Form 10-317
(Sept. 1957)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO.
Louisiana	Arch. II and(III)

3. NAME(S) OF SITE	4. APPROX. ACREAGE
Marksville	

5. EXACT LOCATION (*County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet*)
NE 1 mile from town of Marksville on bluffs overlooking Old River, Avoyelles Parish.

6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (*Also administrator if different from owner*)
State of Louisiana, Parks and Recreation Commission

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (*Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant*)

This is the type site for the Marksville culture, and the discovery of Hopewellian-like material at this site in the 1930's led to the recognition that this culture was widely spread over the East.

The site is in good condition with most of the mounds restored to their original condition. The surrounding earthwork is in good shape as well. There is a good onsite museum which interprets the site for the public.

This site is still the best example of the connections of Ohio Hopewell with that in the south, and, with the other sites in the locality, (Greenhouse, Av25) form the basis for what has been called the best known sequence in Southeastern United States.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (*Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works*)

Setzler, Frank, 1933 - Pottery of the Hopewell Type from Louisiana. National Museum Proceedings, 82(2963):1-21. Washington.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (*Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.*)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES ☐ NO ☐	11. CONDITION	12. PRESENT USE (*Museum, farm, etc.*)	13. DATE OF VISIT
	good	state park	

14. NAME OF RECORDER (*Signature*)	15. TITLE	16. DATE
John W. Griffin	Regional Archeologist	2/28/64

*DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10½ SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—74016-1

THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE
MARKSVILLE SITE

The ruins of the ancient Indian village sites located one mile east of Marksville, Louisiana have received an unusual amount of attention from archeologists. As a result of the explorations that have been carried on there, this has become one of the most important type sites of Eastern American pre-history.

The first scientific excavations at Marksville were conducted by the late Gerard Fowke of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, in 1926. Fowke's investigations were carried on over a period of several months, but due to the limited funds at his disposal were of a preliminary nature. However, the material which he recovered from the mounds within the enclosure at the South end of the site (see accompanying map) was recognized to have an unusual significance in that it demonstrated a close relationship to the Hopewellian Culture of the Upper Mississippi Valley. This discovery prompted Mr. Frank M. Setzler, of the United States National Museum, in 1933, to make a more extensive examination of Mounds four and six in the Marksville fortification. These investigations, which were continued for four months, discovered burial vaults in mound four, and numerous specimens that further demonstrated the relationship between the Hopewell Phase of culture in the North and what has come to be known as the Marksville Period in the South.

An archeological survey of the State made by J. A. Ford of the School of Geology, Louisiana State University, has discovered sites showing typical Marksville material in many parts of Louisiana and Mississippi, and has demonstrated that this was the earliest period of occupation of the Lower Mississippi Valley by mound building peoples. This survey showed further that in the South the Marksville period was succeeded by still another prehistoric cultural period which has been named "Coles Creek." The northern half of the Marksville group was constructed and occupied at the end of the Marksville period and during the Coles Creek period of culture.

At present a unit of the State-wide WPA archeological survey, sponsored by Louisiana State University, is engaged in excavating mounds 14-20 in order to discover the cultural features of this later Coles Creek period. The report on this study by Louisiana State University, with the report already published and in preparation by the United States National Museum, will make this the site best known scientifically in the South.

There is a very good reason for the Marksville site having received so much attention from archeologists of both state and national institutions. The site is large and was occupied through a long span of time. It yields information concerning the history and daily life of the people who occupied the Lower Mississippi Valley at a period long before the Western Continents had been discovered by the Old World.

Leaving out most of the "probablys" and other qualifying phrases which creep into the attempts of archeologists to reconstruct history, the part which the ruins at the Marksville site play in the story of pre-Columbian America is as follows:

Prior to the approximate date of 800 A.D., the Eastern part of the United States was occupied by roving bands of hunting peoples who did not practice agriculture, make pottery, or build mounds. Their settlements were of a very impermanent nature, and their remains are now found mainly in the caves of the Ozark and Appalachean mountains.

About this time there suddenly appears in the Lower Mississippi Valley a group of farming Indians who possess a rather well developed culture that in some ways resembles certain archaic horizons of Guatemala and Peru. This culture has left numerous town sites along the larger streams of Louisiana and Mississippi. Usually these sites are marked by mounds, and in some cases they are fortified. The enclosure at Marksville belongs to this period. The mounds were constructed for two purposes. Large flat-topped pryamids were built to serve as substructures for temples and other important buildings of the town. Graded stairways led up the sides of these pryamids to the structures on top in a manner very reminiscent of the stone structures of Central America. Conical mounds were also built at this time to enclose log-covered vaults in which the dead were buried. Many details concerning the utensils used by these people and information concerning their daily life have been discovered.

The Marksville culture moved northward up the valley of the Mississippi River. About the mouth of the Ohio it met a culture known as the "Woodland", which in part at least appears to have been at that time a recent importation from Asia. The amalgamation of these two influences seems to provide the basis of the Hopewellian Cultures; widespread early manifestations found in Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia and New York.

While the Hopewellian cultures were flourishing in the North, the culture of the people inhabiting Marksville and the other sites of that stage in the Lower Valley was undergoing a gradual change. Before this change was well started the enclosure at Marksville was abandoned and the northern portion of the site was settled, down off the bluffs in the rich bottom lands. Apparently the fear of invaders was not so great for the people did not trouble to erect a wall to enclose the new village. However, they placed the new village on the edge of an old ox-bow lake left by the Mississippi River, and excavated the earth for their mounds at this new site in such a way that the plaza of the village was enclosed by a wide moat filled with water. Seven mounds were arranged around the edge of an open court four hundred feet in diameter. All of these mounds were constructed for public buildings and the stairways from all led down into the court. This change to the new site probably occurred about 1200 A. D., just at the beginning of the Coles Creek period.

As the Woodland culture was pushing down from the north - it finally reached the central part of the State of Mississippi and northern Louisiana - the Coles Creek culture spread to the southeast along the Gulf of Mexico and Florida. In Florida it is well known through the researches of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences.

This later part of the Marksville site was abandoned before the end of the Coles Creek period. It may have been inhabited up to the period of DeSoto's visit to Louisiana (1540-41), but this is by no means certain. About 1300 the Mississippian Culture appeared in the Middle Mississippi Valley and began to spread very widely and rapidly. It blanketed most of the Eastern United States except for peripheral areas. Most of the Southern Indians whom the French and English explorers found in the early seventeen hundreds had this Mississippian culture. However, in northwestern Louisiana and in central Florida varieties of the Coles Creek culture were held by historic Indians, the Caddo and Calusa Groups.

In an abridged fashion the foregoing shows the archeological importance of the prehistoric ruins at Marksville. The scientific justification for making this site a national monument will hardly be questioned. The area is suitable for development as a monument from other points of view. The preservation of the mounds and the enclosure is fairly good. Some of the structures have been plowed over, but destruction has not gone so far as to make restoration impossible.

Lying, as this site does, along the edge of the bluff bounding the eastern side of the Marksville Prairie, it offers an excellent opportunity to demonstrate to the public some of the phenomena of recent Mississippi Valley Geology and to show how some of these phenomena, such as stream channel changes, are related to archeological problems. For example, there is adequate proof of the fact that at the time of occupation of both these old towns, the Red River was flowing down Bayou Teche into the Gulf.

In 1933 the town of Marksville purchased the northern half of the enclosed area which forms the old village. This is the area in which Mr. Setzler of the United States National Museum was interested in operating at the time. Realizing that the site should not be developed as a municipal recreational area, but with a view to its scientific and educational possibilities, the property was offered to the State Park Commission. After the town purchased the remainder of the enclosure, the tract was accepted by the Louisiana State Park Commission in 1936. The State Park Commission has recognized that they are not prepared to develop the full possibilities of this site. They do not have the trained specialists demanded, and recreational parks have first claim on their resources. For these reasons, they are considering offering their holdings to the National Park Service to form part of a national monument. Prominent citizens of the town of Marksville have promised that the town will be prepared to purchase the entire area of the site and present it to the National Park Service if they can be assured that the area will be developed as a monument. Undoubtedly a consideration of the National Park Service in contemplating the acceptance of this area is the question of whether Louisiana Senators and Congressmen will be prepared to sponsor measures making available to the Service funds for the development of the area. This would probably include a Civilian Conservation Corps unit and special appropriations to provide for the construction of Museum and administration building.

The construction of a national monument at Marksville can be expected

to be of marked benefit to the entire area of central eastern Louisiana. A similar development, Ocmulgee National Monument, which includes an Indian village site of comparable size near Macon, Georgia, was accepted by the National Park Service two years ago and is still under construction. Last year it had 31,640 visitors, mostly from out of the state. A similar development at Marksville may be expected, among other things, to attract a sizable percentage of the tourists who come from the Middle western states down the Natchez Trace. Instead of traveling through the barren hills of south Mississippi, they will cross the River at Natchez and, passing by Alexandria and Marksville, will make the trip to New Orleans, their logical destination - through Louisiana.

Since the beginning of this century a number of National Parks and Monuments have been created in the Southwest for the purpose of protecting and exploiting the educational possibilities of the prehistoric sites of that area. These areas have proven to be valuable assets to the states in which they are located. Everyone who has traveled in the Southwest is familiar with Mesa Verde, Chaco Canyon, Casa Grande, etc. Since 1930 the possibilities of archeological sites in the Eastern part of the country have been realized. Village ruins with the large temple mounds are almost as spectacular, and when the significance of the structures is understood, are fully as interesting as the pueblos of the West.

