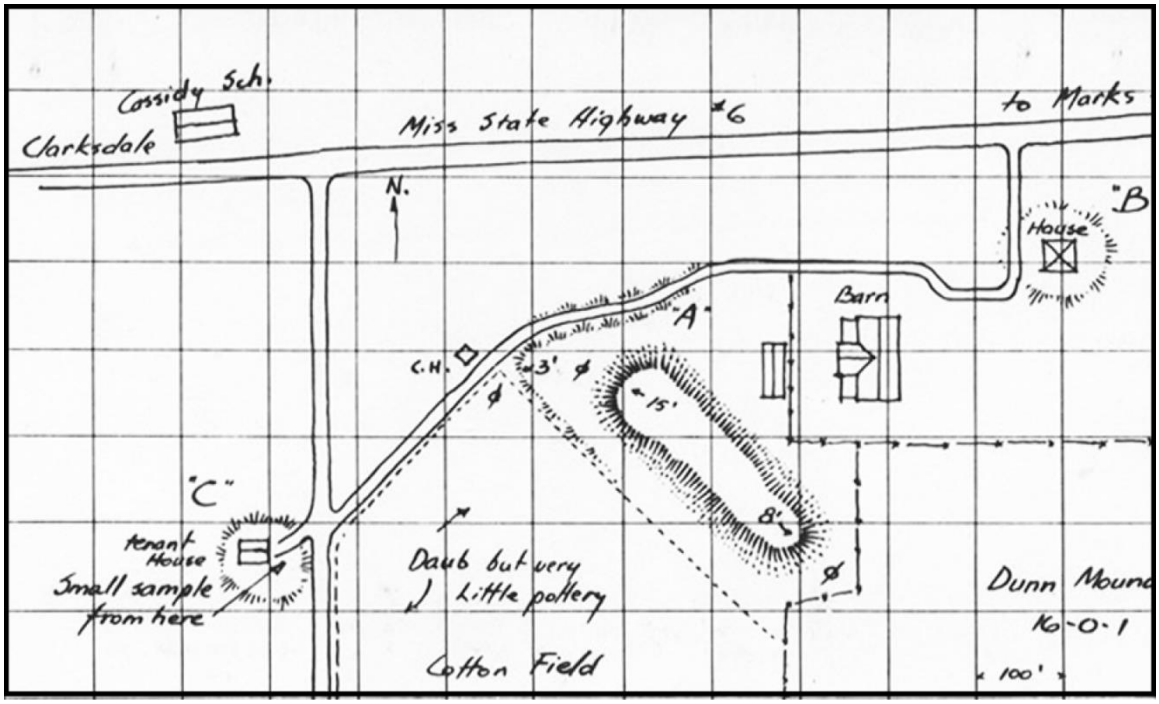

Figure 68 LMS (Phillips) sketch map 1940, LMS Archives Online.

Figure 69 Dunn, Mound A, view to the southeast.

Panola County

Figure 70 Panola County Mound Trail Site.

Batesville Mounds (22 Pa 500)

Other Names: Pa-1; Harmon Mounds; McCarter Mound (22 TU 502)

Location: Panola County: Northwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 19, Township 8 South, Range 7 West.

UTM Location: 231069E, 3804592N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Batesville, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1982
Sardis, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1953

Site Description: The Batesville Mounds consists of between six and seven mounds and up to three habitation areas. A conical mound (Mound C) is the best preserved of the mounds and measures 40m in diameter and 6.4m high. Mound B is the next best preserved mound at the site and is a rectangular platform mound measuring 45.7m by 48.9m at its base and 2.7m high. The remainder of the mounds are poorly preserved or completely destroyed. Habitation areas defined by midden and daub are located north and south of the mounds. The McCarter Mound (22 TU 502) was located approximately 400m north of the Batesville Mounds and included an intervening village site. The McCarter Mound produced a ceramic assemblage consistent with that from Mound B of the Batesville Mounds. Although the McCarter Mound was destroyed in 1968 (Johnson 1969), it appears that site and the Batesville Mounds represent a single prehistoric community.

Excavations conducted by the University of Mississippi field school between 1991 and 1996 in the northern and southern habitation areas recovered a good deal of Early to Middle Woodland artifacts (Ford

History of Work: Squier & Davis (1848:113) reference a mound site three miles east Panola, Mississippi (now Batesville [Brown 1926:116]).

In 1926, Calvin Brown described six mounds at the Batesville Mounds site; noting that Mounds A, D, and E were much reduced by cultivation. He also reported that lithic material was more common than ceramics in the fields surrounding the mounds. Brown made the argument that the mounds reported by Squier and Davis' (1848) near Panola were in fact the Batesville Mounds.

William Haag visited the site in 1950 and filled out the original MDAH site card while he was on faculty at the University of Mississippi. He noted the locations of the six mounds Brown (1926) described in addition to two midden deposits associated with the mounds. Haag called the site "Harmon Mounds" after the then current land owner.

In 1969 Avocational archaeologist Glenn Johnson reported on his 1968 excavation of the McCarter Mound. In addition to Early Woodland period ceramics, Johnson recovered a set of "copper covered pan pipes" from the McCarter Mound.

Between 1990 and 1992 Mimi Holland conducted a systematic auger survey around each of the Batesville Mounds. Her survey was designed to map the limits of cultural material around each mound. Holland's survey recovered Early and Middle Woodland period ceramics and abundant fire cracked rock, particularly around Mound B. The results of those efforts appear in three separate works: Holland (1992), (1994); Holland- Lilly (1996).

Janet Ford directed four seasons of University of Mississippi field school at the site between 1991 and 1995. Research focused on midden deposits in the north and south village areas (Ford 1996).

Jay Johnson directed excavations in Mound B and the south village during the 1996 as part of a federal transportation grant funded project. Research focused on excavating test trenches into mound features and habitation areas. This work and earlier field school activities are reported in Johnson et al. (2002). Rodney Stuart (1997) wrote his thesis on the ceramics recovered during the 1996 excavation.

In 2002 Sullivan made a study of the fire-cracked rock recovered from the Mound B.

Current Conditions: Batesville Mounds has been impacted by cultivation and archaeological investigations. The former activities have largely destroyed all the mounds at the site with exception of Mounds B and C. This latter mound is still well preserved despite some evidence of looting. Portions of the site are alternatively wooded or under cultivation. The nearby McCarter Mound site has been completely destroyed.

Archival Materials:
The copper clad pan-pipes recovered by Glen Johnson are currently on display at the Winterville Mounds museum. The location of the remaining material recovered during his 1968 salvage operation is currently not known.