(signed)

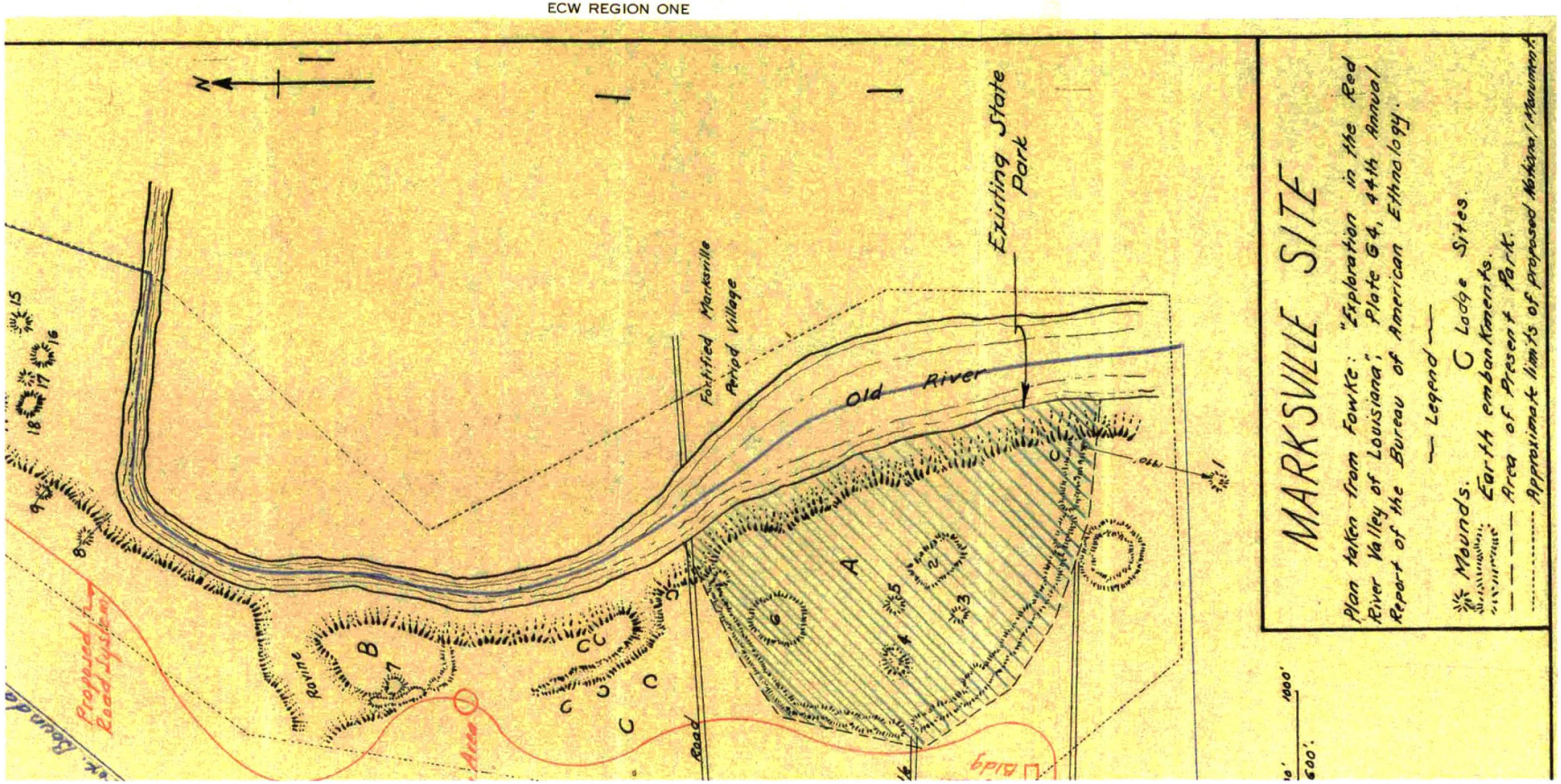
J. A. FORD
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN ARCHEOLOGY
SCHOOL OF GEOLOGY
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY, LOUSIANA.

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ECW REGION ONE



MARKSVILLE SITE

Plan taken from Fowke: "Exploration in the Red River Valley of Louisiana", Plate G4, 44th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology.

Legend

Mounds. C Lodge Sites.

Earth embankments.

— — — — Area of Present Park.

---------- Approximate limits of proposed National Monument.

0 500' 1000'

Scale: 1" = 600'.

Approx. Boundary (Revised)

Road

Road

Parking Area

Proposed Road System

Coles Creek Period Village

Ravine

Parking Area

Road

Fortified Marksville Period Village

Old River

Town of Marksville ½ mile

Museum Bldg.

Parking Area

Existing State Park

1910'

N

File: Marksville Site, Louisiana

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

February 13, 1939.

Memorandum for the Advisory Board:

The enclosed reports of Dr. F. M. Setzler, Head Curator, Department of Anthropology, U. S. National Museum, and Mr. James A. Ford, Research Associate in Archaeology, Louisiana State University, summarize essential information relating to the scientific importance of the Marksville Indian Mounds and Prehistoric Village site near Marksville, Louisiana.

These reports were prepared at the request of Louisiana representatives in the present Congress. A strong movement is under way to have the Marksville Mounds established as a national monument. Scientific opinion, as represented in the reports of the Smithsonian Institution and the State University, is to regard the Marksville area as a major or "key site" in the southeast, providing evidences of cultural relationship between the mound-builder civilizations of the lower and upper Mississippi (Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin).

The prehistoric earthworks and enclosures of the Marksville site are among the best preserved in the southeastern United States. They are in better condition than many of our Civil and Revolutionary War fortifications despite the fact that they are conservatively placed by many American archaeologists as 1000 years old. The Advisory Board will be interested particularly in the results of archaeological explorations now in progress on the site, directed by Mr. James A. Ford of Louisiana State University.

Supervisor of Historic Sites.

Enclosure 1702661.

Archeological importance of the Marksville Site, Louisiana.

Within the past ten years concentrated archeological work by the Smithsonian Institution and especially local and state archeological organizations in the Mississippi Valley have revealed sufficient evidence, through the excavations of mounds and aboriginal village sites, to establish the outlines of prehistoric cultures within the drainage of the Mississippi River.

Since the publication of the first volume of the Smithsonian Institution's Contributions to Knowledge, which was devoted to the Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley, anthropologists have been aware of the existence of a relatively high and spectacular phase of prehistoric moundbuilders. In 1922 a report was published describing the excavation of a large group of mounds on land owned by a Mr. M.C. Hopewell in Ross County, southern Ohio. As a result of these excavations subsequent aboriginal sites in southern Ohio were examined and it was found that the material objects recovered closely resembled the artifacts from the mounds on the Hopewell farm. In due time these sites were classified as belonging to the Hopewell culture, a name arbitrarily established to classify certain cultural complexes belonging to this prehistoric period.

The builders of these mounds are responsible for the large earth embankments surrounding high mounds and their village sites. This feature is especially well preserved at the Marksville site. A portion was restored under my direction during excavations at Marksville in the fall of 1933.

Most of the specimens recovered from these burial mounds in the Upper Mississippi Valley may be considered as burial furniture. Over seventy-five per cent of the bodies recovered had been cremated, and the specimens placed with the ashes and partially burned bones on burial platforms. In mound No. 4 at Marksville none of the bodies recovered had been cremated, but all were flexed or contracted and placed in deep and shallow pits dug into the primary mound structure. Although all were badly crushed, two skulls have been sufficiently restored to permit measurements.

Numerous carefully excavated Hopewell mounds in Ohio and the adjoining states have yielded a wide variety of artistic specimens. Terra cotta sculptured figurines from the Turner site show

the fine artistic sense and development of their craftsmen and illustrate the fashions of dress worn by both men and women. This ability is manifest in other media. Stone platform tobacco pipes had the bowls realistically carved to portray practically every type of animal, bird, and reptile existing at that early time in the middle western states. At Marksville the pipes were of the same platform type, but modeled in clay. Pottery was elaborately decorated by using conventionalized bird motives. The designs were engraved into the soft clay before firing. By comparing plates 1 and 2 with plate 7 in the inclosed Proceedings paper one can readily see the very close resemblance in design elements and technique between vessels from Marksville and those from Ohio mounds.

One of the most outstanding features, and an important diagnostic trait of these aborigines is the widespread knowledge and trade routes established by them. From the Yellowstone National Monument in the Rocky Mountains they obtained and transported to Ohio large blocks of obsidian. From this material they chipped beautiful ceremonial knives and spear heads. Tortoise shell, barracuda jaws, and giant conch shells were obtained from the Gulf of Mexico. Mica from the mountains in North Carolina was used for decorative ornaments and artistic carvings. Copper, from the Lake Superior region, was hammered and carved into various artifacts-axes, ranging in weight from 28 pounds to some of only a few ounces, head ornaments, breast plates,etc. Fresh water pearls from the Ohio streams were pierced and strung as necklaces, bracelets,or sewed on woven garments.

This highly developed moundbuilding culture had been considered, until our researches into Louisiana, indigenous to the Upper Mississippi Valley. The few comparable objects found in the south, prior to these investigations, were looked upon as the result of trade material. With the analysis of the pottery vessels and accompanying data from Marksville and the 1938 investigations, it has been possible to definitely establish a cultural contact between the sites in the South and those classified as Hopewell in Ohio and the adjoining states. Even more important was the verification that this Marksville phase of the Hopewell culture represents the basic agricultural or sedentary group of aborigines in the Mississippi valley.

The archeological site at Marksville,Louisiana, is important, therefore, because it represents the type site in the South producing

the most conclusive evidence relating to this important prehistoric complex. Research has clearly outlined that subsequent cultural developments were affected by the influence of the social and artistic elements represented at Marksville. Decorative elements, especially on pottery vessels, are easily traced even to the historic Natchez, Choctaw, and Caddoan groups inhabiting the Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and eastern Texas areas. The site has been well preserved; numerous mounds, originals and those restored, add to the recreational and educational features.