Center for Archaeological Research, University of Mississippi:

- Holland's auger survey collection
- Excavated material from the 1991 through 1996 field schools
- Excavated material from the 1996 project

Recommendations: No further work is recommended for the Batesville Mounds. Several seasons of field school conducted by staff and students at the University of Mississippi in the 1990s along with the 1996 excavation of Mound B has provided a good deal of data on the cultural, temporal, and functional characteristics of the site.

References: Squier & Davis (1848); Brown (1926); Ford (1996); Holland (1992, 1994); Holland-Lilly (1996); Johnson (1969); Johnson et al. (2002); Stuart (1997); Sullivan (2002)

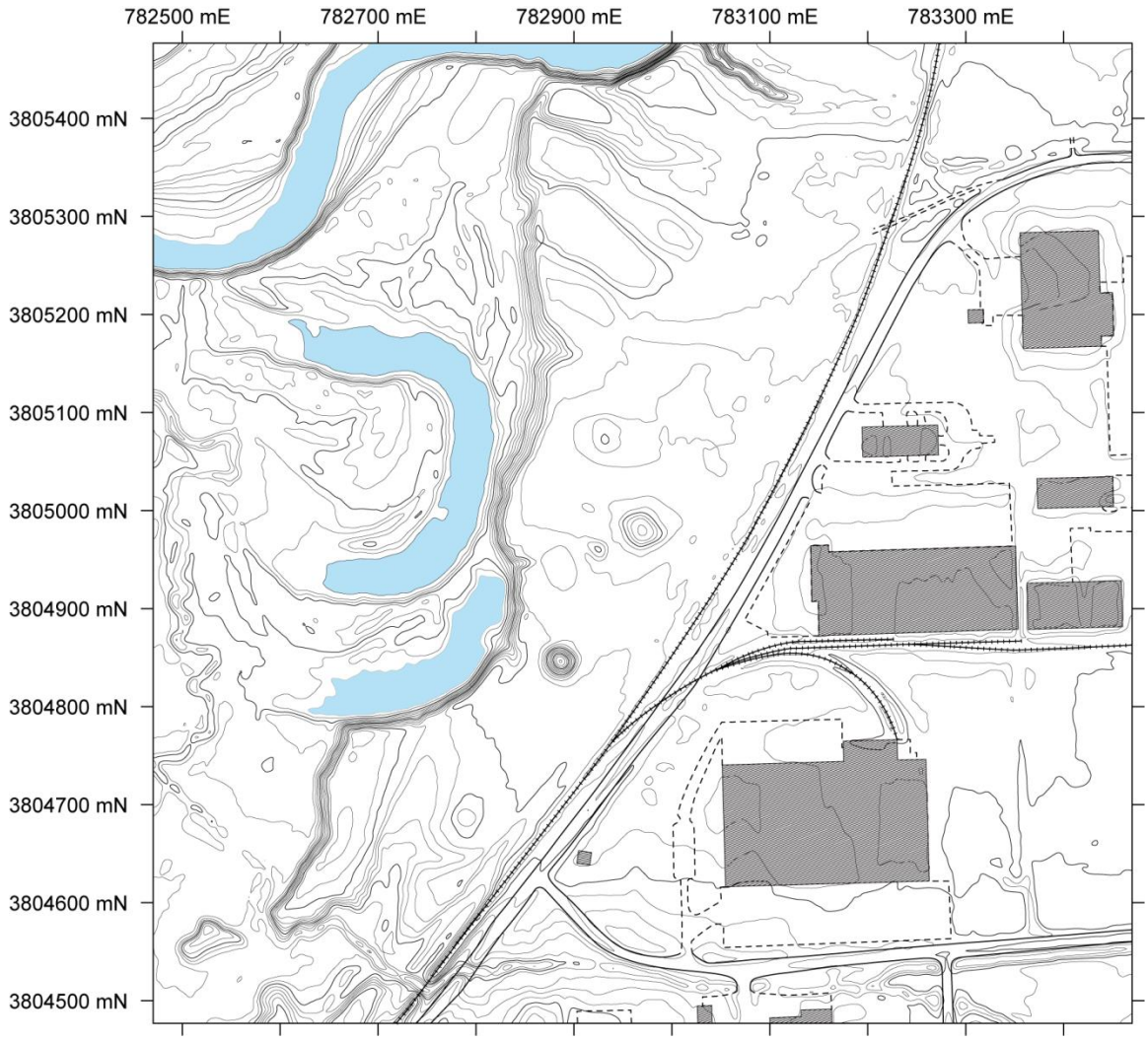

Figure 71 Batesville Mounds, contour map with cultural features.

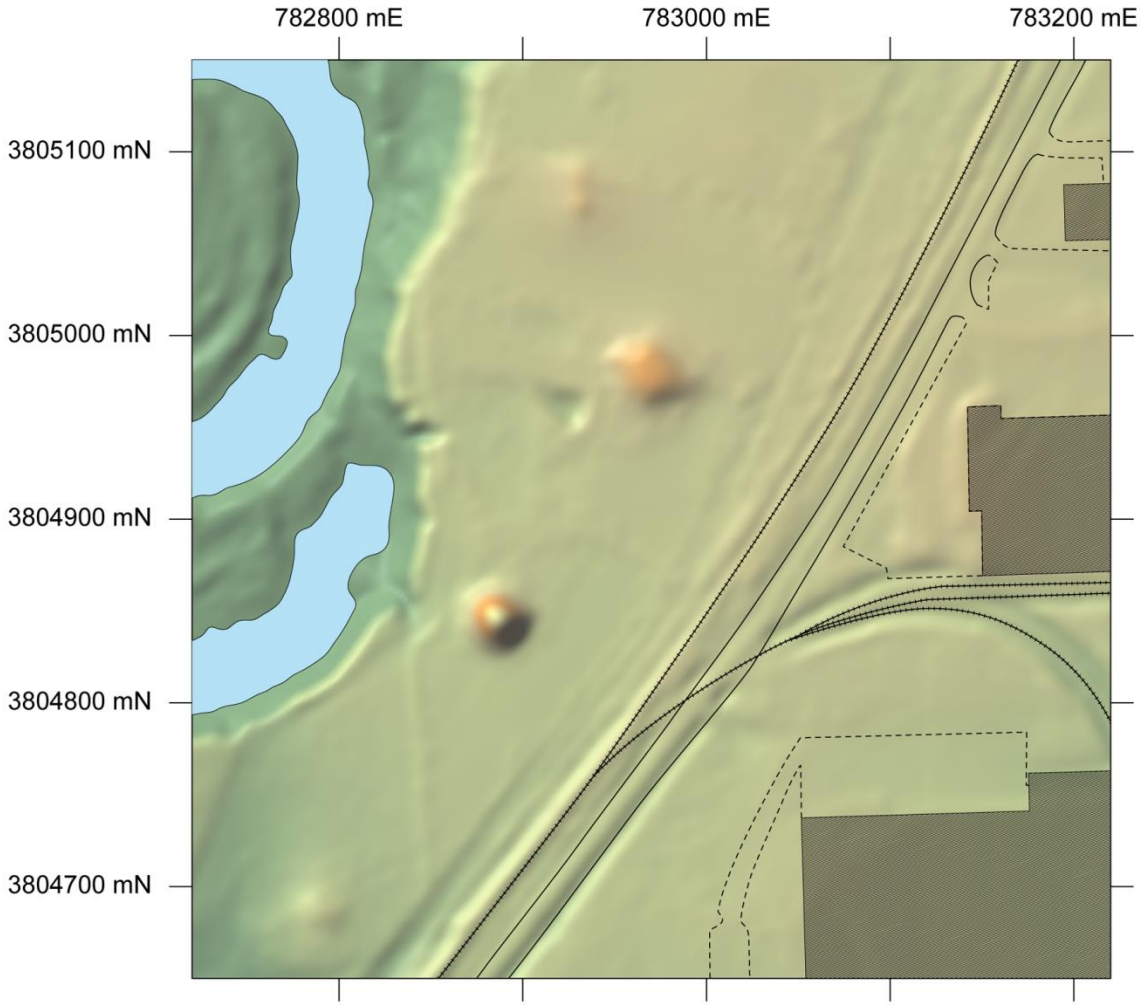

Figure 72 Batesville Mounds, shaded relief map with cultural features.

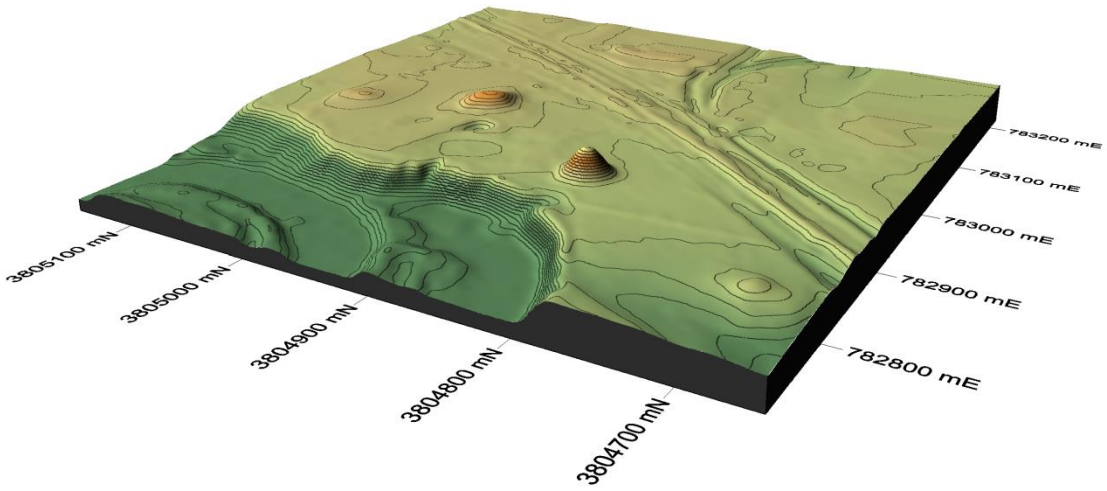

Figure 73 Batesville Mounds, oblique map with 50cm contours.

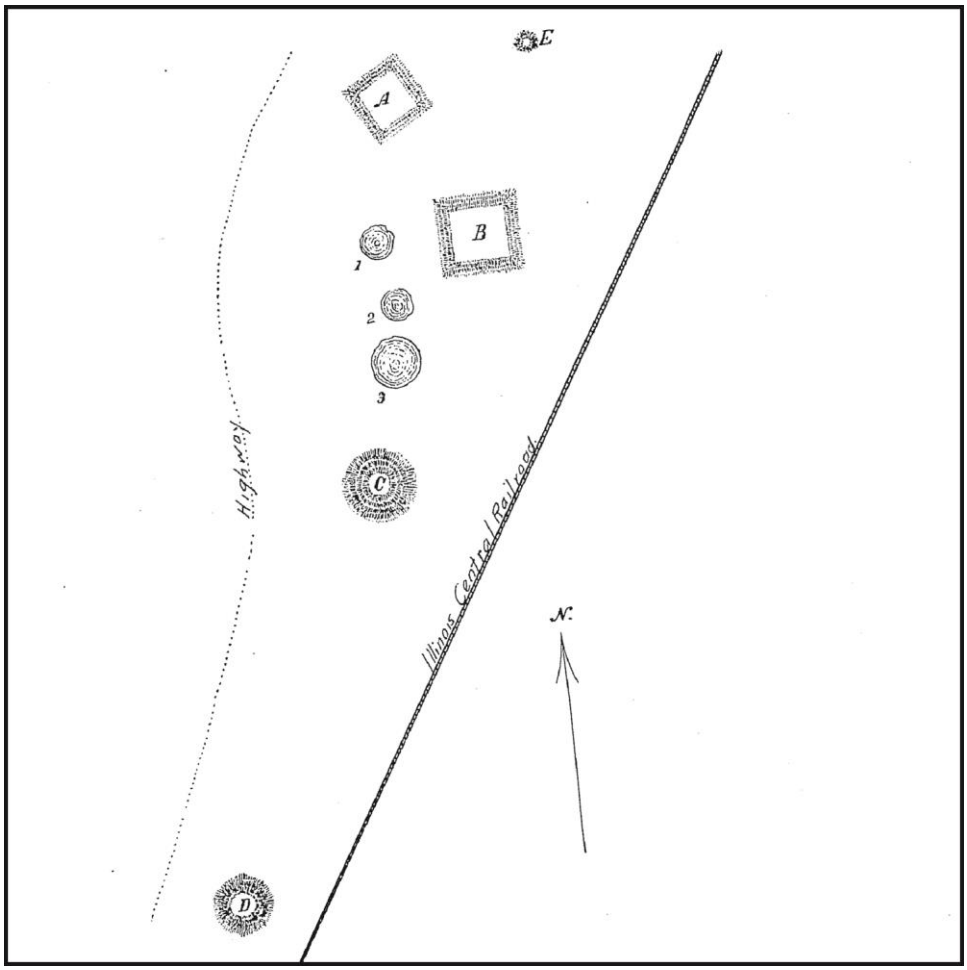

Figure 74 Batesville Mounds, Brown (1926).