F.M. Setzler,
Head Curator,
Department of Anthropology.

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Ocmulgee National Monument
Macon, Georgia
Feb. 27, 1939

REG. DIR.	☑	PL. & DEV.	☐
CH. CLERK	☐	FIELD ADM.	☐
PERSONNEL	☐	FISC. & ACC.	☐
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FISCAL DIV.	☐	PAYROLL	☐
PROC. OFF.	☐	LEGAL	☐

Memorandum for the Director:

Following is the report of my travel from Ocmulgee National Monument to Marksville, Louisiana and return.

This travel was made in accordance with Washington office instructions for the purpose of inspecting the proposed Marksville National Monument. Reports had already been submitted concerning the archaeological value of the area, so it will not be necessary for me to cover that phase. (Reference is made to the report of Mr. James A. Ford and Mr. Frank M. Setzler wherein the archaeological significance is completely covered). There is no doubt in my mind that the area is worthy of being admitted to monument status. Archaeological work now in progress, which I examined in great detail, confirms and strengthens the statements contained in the reports mentioned above.

The main purpose of my tour of inspection, as outlined in Mr. Lee's letters of January 26 and February 13, was to obtain maps, pictures, a statement of the archaeological features, to obtain data concerning boundaries desirable from the scientific, administrative, and development points of view, and to record any general impressions I was able to gather. First of all I should like to report there is, as indicated by correspondence, considerable local interest, although this interest is not general; by that I mean that several public -- spirited citizens are prepared to secure such land as is desirable for the monument and have the ground work all laid, but that the community as a whole is not aware of the projected monument development. There is a great deal of local interest in the archaeological work now in progress on the area, although there is no connection in the minds of the general public between this work and the National Park Service. During my visit I assumed the role of an interested student of archaeology and, except to such persons as indicated by Service correspondence, did not explain my connection with the National Park Service. Prior to discussing with Mr. Coco the problems of land acquisition, I walked over the entire acreage and visited all the archaeological features of the site.

The attached map, supplied by Mr. Ford, is accurate enough for our purposes. Mr. Ford will supply me with a more accurate map of certain portions within a few days. It will be noted that there are two major mound groups and two fortified areas. Almost all the mounds shown on the map are still visible. Plowing and erosion have destroyed one or two of the smaller ones.

With specific reference to the main object of my visit, i.e., boundary delineation, I have the following recommendations to make: The originally proposed boundary shown on the map will not be satisfactory. There is no need for acquisition of any land to the east of Old River. My blue penciled boundary revision is shown as running down the center line of the river. The originally proposed boundary to the west of the site is not satisfactory because it is far toonarrow to provide control of the approaches to the monument and it does not permit the development of the best possible roadway. It will be noted that the blue penciled revision goes six or seven hundred feet further west than the boundaries shown on the map. It will be difficult to extend the western boundary as far as desirable because there are several small land holders, sitting on hereditary holdings, and it would be almost impossible to purchase these. I am informed, however, that the area within the blue line can be secured without great difficulty. It is suggested that only one entrance be anticipated. Tentatively suggested is a southern entrance with a museum-administration building at this point. This would provide for entrance from the town of Marksville along the road indicated on the map. This road is already controlled by the city of Marksville and its right-of-way would be deeded to the Federal Government, enabling the Service to control the entrance road and keep down undesirable roadside stand development. The elongated nature of the area makes a road system rather than footpath network desirable. Penciled in red is a suggested route for this entrance and use road. In passing it should be stated a north entrance might be developed equally well. The southern is suggested solely because of the ownership of the Marksville entrance mentioned above.

With reference now to the exhibit possibilities of the area, research up to the present would indicate that the mound groups and fortifications would have to remain the chief attraction. Many of the mounds have been completely excavated or cut up in such a way as to leave little in the way of mound structure available for display. There are seven house circles directly north of the existing state park. One or two of these have been excavated but no restorable remains were encountered. One house pattern inside the existing State Park could be roofed over, but evidence as to its original form is inadequate. Current archaeological exploration indicates that burials will be found at random over the site. These burials could be replaced and exhibited, if this is deemed desirable. At present no such action is contemplated; therefore, the educational development of the site entails a complete, tho not necessarily large, museum story. There is ample evidence of the evolutionary relationship

between the southern village and the northern village represented on this area. Chronologically the northern portion is later and more recent, while the southern or earlier development has a close tiein with the Hopewellian cultures of the Ohio, as well as the later village on the north end of the area. An excellent opportunity is presented for an explanation of archaeological method as it concerns itself with the influence of cultures upon one another. In summary the mound groups and fortifications would remain the chief outdoor exhibit, while the small planned museum would vitalize and expand the relationship between the two portions of the site and other more distant archaeological site.

Physical development of the area involves the following operations: road building, as shown; road obliteration of certain existing roads; razing and obliteration of several tenant houses with their inevitable yard and field accompaniment; construction of two, and probably three, parking area; fencing along three sides of the monument; screen planting along the western boundary to obliterate the unsightly eastern sector of the town of Marksville; obliteration of cultivated fields which cover the entire area; considerable erosion control in the ravines and along the bluffs; construction of a museum-administration building; Water and power for use in the administration building can easily be secured from the city system, so these present no problem on this area. Personnel quarters and picnic development do not seem indicated. Mosquito control will present a very minor problem in one or two places where the ravines are draining sluggishly.

The men who are interested locally asked me as to what procedure would now be desirable. I made no recommendations except to suggest that no further action of any sort be initiated by them until notice from official sources. I was informed that the cost of the proposed acquisition would be between $7500 and $10,000. This land can be secured by the local men without difficulty.

While this report is strictly factual and goes no further than to outline the possibilities of the area as interpreted by the writer, I feel that the area is strategic and important from an archaeological point of view and the Service would do well to acquire it if such acquisition is in line with present policies. It can be easily acquired, indicates no development not possible with a CCC camp and should always be administrable by no more than two individuals after its development. Its position south of Highway 80 and adjacent to other national highways makes it probable that a fair number of out of town visitors would visit it.

Jesse D. Jennings,
Acting Superintendent.

JUL 17 1964

Marksville, Louisiana

Dear Senator Ellender:

It is a pleasure to inform you that in your State the historic site listed on the enclosure has been found to possess exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States.

This site has been evaluated in the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, and by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, and approved by me pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935.

As explained in the enclosures this historic property is eligible to receive, from the Department of the Interior, a certificate and bronze plaque designating it as a Registered National Historic Landmark. The Director of the National Park Service will notify the owner and provide him with the proper application forms.

In recognizing the historical importance of this site, we wish to commend the owner for the care and preservation of this property.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Stewart L. Udall

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Allen J. Ellender
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures

cc:
Regional Director, Southeast
Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg 5-18-64

JUL 17 1964

Marksville, Louisiana

~~Accokeek Creek Site, Maryland~~

Dear Senator Long:

It is a pleasure to inform you that in your State the historic site listed on the enclosure has been found to possess exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States.

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(sgd) Stewart L. Udall

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Russell B. Long
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures

cc:
Regional Director, Southeast
Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg 5-18-64

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★news release

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Brklacy - 343-4214

For Release JULY 19, 1964

PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S BIRTHPLACE HEADS LATEST NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK LIST

The late President John F. Kennedy's birthplace at 83 Beals Street in Brookline, Massachusetts, heads the latest list of 96 sites approved for Registered National Historic Landmark status, announced today by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.

The number of sites declared eligible for inclusion in the Registry now totals 548.

According to the Department's National Park Service, the 35th President's birthplace was built in late 1907 or early 1908. His father, Joseph, moved into the house in 1914, shortly after marrying Rose Fitzgerald, daughter of the then mayor of Boston. The late President was born there on May 29, 1917.

Secretary Udall explained that Registered National Historic Landmarks are areas that have been found to possess exceptional values and are of national significance in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. "Such landmarks," he noted, "are not units of the National Park System, but are recognized by the National Park Service with a certificate and bronze plaque."

The latest approved sites were recommended by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments from studies prepared by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings.

The Kennedy site was considered and approved in a special category, as were two other important landmarks: the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace at Staunton, Virginia, where the 28th President was born on December 28, 1856, and Wilson's house at 2340 S Street, N. W. in Washington, D. C., where the President lived from 1921 until his death on February 3, 1924.

Most of the 96 new landmarks illustrate important facets of the life of aboriginal peoples. They were presented to the Advisory Board in two major studies:

1. "Early Indian Farmers and Village Communities," which deals with the transition of Indian groups from hunters to farmers in the centuries before the coming of the white man.

2. "Contact with the Indians," which focuses on the changes in Indian life produced by association with Europeans over the past four centuries.

A theme study on agriculture traces the story of American agriculture through its various stages of development and identifies the historic sites that today best illustrate this vital area of our Nation's history. Included under this theme are the homes of Luther Burbank (California), John Deere (Illinois), Jethro Wood (New York), and Edmund Ruffin (Virginia); and the farm and workshop of Cyrus McCormick in Virginia.

Secretary Udall pointed out that three additional landmarks were added to the previously announced list commemorating the cattlemen's empire of the West: the San Bernardino and Sierra Bonita ranches in Arizona, and the headquarters of the Swan Land and Cattle Company in Wyoming.

Brief descriptions of the 96 sites are attached:

x x x

From special studies and investigation of certain sites, the Advisory Board listed the following sites and buildings for Landmark designation:

1. John F. Kennedy Home, Brookline, Massachusetts. The home in which John F. Kennedy, thirty-fifth President of the United States, was born, May 29, 1917, is located at 83 Beals Street in Brookline. The town of Brookline has erected a bronze commemorative plaque, bearing a relief portrait of the late President Kennedy, in the yard of the home.

2. Woodrow Wilson Birthplace at Staunton, Virginia. This manse in which the twenty-eighth President of the United States, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, was born, is owned and administered by the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation. Wilson's parents came to live at the manse in 1855; his father, the Reverend Joseph Ruggles Wilson, having accepted the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church at Staunton.

The Birthplace House, which is open to the public, has many treasured items associated with Wilson and his family.

3. The Woodrow Wilson House, Washington, D. C. This red brick Georgian style house at 2340 S Street, N. W. was presented to the American people under guardianship of the National Trust for Historic Preservation by Edith Bolling (Galt) Wilson, widow of President Wilson. Mr. Wilson retired to this home in 1921, and lived there until his death, February 3, 1924. Mrs. Wilson continued to live at the house until her death in 1961. The house contains furnishings, books, photographs and many items associated with the lives of the Wilsons. It is open to the public.

4. Fort Scott, at Fort Scott, Kansas. Buildings of this military post remain to remind us of the frontier of the West. Established in 1842, Fort Scott had three distinct periods of activity. The last period dated from 1869-1873, when it was reactivated to aid in quelling the Indian troubles. The 1st Kansas Regiment, Colored Infantry, the first Negro unit to be under fire, was stationed at Fort Scott during the Civil War.

5. Sycamore Shoals, near Elizabethtown, Tennessee. Sycamore Shoals, site of the administrative center of the Watauga settlements in the 1770s, was the scene of the treaty of 1775 that led to the settlement of Kentucky. Five years later the frontiersmen of Kentucky gathered here en route to the decisive Revolutionary battle at King's Mountain. The shoals are located on the Watauga River in Happy Valley just west of Elizabethtown in a setting slightly altered by modern intrusions.

6. The City of Rocks, Cassia Co., Idaho. This site, one of the great natural Landmarks of the California Trail, received its name from the fantastic formations of soft granite rock scattered over the valley of Circle Creek. In this valley, thousands of emigrants camped and many inscribed their names on the rocks. The area formed a narrow pass which the wagon trains followed over the summit of the mountains.

7. San Gabriel de Yungue-ouinge, across the Rio Grande River from San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico. This site, much of which has been recently excavated, marks the place of Don Juan de Onate's settlement, and the first Spanish-built capital of New Mexico (1598 or 1599). The structures at this site are the earliest European Church and house remains yet found in the present continental United States.

8. Marmes Rockshelter, about one mile above Lyons Ferry on the west side of the Palouse River, Washington. This rockshelter is considered to be the most outstanding archeological site yet discovered in the Northwest. Excavations of the site have produced the earliest burials in the Pacific Northwest and possibly the earliest burials encountered in the Western Hemisphere. Eight geological strata have been excavated and all of these contain cultural materials; some dating from 7550 years ago.

Early Indian Farmers and Village Communities

In the study of "Early Indian Farmers and Village Communities," 55 sites were listed by the Advisory Board. They are as follows:

1. Moundville, 1 mile west of Moundville, Alabama. Moundville is a well preserved Mississippian ceremonial site consisting of some 20 temple mounds. It is one of three major centers of the Southern Cult and has produced a great quantity of very elaborate ceremonial material dating approximately A.D. 1000-1500. Much of this material is displayed in an excellent museum which includes two burial areas with the burials remaining as they were uncovered.

2. Snaketown, Pinal Co., about 12 miles southwest of Chandler in the Gila River Indian Reservation, Arizona. Snaketown was one of the large Hohokam Indian "city states" of prehistoric Arizona. Excavations there not only proved the Hohokam to be one of the main culture groups of the Southwest, but also showed their chronological development.

3. Winona, Coconino Co., in Coconino National Forest near Winona, Arizona. Winona Ruin was one of the major Indian towns which developed just after the eruption of Sunset Crater in 1065. Excavations there showed great changes in the cultures of three Indian groups who joined together to form one tribe.

4. Point of Pines, near the village of Point of Pines, San Carlos Indian Reservation, Arizona. The region of the Apache settlement of Point of Pines, Arizona, contains many Indian ruins from early pit houses to huge pueblos up to about 800 rooms in size. Excavations here by the University of Arizona have defined new concepts about the Indians involved.

5. Pueblo Grande Ruin, Phoenix, Arizona. Pueblo Grande City Park in Phoenix preserves the ruins of one of the few remaining large Hohokam village sites in the area. The major features are a large platform mound standing some 20 feet above the desert floor and the remains of four prehistoric canals.

6. Kinishba, Gila Co., in the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, Arizona. Kinishba is a large pueblo consisting of two large and seven small masonry structures. The culture of the inhabitants is that of the climax period of the White Mountain area and is a blend of the cultures of two Indian groups. Maximum occupation of the site was in the late 1200's or early 1300's.

7. Gatlin, Maricopa Co., about 3 miles north of Gila Bend, Arizona. The platform mound at the Gatlin site is a unique ceremonial feature in southern Arizona seemingly influenced by the pyramid idea of Mexico. It and the associated ball court and cremation area seem to have been used by the Indians approximately from A.D. 900 to 1150.

8. Casa Malpais, Apache Co., 2 miles north of Springerville, Arizona. Casa Malpais is an unexcavated pueblo ruin about 10 acres in size showing considerable community effort to build it in an easily defended spot. It is one of three sites in the area which were occupied after A.D. 1300.

9. Nodena, Mississippi Co., near Wilson, Arkansas. This is the type of site of the Nodena phase, an important part of the Late Mississippian, or temple mound, culture in Arkansas. The site produced over 1,500 burials and great quantities of pottery vessels and other artifacts characteristic of the period. It was occupied in the last few centuries prior to the time of Columbus.

10. Parkin, Cross Co., near Parkin, Arkansas. This is the type site of Parkin phase, a late Mississippian culture component in northeast Arkansas. It is an extremely rich site, characterized by concentrated midden area of considerable depth and a well preserved temple mound.

11. Gunther Island Site 67 (Tolowot), on Gunther Island, Eureka, California. The Tolowot site on Gunther Island, California, is a tremendous Indian shell mound 14 feet deep on which was located a Wiyot Indian village. This site typifies the late prehistoric period for this coastal region.

12. Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons, Inyo Co., near China Lake, California. Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons in the Coso Range probably contain the most spectacular petroglyphs in the entire western United States. More than 20,000 petroglyphs, showing many designs--geometric, animal, and human--were placed in the rock over a great period of time.

13. Lowry Pueblo, 45 miles northwest of Cortez, Colorado. Lowry Pueblo was a small pueblo typical of the area except in having a ceremonial great kiva that seems to have become a ceremonial center, increasing in size to about 50 rooms. The great kiva and other features show definite influences from the south.

14. Fort Walton Mound, Fort Walton Beach, Florida. The Fort Walton mound site is the type site of a late prehistoric and early historic culture period represented along the northwest Florida coast. The large temple mound on the site has produced numerous burials.

15. Safety Harbor, Pinellas Co., in Phillipi Park, Florida. The Safety Harbor site is the type site of the Safety Harbor culture, a late prehistoric and early historic period which represents the culture of the Gulf Coast Timucua Indians at the time of European contact and somewhat before.

16. Etowah, near Cartersville, Georgia. This site is one of the three prehistoric major Southern Cult centers in the East, and has produced a vast quantity of elaborate ceremonial material. The site is excellently preserved as a park by the Georgia Historical Commission, and its small museum tells the story of the site very well.

17. Kolomoki, Early Co., near Blakely, Georgia. Preserved in Kolomoki Mounds State Park, this impressive site contains the largest mound group in the Gulf Coast area, and has yielded much elaborate pottery, some of which is displayed in a small on-site museum.

18. Cahokia Mounds, east of St. Louis in portions of Madison and Clair Counties, Illinois. One of the major Mississippian, or temple mound, sites, Cahokia is one of the largest prehistoric sites in the United States. It is dominated by the great Monks Mound, nearly 100 feet high. At one time the site had nearly 100 mounds and covered about three square miles.

19. Kincaid Site, Massac and Pope Counties, near Brookport, Illinois. This site, one of the major temple mound sites in southern Illinois, was occupied in late prehistoric times. Archeological materials uncovered at the site show connections with the Cahokia Mounds site, with the Angel Mounds site in Indiana, and with Mississippian sites in southeast Missouri.

20. Wittrock Site, O'Brien Co., near Sutherland, Iowa. The Wittrock Site is a small Mill Creek Culture Indian village which is unique among Mill Creek Sites, and possibly among village sites in Iowa, it being essentially undisturbed. Archeological materials recovered from the site indicate a culture which was in transition from eastern forest agriculture to Plains horticultural practices.

21. Phipps Site, Cherokee Co., north of Cherokee, Iowa. This is the type site of the Mill Creek Indian culture, which represents Late Woodland-Mississippian peoples who were developing (or acquiring) Plains agricultural patterns, late in the first millennium or early in the second millennium A.D.

22. Whiteford Site, Saline Co., 4 miles east of Salina, Kansas. The Whiteford Site is a prehistoric cemetery in which some 146 skeletons of the Smoky Hill Culture have been uncovered and left in situ, protected by a building, for commercial purposes.

23. Marksville, near Marksville, Louisiana. This is the type site for Marksville culture, an early southern variant of the Ohio Hopewell, which dates about the time of Christ. The burial mounds and the earthwork at the site are similar to those found in Ohio. Artifacts, also showing Hopewell connections, are displayed in an on-site museum administered by the Louisiana Parks and Recreation Commission.

24. Accokeek Creek Site, Prince Georges Co., west of Piscataway on the Potomac River, Maryland. This site has been intermittently occupied for at least 5,000 to 6,000 years with the major habitation taking place around A.D. 1400 and extending into historic times.