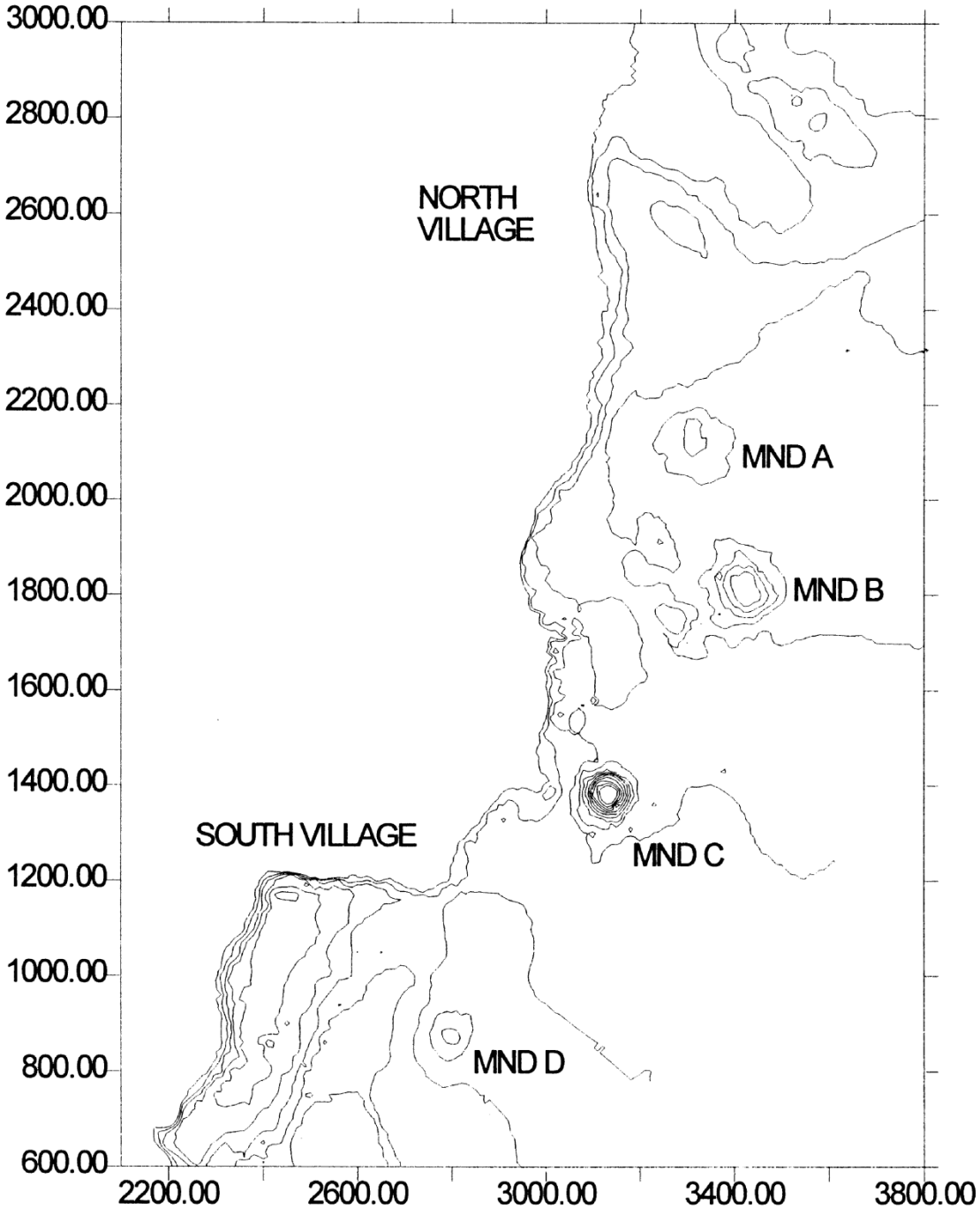

Figure 75 Batesville Mounds, Johnson et al. (2002).

Figure 76 Batesville Mounds, Mound A, view to the west.

Figure 77 Batesville Mounds, Mound B, view to the east.

Figure 78 Batesville Mounds, Mound C.

Bolivar County

Figure 79 Bolivar County Mound Trail Sites.

Alligator Mounds (22 Bo 500)

Other Names: 16-N-2 (LMS)

Location: Boliver County: Northwest¼ of the Northeast¼ of Section 32, Township 26 North, Range 5 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 708886E, 3774416N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Duncan, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1967. Clarksdale, Mississippi 15' Series Topographic Map 1968.

Site Description: Alligator Mounds consist of five rectangular platform mounds (A through E) of varying size arranged around a central plaza. The site is positioned on the southern edge of Alligator Bayou. Two historic structures are located among the mounds. Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951) reported five mounds at the site, three of which were much diminished from agricultural activity. While all five mounds are still recognizable today, only two are well preserved. Mound A measures approximately 52m in diameter and 2.5m in height. Mound B measures approximately 35m in diameter and 3m in height. The remaining mounds rise about one meter above the surrounding landscape.

History of Work: In 1918 Charles Peabody tested two of the smaller mounds at Alligator Mounds, but never published his results (Brown 1926:94).

In 1926, Calvin Brown described visit to a site "south of Alligator" while Peabody was in the midst of excavating it. A note in the Lower Mississippi Survey archives speculates that Brown mistakenly wrote "south" when he should have written "west", and that the site he was referring to was in fact Alligator Mounds. Brown (1926:94) described five small mounds, the largest of which stood approximately 5m tall.

James Griffin and Mott Davis surveyed and excavated at the Alligator Mounds in 1941, as part of the Lower Mississippi Survey. Their observations of the site closely match those of Brown (1926). They excavated two test units at the site to obtain stratigraphic data. The first unit "Cut A" was excavated into an area of Mound D where abundant Baytown period ceramics were present on the surface. The second unit "Cut B" was excavated in an area south of Mound B where Mississippian period ceramics predominated. Griffin and Davis were attempting to date the construction of the mounds and better understand the transition from Baytown to Mississippian (Phillips, Ford and Griffin 1951:260-265). They concluded the site exhibited a Baytown culture component dating to the Baytown period and a later discontinuous Mississippian component dating to the Mississippian period.