25. Holly Bluff, Yazoo Co., near Holly Bluff, Mississippi. This impressive prehistoric mound site with encircling wall and ditch still intact is the type site for the Lake George phase of the Mississippian, or temple mound, culture.

26. Research Cave, Callaway Co., near Portland, Missouri. Research Cave contains significant prehistoric Indian remains which were deposited, off and on, over a time span exceeding 8,000 years. Four major cultural periods are represented. Perishable materials found in the cave indicate that agriculture was practiced by the peoples of the two most recent cultures, Woodland and Mississippian.

27. Pictograph Cave, Yellowstone Co., near Billings, Montana. Pictograph Cave is a large rock shelter with striking pictographs, which contained stratified deposits reflecting occupation beginning with early Indian hunters and gatherers and coming up to the historic Indian period.

28. Hagen Site, Dawson Co., southeast of Glendive, Montana. The Hagen Site is a late prehistoric Indian village dating about 1600 A.D. It represents the Crow at about the time they split from the sedentary Hidatsa.

29. Ash Hollow Cave, Garden Co., 2 miles southeast of Lewellen, Nebraska. Ash Hollow Cave, a rockshelter which was occupied sporadically by prehistoric hunting parties for over 3500 years, was first occupied perhaps as early as 2000 B.C. The most recent occupation occurred in protohistoric times. Because of this long archeological sequence the cave was one of the key sites in establishing the sequence of events in Central Plains prehistory.

30. Coufal Site, Howard Co., on Davis Creek, Nebraska. The Coufal site is a major village of the Central Plains prehistoric cultural tradition and the one which has been most comprehensively studied. It was occupied about A.D. 1138 and gives information improving our knowledge of nearby Plains cultures.

31. Leary Site, Richardson Co., 4 miles southeast of Rulo, Nebraska. The Leary site is a large prehistoric village and burial area of the Oneota culture, a late precontact complex which in Nebraska represents incursions of Siouan peoples across the Missouri River into the Plains. Dating from about A.D. 1500 to A.D. 1600, it contains a wealth of information about life in this area shortly before the coming of the white man.

32. W. H. Schultz Site, Valley Co., 6 miles northwest of North Loup, Nebraska. The W. H. Schultz site is one of the earliest villages in the entire Plains. A small semisedentary village which dates from the middle part of the first millennium A.D., it was occupied by people who apparently lived by hunting animals and gathering wild plant foods. It is the type site of the Valley Focus, an early Plains Woodland complex.

33. Walker Gilmore Site, Cass Co., near Murray, Nebraska. The Walker Gilmore site is recognized as one of the most important and interesting sites in the entire Great Plains as it was there that evidence of Plains Woodland culture was first recognized. It is one of three key stratified sites which permitted outlining cultural sequences in the Central Plains.

34. Holmes Site, San Juan Co., across river from La Plata, New Mexico. The Holmes site is an important area with many differing Indian features including a variety of pueblos, ceremonial kivas, and towers on the points of the mesa. Although unexcavated, the site is still rated of great scientific value.

35. Manuelito Complex, McKinley Co., New Mexico. A great number of sites are located up and down the Manuelito Wash representing inhabitation from before A.D. 700 to 1400. One major late site includes about 1,500 rooms with indications of derivation out of earlier occupation in the immediate area.

36. San Lazaro, Santa Fe Co., near Cerrillos, New Mexico. San Lazaro contains two pueblos, one historic, one prehistoric, which together contain 1,950 rooms and form the largest ruin in the Galisteo Basin. These pueblos, abandoned soon after the 1680's, were the ancestral home of the present inhabitants of Hano in the Hopi villages.

37. Town Creek Indian Mound, Montgomery Co., about 4½ miles east of Mount Gilead, North Carolina. This site, which was the ceremonial center for a group of peoples with a Mississippian-influenced culture who moved northward into the area in late prehistoric times, contains the northernmost temple mound on the East Coast. Parts of the aboriginal construction have been reconstructed, and an on-site museum interprets the story of the Indians who lived there.

38. Newark Works, Licking Co., within Newark, Ohio. One of the few remaining Hopewellian earthworks dating from about the time of Christ, the Newark Works are being preserved by the State of Ohio as Mound Builders State Memorial. These earthworks are outstanding for the precision of layout and the magnitude of the plan.

39. Serpent Mound, Adams Co., near Locust Grove, Ohio. This magnificent effigy mound in the form of a serpent measures 1,300 feet long. Although built during Hopewellian times some 2000 years ago, it is still well preserved. The site is administered by the State of Ohio as Serpent Mound State Memorial.

40. Hopeton Earthworks, Ross Co., across the Scioto River from Mound City Group National Monument, Ohio. The Hopeton Earthworks is the site of a large Hopewell ceremonial center dating from about the time of Christ. It is composed of large conjoined circular and square earthen enclosures with attached small circular enclosures, four small mounds, and parallel earthen walls.

41. Fort Ancient, Warren Co., near Fort Ancient, Ohio. Although the earthwork at Fort Ancient was built some 2000 years ago by Hopewellian peoples, the name Fort Ancient is applied to the culture of a different people who reoccupied the site in late prehistoric times. The site is preserved by the State of Ohio as the Fort Ancient State Memorial.

42. McLemore Site, Washita Co., 4 miles west of Eakly, Oklahoma. The McLemore site is a key site to the study of Southern Plains prehistory because the archeological evidence uncovered there shows relationships both locally and with more distant Caddoan and Plains village cultures. It was a small agricultural village and burial ground dating from around A.D. 1300.

43. Stamper Site, Texas Co., about 2½ miles south of Optima, Oklahoma. A small village site on which are the remains of 18 single-room structures, the Stamper site was occupied between about A.D. 1300 and 1450. It is rather typical of the southern Plains, because at the time of occupation village culture extended from the Caddoan area in the eastern forests to the Pueblo area of New Mexico.

44. Arzberger Site, Hughes Co., 7½ miles east-southeast of Pierre, South Dakota. A huge fortified village site on top of a low mesa 1/2 mile north of the Missouri River, the Arzberger site contained 44 circular house rings surrounded by a ditched fortification with 24 bastions. The site is the northernmost outpost of the Central Plains tradition and is thought possibly to represent the ancestral Arikara Indians about A.D. 1500, when they were differentiating from the parent Pawnee. Although partially destroyed, much of this important site remains in a good state of preservation.

45. Bloom Site, Hanson Co., near Ethan, South Dakota. The Bloom Site is a classic example of a fortified village site. It was occupied about A.D. 1000 by Indians who were probably the ancestors of the Mandans. The village consists of some 25 lodge sites, and nearby is a series of about 50 burial mounds which may be related.

46. Fort Thompson Mounds, Buffalo Co., in vicinity of Fort Thompson, South Dakota. The Fort Thompson Mounds are a large group of low burial mounds dating from Plains Woodland times, about A.D. 800. They are of great importance as they contain the only evidence so far found for the first pottery-making peoples in the area.

47. Crow Creek Site, Buffalo Co., east bank of Ft. Randall Reservoir between Crow Creek and Wolf Creek, South Dakota. Crow Creek is a large fortified prehistoric Indian village site at which evidence has been uncovered for two separate occupations. One of these is related to the Over Focus of the Middle Missouri tradition; the other, to the Campbell Focus, affiliated with the Central Plains. Work at the site has been important in gaining an understanding of the relations between cultures of the Middle Missouri and the Central Plains during the time of Plains village life.

48. Langdeau Site, east bank of the Missouri River, just north of the neck of the Big Bend, South Dakota. The Langdeau site is a village site which is the type site for an as-yet-unnamed complex within the Middle Missouri tradition.

49. Mitchell Site, Davidson Co., Mitchell, South Dakota. Archeological materials excavated at the Mitchell site present evidence of the movement of a culture from the east into the Missouri River Valley with some combination with cultures already present in the area. It seems likely that this occurred about A.D. 1000 and that the people involved were ancestral to the Mandan.

50. Molstad Village, Dewey Co., on the west bank of the Missouri River about 18 miles below Mobridge, South Dakota. Molstad Village is a small fortified village site containing five circular house rings enclosed by a ditch with a bastion. It represents the important period of transition when Central Plains culture elements, such as circular houses, were moving up the Missouri and combining with Middle Missouri culture traits, such as bastioned fortifications, to form the Coalescent tradition which was the basis for the way of life practiced by the Mandan, Arikara, and Hidatsa when the white man arrived.

51. Harrell Site, Young Co., 1 mile north of South Bend, Texas. The Harrell site is the type site of the Henrietta Focus, the southernmost of the Plains Village agricultural complexes. This focus resembles in many ways the village cultures of central and western Oklahoma, and is currently felt to represent one of the groups ancestral to the historic Wichita tribes. There are evidences showing contacts with the Caddoan peoples to the east and the Pueblo peoples to the west. It is a key site in the study of the development of Southern Plains village life.

52. Landergin Mesa, Oldham Co., east side of East Alamosa Creek, Texas. The Landergin Mesa site is one of the finest ruins of the unique Panhandle Culture, being one of the largest, best stratified, least damaged, and most spectacularly located. The culture is a combination of a Plains agricultural village people showing many Southwest Pueblo influences.

53. Alkali Ridge, San Juan Co., Utah. Excavations along Alkali Mesa closed the gap in the known development of the now famous Pueblo Indian Culture by defining the A.D. 900 to 1100 period. Also evident was the continual growth of the culture from the late 700's to the 1200's, and this seems to be the area out of which the ceremonial kiva developed.

54. Grave Creek Mound, Marshall Co., Moundsville, West Virginia. One of the largest prehistoric mounds in the Eastern United States. It is representative of the burial mound tradition of the Adena culture about the time of Christ.

55. Aztalan, Jefferson Co., Sections 17, 20, 21, T 7N, R 14E, Wisconsin. A large temple mound site of the period of 1200- 1300 A.D., this is the northernmost of the large Mississippian sites.

Contact with the Indians

In the study of "Contact with the Indians," 16 sites were listed by the Advisory Board. They are as follows:

1. Apalachicola Fort, Russell Co., near Holy Trinity, Alabama. Fort Apalachicola, the northernmost Spanish outpost on the Chattahoochee River, was built by the Spanish in 1690 to prevent the English from gaining a foothold among the Lower Creek Indians in Alabama and Georgia.

2. Awatovi, Navaho Co., on the Hopi Indian Reservation, Arizona. In July, 1540 one week after the capture of the Zuni village of Hawikuh, Coronado dispatched Pedro de Tovar to explore Tusayan, which like Cibola, was thought by the Spanish to be a kingdom of seven cities. Tovar's expedition reached Tusayan later that month and thus became the first Europeans to visit the Hopi pueblos. A Franciscan Mission, San Bernardino, was begun in 1629 at Awatovi, the first of the Hopi villages visited by Tovar in 1540.

3. Old Oraibi, Navaho Co., Hopi Indian Reservation, Arizona. Oraibi, located on top of Third Mesa in the Hopi Reservation, is probably the oldest continuously inhabited pueblo in the Southwest. The site was first occupied in the middle 1100's and has survived, primarily due to dependable springs, from prehistoric into the historic.

4. Old Kaskaskia Village, La Salle Co., near Starved Rock State Park, Illinois. The Old Kaskaskia Village site is the best documented historic Indian site in the Illinois River Valley. It was first recorded by Louis Joliet and Father Jacques Marquette in the summer of 1673.

5. El Cuartelejo (Scott County Pueblo Site), Kansas. El Cuartelejo is a ruin left by a group of Picuris Indians who left the Southwest in 1691 because of friction with the Spanish. Other Pueblo people had fled to join the Cuartelejo Apache as early as the 1660's.

6. Tobias-Thompson Complex, Rice Co., near Geneseo, Kansas. The Tobias-Thompson complex are parts of a single village which shows contact with the Europeans of about Coronado's time and the Southwest. Excavations here have partially been responsible for the definition of the local cultural development. It contains one of five known features known as "council-circles" the use of which is not known.

7. Kathio Site, Mille Lacs Co., Vineland, Minnesota. The Kathio Site is the ancestral home of a part of the present-day Dakota Indians and was an important contact site between the French and the Indians. The Dakota lost it to the Chippewa in the Battle of Kathio in about 1740.

8. Fatherland Plantation Site, Natchez, Mississippi. The Grand Village of the Natchez (Fatherland Plantation Site) is probably the most thoroughly documented Indian site in the southeastern United States. First described in 1700 by Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville, mention of the town occurs many times in early 18th-century sources.

9. Carrington Osage Village Site, Saline Co., north of Malta Bend, Missouri. The Carrington Osage Village Site was the site of a Great Osage settlement during the latter part of the 18th and the early part of the 19th centuries. In 1806, the village was visited by Captain Zebulon M. Pike who recorded enough information concerning its locale to make positive identification of the site possible. It was then the village of Pawhuska, or White Hair, the noted chief of the Great Osage. Archeological excavation at the site has uncovered large quantities of artifacts of aboriginal and European workmanship.

10. Utz Site (23SA2), Saline Co., 12 miles north of Marshall, Missouri. The Utz Site is believed to have been the principal settlement of the Missouri Indians from before 1673 until 1728. Marquette's map of 1673-1674, the best surviving record of the pioneering voyage which he and Jolliet made down the Mississippi in 1673, placed the "Messourit" on the Pekittanoui (Missouri) River in the approximate location of the Utz site.

11. Hill Site, Webster Co., 7 miles south of Red Cloud, Nebraska. The Hill (or Superior 1) site is generally accepted as being the Kitkehahki, or Republican Pawnee, village where Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike, in September 1806, caused the Spanish flag to be lowered and the American flag raised.

12. Palmer Site (25HW1), Howard Co., near Palmer, Nebraska. First reported by Lewis and Clark in 1804, the Palmer Site, a Skidi Pawnee village site, is known to have been occupied for the first 40 years of the 19th century.

13. Big Bead Mesa, Sandoval Co., north of Marquez, New Mexico. Big Bead Mesa is a mute monument to the Navajo retreat from their homeland on the upper San Juan River because of conflicts with the Ute-Comanche alliance, and opening wedge that allowed them to become an aggressive power in central New Mexico. Big Bead Mesa was a base for them during this change.

14. Boughton Hill (Gannagaro) Site, Ontario Co., in the vicinity of Victor, New York. Boughton Hill is the site of Gannagaro, "the great town" of the Seneca who were the westernmost of the five nation League of the Iroquois. It best represents them during the period of contact with the Europeans.

15. Big Hidatsa Village Site, Mercer Co., north of Stanton, North Dakota. The Big Hidatsa Village site was the largest of three Hidatsa villages located near the mouth of the Knife River in the period from about 1740 to 1845. About 1770 the Mandan Indians moved up the Missouri and established two villages near those of the Hidatsa. These five villages formed an extremely important center for the northern Plains fur trade. The Big Hidatsa Village site is an excellent example of the effects of 100 years of fur trade contact and of the Indian acculturation resulting from it.

16. Menoken Indian Village Site, Burleigh Co., near Menoken, North Dakota. The Menoken Indian Village Site is generally accepted as being the site of the first Mandan Indian Village reached by Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, Sieur de la Verendrye's expedition of 1738.

Agriculture

In the study of "Agriculture," 14 sites were listed by the Advisory Board. They are as follows:

1. Luther Burbank House and Garden, California. Often called the "Plant Wizard," Luther Burbank for half a century experimented with thousands of plants and was the originator of many important cultivated varieties of fruits, flowers, vegetables, grains, and grasses. He established the Burbank Experimental Farm of some 18 acres in 1885. Located in Santa Rosa, it now consists of three acres of land containing the 1883-1926 experimental garden and his 1883-1906 house, the original greenhouse, and a stable. The garden is now a park. The house, occupied by Mrs. Burbank, will revert to the city upon her death.

2. Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Connecticut. In 1875, the State of Connecticut created the first state agricultural experiment station. Ever since, it has remained a leader of its kind and has made notable contributions to American agricultural development. The station's oldest building is Osborne Library, erected in 1882-83. It is now only one of numerous buildings at the station.

3. John Deere House, Grand Detour, Illinois. John Deere's famous plow, introduced on a wide scale in the 1850's, transformed farming in the rich lands of the Middle West. Unlike other plows, it scoured the sticky prairie soil cleanly and for the first time permitted intensive cultivation of vast areas of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Deere's home, erected shortly after he settled in Grand Detour in 1836, has been slightly altered from its original appearance.

4. Knapp-Wilson House, Ames, Iowa. Completed in 1861, this building on the campus of Iowa State University was the home of Seaman A. Knapp, noted agriculturist and teacher, and of James Wilson, agriculturist and U. S. Secretary of Agriculture from 1897 to 1913. It also commemorates Iowa State College as the first formally-authorized land-grant institution. The house presently serves as the residence of the Dean of Agriculture.

5. Oliver H. Kelley House, Minnesota. Built in the 1860's, the home of Oliver H. Kelley, founder of the National Grange movement, served as the headquarters for the Grange during its formative years from 1868 to 1870. Now a shrine of organized agriculture in the United States, it is located two miles south of Elk River on U.S. 10 and is equipped with typical farm furnishings of the late 19th century.

6. Sanborn Field and Soil Erosion Plots, Columbia, Missouri. Established in 1888 and located on the campus of the University of Missouri, Sanborn Field has been the scene of significant investigations of soil treatments and cropping systems. It is the oldest completely organized soil and crop experimental field in the United States.

7. Carlsbad Reclamation Project, New Mexico. This series of dams and ditches was constructed along the Pecos River in the late 1880's by private enterprise and, now expanded and integrated with a Federal system of larger scope, graphically illustrates the evolution from private to public reclamation projects in the arid West.

8. Elkanah Watson Home, Port Kent, New York. In the early 1800's Watson conceived and inaugurated the agricultural fair as a means of stimulating competition among farmers and thereby encouraging better livestock and crops. He thus laid the foundation for the development of this institution to the important place it has long occupied in American agriculture. He built his Port Kent home in 1828.

9. Jethro Wood Home, Poplar Ridge, New York. Jethro Wood invented the first iron plow in 1819. It proved of such superior design to its predecessors that it became to 19th-century farmers what the tractor is to modern farmers. Wood's innovations formed a major contribution to the development of the modern plow. His home at Poplar Ridge, a two-story clapboard, has been slightly altered from its appearance in Wood's day.

10. Coker Experimental Farms, Hartsville, South Carolina. James Coker and his son David were among the pioneers in transforming the Southern cotton-seed industry into the modern scientific industry of today. Their experimental farms, still in operation in the Hartsville area, have contributed importantly to improved varieties of corn and cotton through the years following the Civil War.

11. Porter Farm, near Terrell, Texas. The first cooperative farm demonstration took place on the Walter C. Porter Farm and thus gave birth to the present nationwide Agricultural Extension Service program. The original demonstration fields are still operated by Porter's sons.

12. Espada Mission Acequia and Aqueduct, Texas. Impressive remnants of a five-mile water system serving San Antonio, the Espada dam, acequia (canal), and aqueduct were built by Spanish missionaries between 1731 and 1745. Spanish-American farmers still water their fields from the stone distribution system.