Phillips (1970:901, 904 Figure 445) placed Alligator Mounds in the Baytown period, and assigned it to the Coahoma phase.

Kenneth Styer conducted an analysis of a moderate sized controlled surface collection from the Alligator site in 1990. He aimed to determine if the site could have been occupied during the mid-16th century and thus one of the villages possibly visited by the De Soto entrada in 1541. However, he was unable to refute the possibility that Alligator had not been visited by the De Soto entrada (Ryan et al. 2004:3-106)

Current Conditions: The two largest of the five mounds at Alligator Mounds are clearly visible while the remaining mounds are much diminished. Alligator Mounds also hosts a contemporary occupation consisting of a modern residence, associated outbuildings, and roads. The surrounding landscape is under cultivation.

Archival Materials:

The location of Peabody's 1918 collection is unknown at this point.

Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Ford and Davis survey and surface collection
- Sketch map of site
- Four photographs of site

Center for Archaeological Research, University of Mississippi:

- Styer's surface collection

Recommendations: Perform small-scale auger testing around the perimeter of the lower slope of Mound A in search of pre-mound midden. The auger data will be used in locating a slope trench.

References: Brown (1926); Phillips (1970); Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951); Ryan et al. (2004); Styer (1991)

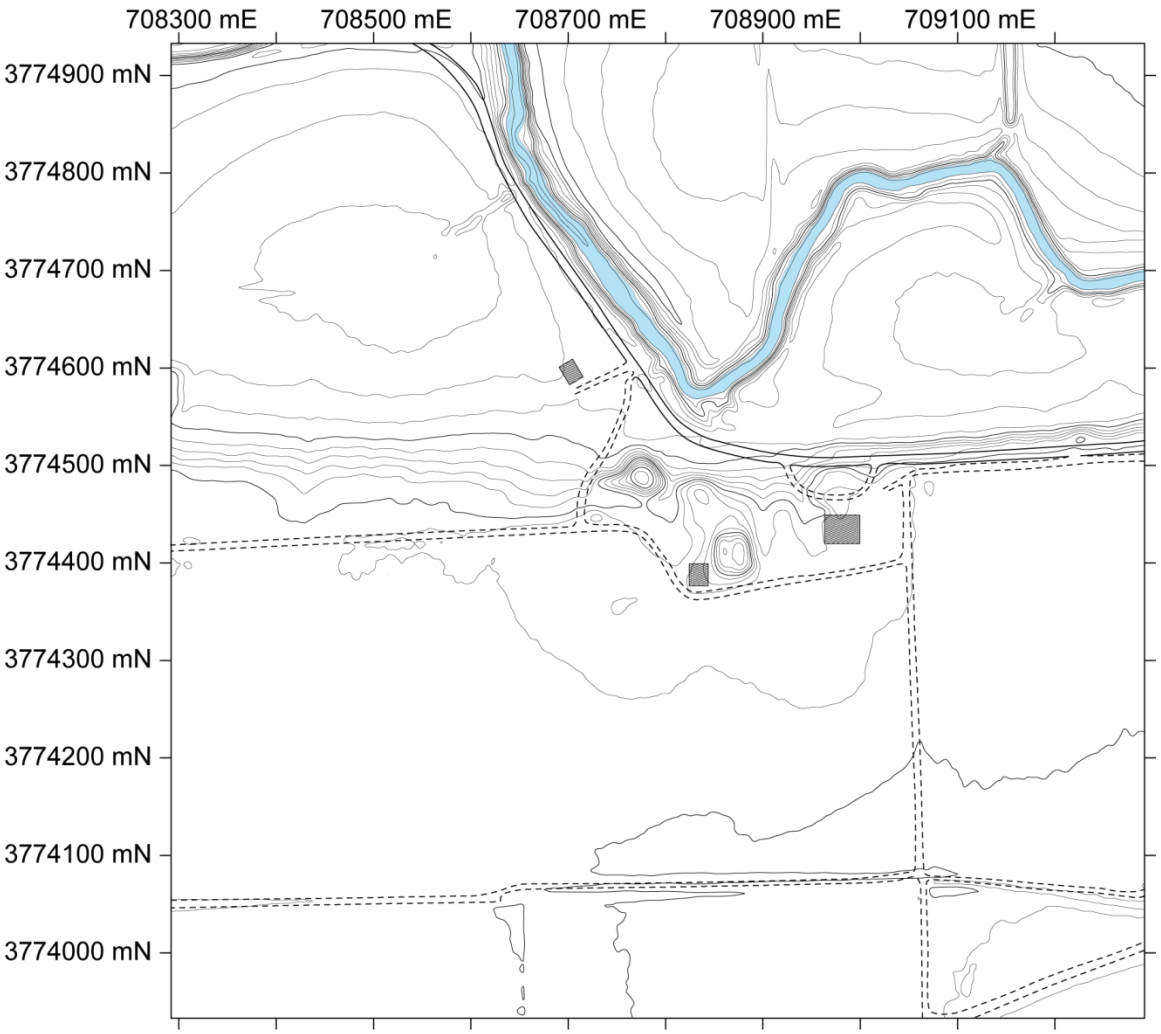

Figure 80 Alligator Mounds, contour map with cultural features.

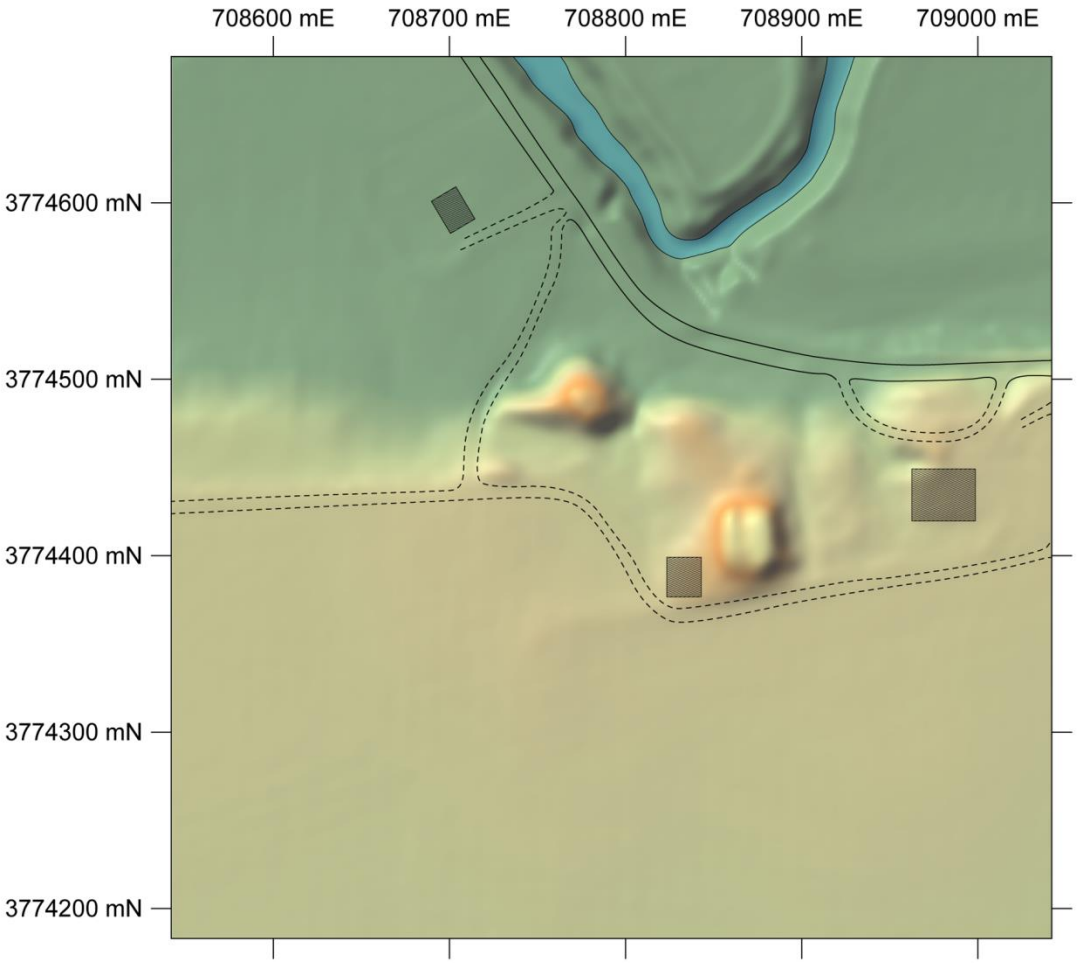

Figure 81 Alligator Mounds, shaded relief map with cultural features.

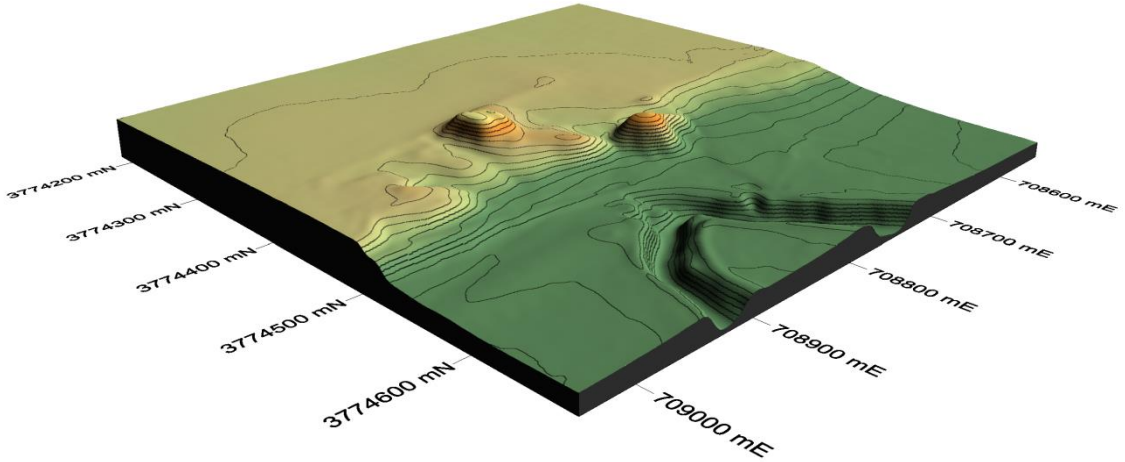

Figure 82 Alligator Mounds, oblique relief map with countours.