13. Cyrus McCormick Farm and Workshop, Walnut Grove, Virginia. Here in 1831, Cyrus McCormick developed the mechanical reaper, which in two decades produced revolutionary advances in agricultural techniques. The workshop is a small log building on high stone foundations. Nearby is the two-story brick family home of the McCormicks. The buildings are located about 18 miles south of Staunton.

14. Edmund Ruffin Plantation, Marlbourne, Virginia. Scene of soil conservation experiments in the middle 19th century that dramatized the need and the techniques for reviving exhausted farmlands, Ruffin's Marlbourne Plantation is located three miles west of the Pamunkey River on U.S. 360. His home and grave are preserved here.

The Cattlemen's Empire

In the supplemental study of "The Cattlemen's Empire," the Advisory Board listed 3 sites, as follows:

1. San Bernardino Ranch, about 17 miles east of Douglas, Arizona. This ranch provides the finest illustration of the continuity of Spanish-Mexican and American cattle ranching in the Southwest. One of the country's great ranches, abundant springs of water caused this site also to become a crossroads of travel from Spanish colonial times to the California gold-rush period. The headquarters complex of buildings, dating from the time of American ownership, are still in use. The ranch is privately owned.

2. Sierra Bonita Ranch, Graham Co., southwest of Bonita, Arizona. The Sierra Bonita Ranch was the first permanent American cattle ranch in Arizona to challenge and survive the Apache terror. Col. Henry C. Hooker, founder of the ranch, controlled a range of some 30 miles long and 30 miles wide. His ranch house, built on a site once occupied by a Spanish hacienda, was an almost impregnable fortress with thick adobe walls and gun ports. The Sierra Bonita is an operating ranch, still in the Hooker family.

3. Swan Land and Cattle Company Headquarters, Chugwater, Wyoming. The Swan Land and Cattle Company was one of the most famous of the foreign stock concerns that flourished in the American West during the heyday of the range cattle industry. Organized in Scotland in 1883, it boasted a capital of three million dollars and within three years grazed more than 113,000 cattle on a million acres of Wyoming grassland. Many of the original structures still survive to recall a colorful and important episode of the cattlemen's empire.

AUG 7 - 1964

L58-RHAH

Marksville, Louisiana

Hon. John H. Reed
Governor of Louisiana
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dear Governor Reed:

It is a pleasure to inform you that the property described in the enclosure has been found to possess exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States.

It has been studied by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings; evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments; and approved by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935.

As explained in the enclosed folder, this site is eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status. A certificate and bronze plaque attesting to this status may be obtained upon your application and your agreement to adhere to simple preservation practices. Should you wish to apply for the certificate and plaque, copies of the application form are enclosed. These should be completed in triplicate for each site to be certified. Two copies for each site should be returned to the National Park Service. You may retain the third copy of each application as part of your own records.

At the present time, the work of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings is incomplete. From time to time, announcements will be made of additional sites eligible for Landmark certification.

The Registry of National Historic Landmarks is designed to encourage the preservation of the Nation's historical and archeological heritage. We will be happy to have you participate in the Program.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Littleton
Reg. Dir., Southeast

Mendel
My

RECEIVED
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE
SEP 14 10 42 AM '64

September 8, 1964
(Date)

H34

RH SEP 14 1964
Littleton
cwd 9/14

Mr. George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Hartzog:

As the (owner,owners) of Marksville Prehistoric Indian Park located in
(Name of site)

Marksville (City) Avoyelles Parish (County) Louisiana (State)

(I,we) hereby make formal application for a certificate (x) and bronze marker, 17" x 18", (x) designating this historic property as a Registered National Historic Landmark. (Check one or both as desired).

1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as having exceptional value and worthy of Registered National Historic Landmark status (I,we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and to the best of (my,our) ability, the historical integrity of this important part of the national cultural heritage.

2. Toward this end, (I,we) agree to continue to use the property only for purposes consistent with its historical character.

3. (I,We) also agree to permit an annual visit to the property by a representative of the National Park Service, as a basis for continuing landmark status.

4. If, for any reason, the three conditions mentioned above cannot continue to be met, it is agreed that the Registered National Historic Landmark status shall cease and that until such status is restored by the Secretary of the Interior, neither the Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate nor the Marker will be displayed.

Sincerely yours,

Lamar Gibson

Lamar Gibson, Director
State Parks and Recreation Commission

JAN 15 1965

File:
Marksville

H34
SER (RS)

JAN 14 1965

PH
Mr. Tillson

Mr. Herman C. Willem
Recreation Supervisor
State Parks and Recreation Commission
P. O. Drawer 1111
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Mr. Willem:

Both the bronze plaque and certificate for the Marksville Prehistoric Indian Site should be completed well in advance of the May 16 date which you have selected for the presentation program. We will arrange to have the plaque sent directly to you on completion. This should allow time for you to place it prior to the day of the ceremony.

Mr. Cox is away from the office at present, but I am sure that the May date will be entirely agreeable. When you have completed your detailed planning for the program, it will be helpful if you will give us a copy of the order of events. If, in the meantime, we can be of assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED)

E. M. Lisle
Acting Regional Director

Copy to:
Director
Supt., Chalmette NHP

February 18, 1965

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southeast Region

From: Chief, Division of History Studies

Subject: Registered National Historic Landmark Certificates for Sites in the Southeast Region

We are enclosing the following Registered National Historic Landmark Certificates for sites in your Region:

Nodena Site, Arkansas
Marksville Prehistoric Indian Site, Louisiana
Fatherland Plantation Site, Mississippi
Sycamore Shoals of the Watauga, Tennessee

Please notify us well in advance of presentation of the certificates to the respective owners, whether formally or informally.

Robert M. Utley

Enclosures 4

cc:
Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg

L58

SER (RS)

APR 1 6 1965

RH

Mr. Herman C. Willem
Recreation Supervisor
State Parks & Recreation Commission
Old State Capitol Bldg.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
P. O. Drawer 1111 - 70821

Dear Mr. Willem:

We have received your very kind invitation for Regional Director Cox to be the guest speaker at the unveiling of the Marksville Prehistoric Indian Site plaque on the afternoon of May 16, 1965. Mr. Cox is away from the office today and has asked me to express his appreciation for your invitation and his regret that he will not be able to accept.

Since our last correspondence with you, Mr. Cox has been asked to attend the First European International Congress in Park Administration which is being held in May. He will not return from Europe until May 23.

Mr. Cox would like to suggest that Mr. Jean C. Harrington make the presentation for him. Mr. Harrington is Resource Studies Advisor on our staff. The Registered National Historic Landmark program and other preservation and research programs of the Park Service within the Southeast Region are his primary responsibility. In adtion, Mr. Harrington is an archeologist and will be most interested in, and familiar with, the work that has been done at the Marksville Site.

If this change is agreeable to you, Mr. Harrington will be pleased to join you as guest speaker in making the presentation.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED)

E. M. Lisle
Acting Regional Director

cc:
Director

H34-RH October 5, 1964

Mr. Lamar Gibson
Director
State Parks and Recreation Commission
Old State Capitol Building
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Mr. Gibson:

We are pleased to receive your application for the certificate and bronze plaque designating the Marksville Site near Marksville, Louisiana, a Registered National Historic Landmark.

In preparing the Landmark certificates and plaques for archeological sites, our policy is to use the names by which the sites are known in the archeological literature rather than the administrative titles which they may bear. For this reason, if it is agreeable with you, we would prefer using only the name "Marksville Site" on the certificate and plaque. Should you feel this would not provide sufficient identification, we would suggest the use of a descriptive name such as "Marksville Mounds and Earthworks" or "Marksville Prehistoric Indian Site." Please let us know your thoughts on the matter, so that we may proceed with preparation of the certificate and plaque.

Presentations of the certificates and plaques are made by the Regional Offices of the National Park Service. Since Louisiana is among the states included in our Southeast Region, the certificate and plaque for the Marksville site will be presented to you by Mr. Elbert Cox, Regional Director of that Region, or by a representative of his Office. Should you wish the Service's help in planning a ceremony for the presentation, Mr. Cox will be glad to assist you. His address is: Regional Director Elbert Cox, Southeast Region, National Park Service, Federal Building, P. O. Box 10008, Richmond, Virginia 23240.

We are happy to have the Marksville Site included in the Registry of National Historic Landmarks.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Division of
History Studies

cc:
Regional Director, Southeast - w/c of application

cc:
Mr. Littleton
JWWalker:mlw

OCT 29 1964

~~NHL~~ H34
~~H54~~
SER (RS)

OCT 26 1964

~~RW~~
RH

Mr. Lamar Gibson, Director
State Parks and Recreation Commission
Old State Capitol Building
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Gibson:

We have been informed by our Washington office that you have accepted their invitation to enter the Marksville Prehistoric Indian site in the Registry of National Historic Landmarks. We are indeed pleased to welcome your participation. As the Registry becomes more complete, its value as a record of nationally important historic sites is enhanced.

The Marksville Site has been called the best example of the connection of Ohio Hopewell Culture with that in the South, and, with other sites in the locality, forms the basis for the best known sequence in the Southeastern United States. We feel that the awarding of the Landmark certificate and plaque to this outstanding site is of general interest.

In the past, owners of Landmark sites have often chosen to make the presentation of the certificate and marker the occasion for a formal program because of the public interest attached to them. If you would like to plan a presentation program, we will be pleased to have a representative from this office join you to make the presentation. However, should you prefer an informal presentation without public ceremonies, we will, of course, follow your preference.

The certificate and bronze marker for the Marksville site will be forwarded to this office for presentation. The certificate should be prepared within a few weeks. The marker, however, must be individually lettered and cast for each Landmark, and, thus, its

SER

production usually takes several months. We will inform you as soon as both the certificate and marker have been completed. At that time, we can make final plans for their presentation in accordance with your wishes.