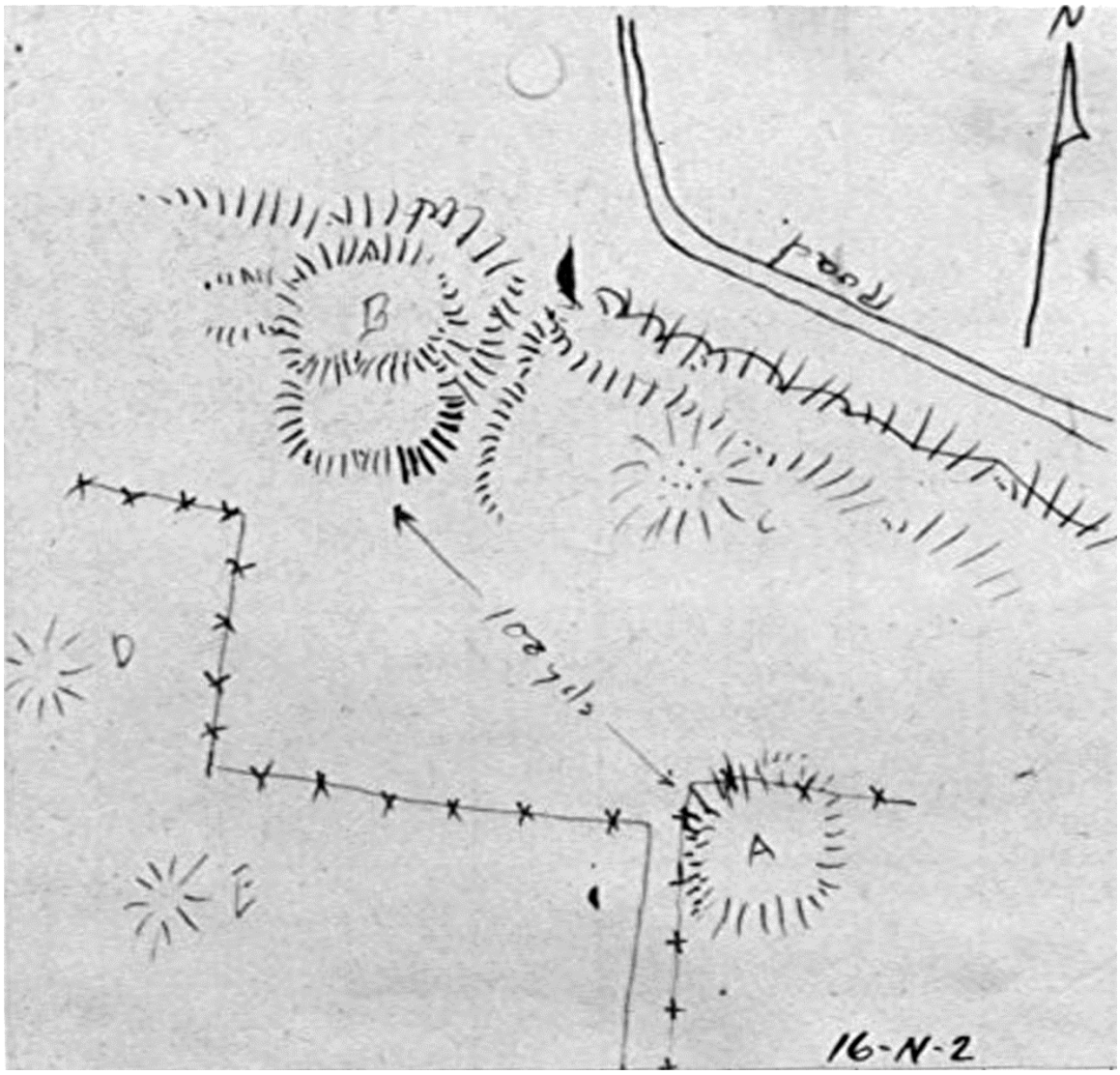

Figure 83 Alligator Mounds, LMS (Ford and Griffin), 1940 sketch map.

Figure 84 Alligator Mounds, Mound A, view to the south.

Figure 85 Alligator Mounds, Mound B, view to the west.

Figure 86 Alligator Mounds, Mound C, view to the south.

Christmas (22 Bo 515)

Other Names: 17-M-4 (LMS)

Location: Bolivar County: Northwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 35 Township 22 North, Range 8 West, 1821 Baseline and Choctaw Meridian.

UTM Location: 687161E, 3738444N, NAD83, Zone 15N.

USGS Quad Map: Beulah, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1969.
Pace, Mississippi 7.5' Series Topographic Map 1970.

Site Description: The Christmas site consists of a small conical mound measuring approximately 25m in diameter and 3m in height. A historic period cemetery occupies the summit of the mound, which might help to explain its flattened appearance. The mound's immediate surroundings are completely devoid of prehistoric material.

History of Work: Phillips and Davis surveyed the Christmas site in 1941 and provided a brief description of the mound and its surroundings. The field around the mound was mostly in pasture and surface conditions were unfavorable for surface collecting but the field to the south of the mound was in cultivation and nothing was found there.

Current Conditions: The Christmas site mound clearly visible and in good shape despite the presence of a historic period cemetery at its summit. The mound is wooded and the fields around the site were land planed for rice during the winter of 2013-14.

Archival Materials:
Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Lower Mississippi Survey:

- Survey by Phillips and Davis

Recommendations: Perform small-scale auger testing around the perimeter of the lower slope of Mound A in search of pre-mound midden. The auger data will be used in locating a slope trench.

References: Phillips, Ford, and Griffin (1951)

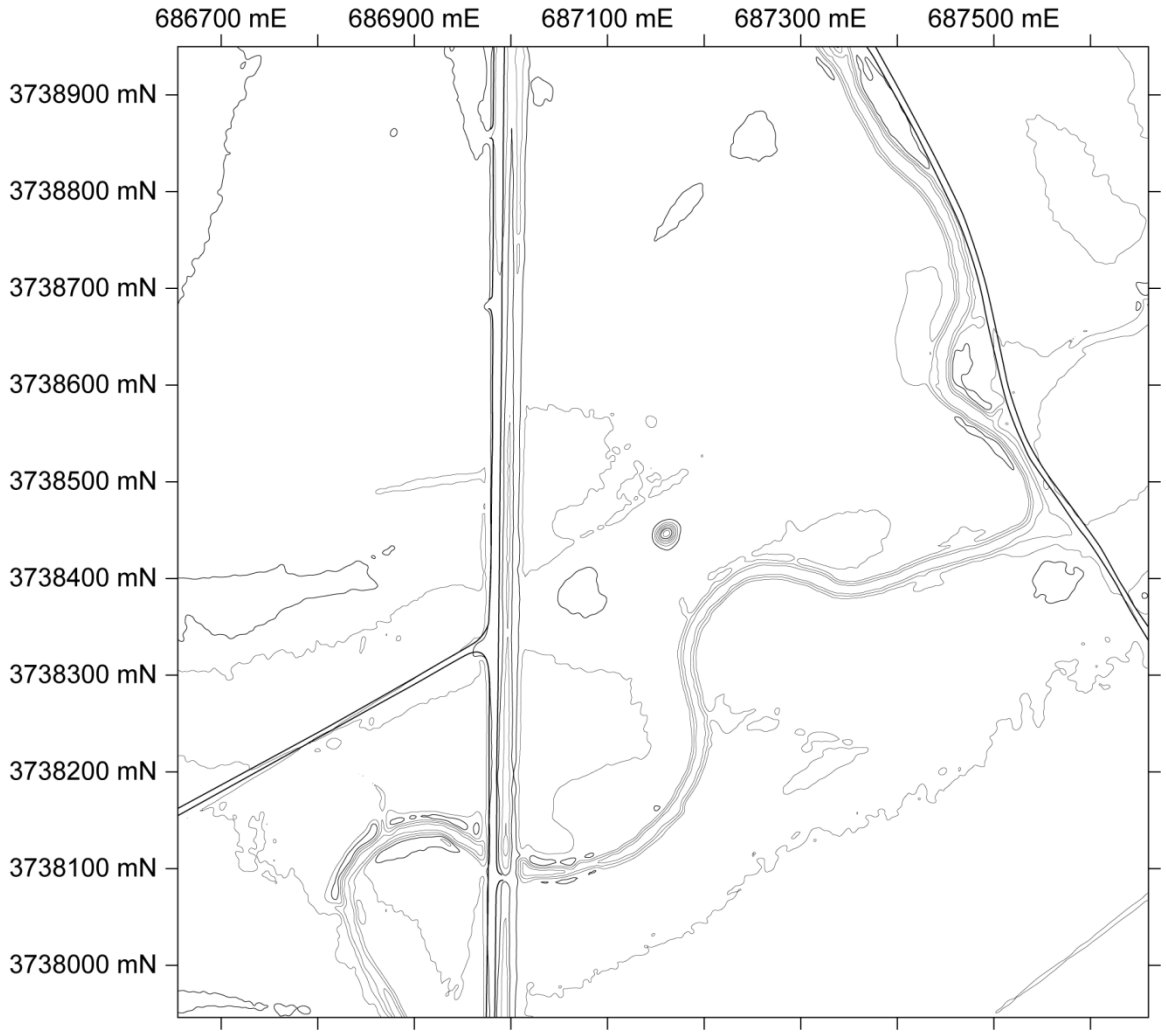

Figure 87 Christmas, contour map with cultural features.

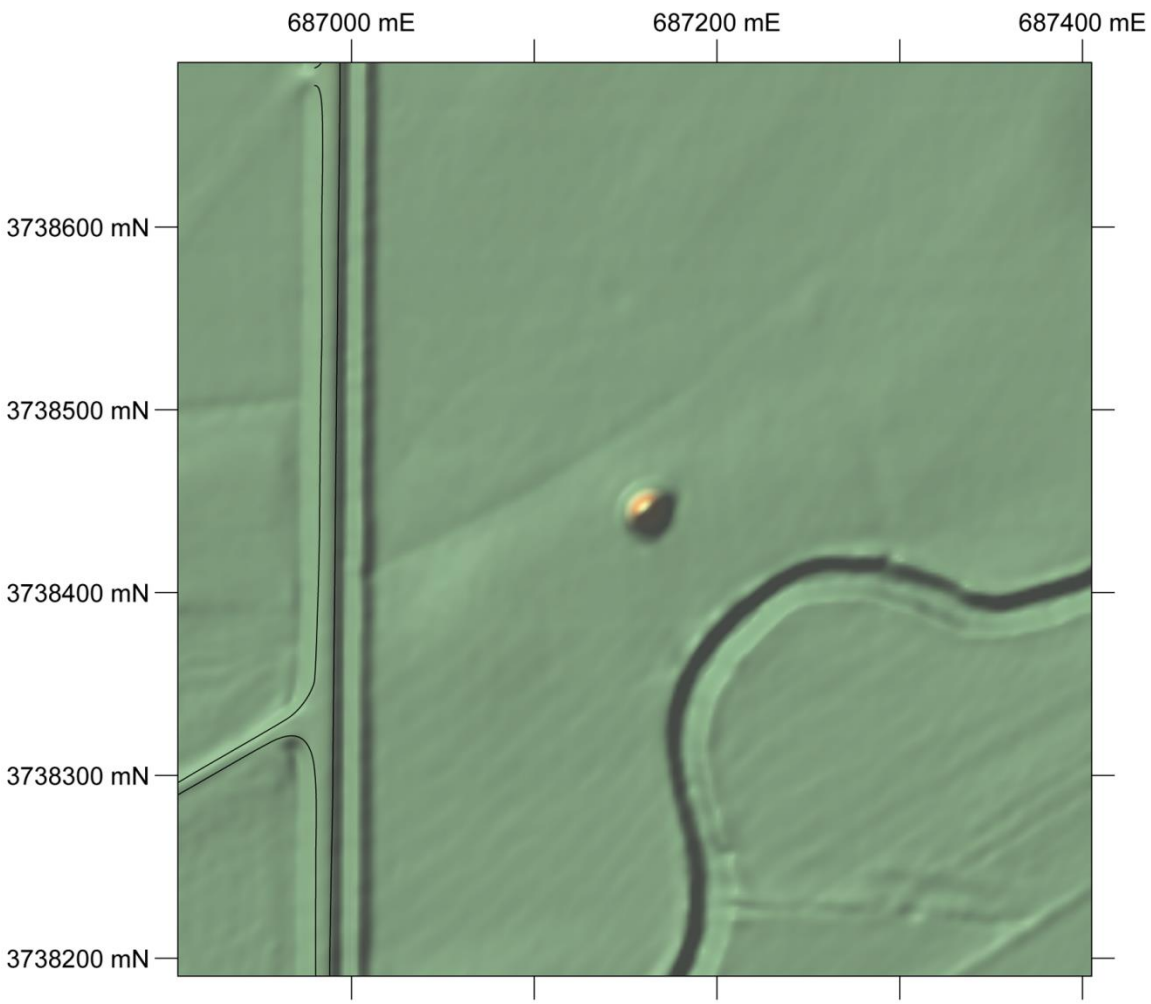

Figure 88 Christmas, shaded relief map with cultural features.

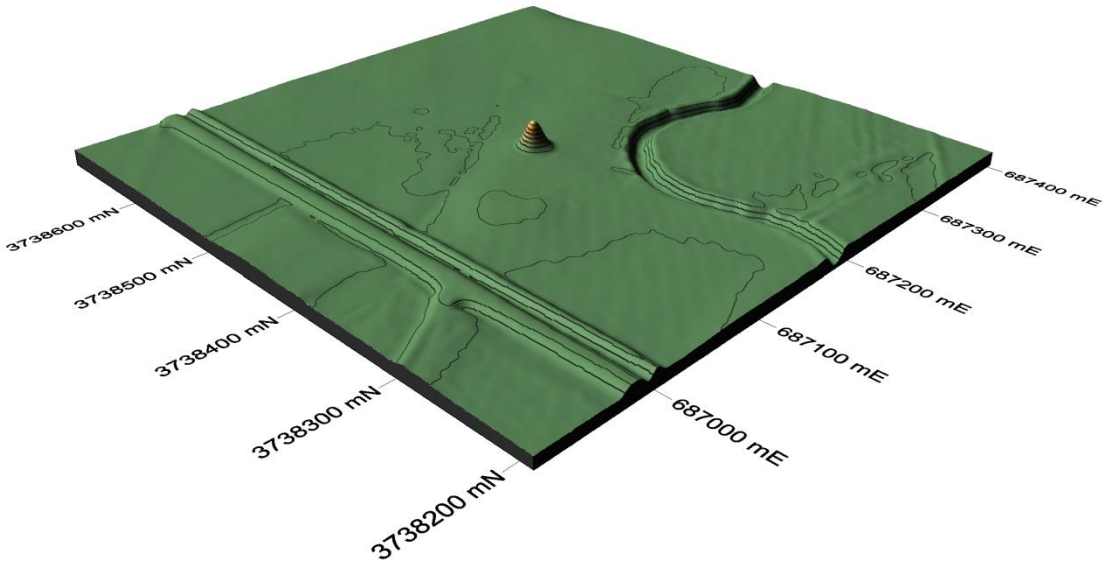

Figure 89 Christmas, oblique relief map with 50cm contours.


Figure 90 Christmas Mound, view to the northeast.

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