Sincerely yours,

E. M. Lisle
Acting Regional Director

cc:
Director

NOV 17 1964

H34
SER (RS)

NOV 10 1964

RH
Mr. Littleton

Mr. Lamar Gibson, Director
State Parks & Recreation Commission
Old State Capitol Building
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
P. O. Drawer 1111 - 70821

Dear Mr. Gibson:

I was pleased to learn that you anticipate planning a ceremony for the presentation of the Registered Landmark certificate and plaque for the Marksville Prehistoric Indian Site. We will be glad to assist in any way that we can; it will be a pleasure to join you in recognizing this significant archeological site.

As suggested by your letter, we will use the name Marksville Prehistoric Indian Site on the marker unless you advise otherwise.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED)

Elbert Cox
Regional Director

cc:
Director

SER

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Field Area
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 15, 1996

Dr. Thomas Eubanks
State Archeologist
Office of Cultural Development
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Dear Dr. Eubanks:

Enclosed is a draft of the National Historic Landmark (NHL) for the Marksville Site, which was designated as an NHL in 1964. This nomination was developed by this Office in 1989 and sent to the National Register office in Washington as part of an effort to establish a boundary for this nationally significant property. The NHLs designated before 1966 did not have boundaries.

This office was recently contacted by one of the owners (the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe) regarding a portion of the area proposed for inclusion in the NHL boundary. They indicated they would object to having their land included in the NHL boundary.

As the current nomination is now 7 years old, this office requested Washington to return it to our office so we may attempt to establish a boundary for this property in keeping with the wishes of the landowners and review it to ensure it is accurate and current. We would appreciate it if you could review the enclosed document with special attention to the following.

1. Is the information included in the nomination accurate and current? Have there been any further investigations at the property since 1989 which should be included?

2. The current NHL nomination consists of a series of separate areas containing prehistoric earthworks dating from the Middle Woodland to Plaquemine Periods. Should the Marksville nomination concentrate on just the Middle Woodland (Marksville) properties, or should it, as presently written, include all prehistoric periods?

3. Should the significance of the nomination be expanded to include these sites within the context of Works Progress Administration archeological work of the 1930s?

4. Is the integrity of the earthworks, as presented in the nomination, still accurate? Do you recommend a site visit to check on the integrity of the earthworks and obtain current photographic documentation?

We would appreciate hearing from your office on the above NLT January 15, 1997. Please indicate at that time if you believe a site visit is required and when it might best be accomplished in conjunction with your office.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cecil N. McKithan, Chief
National Register Programs Division

Enclosure

cc: C. Shull
National Register, WASO

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Field Area
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 15, 1996

Mr. William Day
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe
P.O. Box 331
Marksville, Louisiana 71351

Dear Mr. Day:

Enclosed is a draft of the National Historic Landmark (NHL) for the Marksville Site, which was designated as an NHL in 1964. This nomination was developed by this office in 1989 and sent to the National Register office in Washington as a part of an effort to establish a boundary for this nationally significant property. The NHLs designated before 1966 did not have boundaries.

This office was recently contacted by yourself as a representative of one of the owners of a portion of the area proposed for inclusion in the NHL boundary (Nick Site (16AV22). You indicated the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe would object to having their land included in the NHL boundary.

As the current nomination is now 7 years old, this office requested Washington to return it to our office so we may attempt to establish a boundary for this property in keeping with the wishes of the landowners and review it to ensure it is accurate and current. We would appreciate it if you could review the enclosed document with special attention to the following.

1. Is the information included in the nomination accurate and current? Have there been any further investigations at the property since 1989 which should be included?

2. The current NHL nomination consists of a series of separate areas containing prehistoric earthworks dating from the Middle Woodland to Plaquemine Periods. Should the Marksville nomination concentrate on just the Middle Woodland (Marksville) properties, or should it, as presently written, include all prehistoric periods?

3. Should the significance of the nomination be expanded to include these sites within the context of Works Progress Administration archeological work of the 1930s?

4. Is the integrity of the earthworks, as presented in the nomination, still accurate? Do you recommend a site visit to check on the integrity of the earthworks and obtain current photographic documentation?

We would appreciate hearing from your office on the above NLT January 15, 1997, and we are enclosing information on the NHL program. At that time, should the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe still desire the National Park Service (NPS) to delete the Nick Site from the proposed boundary for Marksville, please indicate this in your response. This office will then complete the boundary study in accordance with the tribe's desires.

A similar letter and documentation was also sent to Dr. Thomas Eubanks, Louisiana State Archeologist. If a site visit is deemed necessary to acquire new photographic documentation and check on the integrity of the earthworks we will advise you when Dr. Eubanks and a representative of the NPS will be coming to Marksville, as we would like your professional advice on these matters.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cecil N. McKithan, Chief
National Register Programs Division
Southeast Field Area

Enclosure

cc: C. Shull
National Register, WASO

Author: Paul Lusignan at NP-WASO-NRHE
Date: 4/21/99 11:07 AM
Priority: Normal
Receipt Requested
TO: Carol Shull, John Sprinkle, Patty Henry
Subject: Re: Marksville Site NHL

Carol, John, Patty:

I talked with Bill Day this Morning regarding a letter sent by Cecil McKithan to the Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana concerning the boundary study for the 1964 Marksville Site NHL. The April 15, 1999 letter solicits tribal comments on the proposed NHL boundary study. The letter reports that earlier requests for tribal comment were not returned.

Mr. Day, former preservation officer for the Tunica-Biloxi, was concerned (mad) with the letters reference to a lack of comment by the tribe since he had several telephone and personal communications with both Mark Barnes and Tom Eubanks (?) regarding the boundary study. (The Tunica-Biloxi did not want to open up for comment anything about sites on their land.) Without providing specific direction, Mr. Day wanted us to follow up on the letter and clarify this issue. He is no longer with the Tunica, but nevertheless was concerned about the reflection on his work.

Mr. Day also mentioned that he had second hand information that the Tunica-Biloxi may have bulldozed portions of the Marksville site on their land, which might require additional NHL study. (He may or may not wish to have it known that he provided this information to us.)

Since he may call me back regarding this issue, I would appreciate being copied in on any response, unless you talk with him directly. (I have a faxed copy of the McKithan letter, which was cc to Carol.)

Paul Lusignan

POST OFFICE BOX 34
Building 801B, 11TH Street
CAMP BEAUREGARD
PINEVILLE, LOUISIANA 71360-3737

Fax Cover Sheet

COMMAND/OFFICE	NAME/OFFICE SYMBOL	OFFICE TELEPHONE NO.	FAX NO.
FROM: Bill Day	NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS ADVISOR	(318)641-3404	(318)641-3328
TO: PAUL LUSIGMAN	NATIONAL REGISTER	(202) 343-1628	202 343-1836

DATE-TIME	MONTH	YEAR	NO. PAGES	CLASSIFICATION	RELEASER'S SIGNATURE
21	4	99	3		BD

REMARKS:

NPS letter Re: Marksville Site --

Wasn't sure
first FAX
Was Transmitted

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 15, 1999

Mr. Earl J. Barbry, Sr.
Tribal Chairman
Tunica-Biloxi Indians of
Louisiana, Inc.
P.O. Box 331
Marksville, Louisiana 71351

RECEIVED
APR 2
DIV. OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Dear Mr. Barbry:

On July 19, 1964, the Secretary of the Interior designated the Marksville Site as a National Historic Landmark (NHL), as part of a nation-wide NHL theme study on prehistoric sites. At that time NHLs so designated were not required to have boundaries. However, with the passage of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act, the National Park Service began a decades long effort to establish boundaries for more than 1200 NHLs across the country. The creation of boundaries for these nationally significant properties is an important step in the protection of these cultural resources from federal activities. On August 23, 1989, a NHL nomination with a proposed boundary, as developed by this office, was sent to the National Register in Washington, DC for review and comment.

In June of 1996, our office received a telephone call from the Director of the Tunica-Biloxi Museum, expressing concern about the 1989 proposed boundary for the Marksville Site, which included lands owned by the Tunica-Biloxi tribe. It was explained that the proposed boundary for this NHL had been developed seven years earlier, prior to this lands acquisition by the tribe. Our office had never heard back on the Marksville Site NHL study from the National Register so it was agreed that our office would request the Register to return the NHL study to our office to allow the Director an opportunity to comment on the study. On November 15, 1996, copies of this nomination were sent to the Director of the Tunica-Biloxi Museum and the Louisiana State Archeologist. From their combined comments a revised nomination and proposed boundary would be developed.

This office has received comments on the Marksville NHL study from the State Archeologist and an updated nomination and proposed boundary has been developed utilizing that information (see

enclosed). However, after twice sending the nomination to the Director of the Tunica-Biloxi Museum we have never received any comments.

We understand that there is a new Director for the Museum and we are, therefore, sending your office another copy of the Marksville NHL study. We hope to receive your comments on the text of the nomination and the proposed boundary at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (404) 562-3171.

Sincerely,

Cecil N. McKithan
Chief, National Register
Programs Division

Enclosure

cc:

Mr. Earl J. Barbry, Jr., Director, Tunica-Biloxi Museum

State Archeologist, Louisiana, SHPO

Carol Shull, Keeper, National Register

Early Indian Farmers and Village Communities

In the study of "Early Indian Farmers and Village Communities," 55 sites were listed by the Advisory Board. They are as follows:

1. Moundville, 1 mile west of Moundville, Alabama. Moundville is a well preserved Mississippian ceremonial site consisting of some 20 temple mounds. It is one of three major centers of the Southern Cult and has produced a great quantity of very elaborate ceremonial material dating approximately A.D. 1000-1500. Much of this material is displayed in an excellent museum which includes two burial areas with the burials remaining as they were uncovered.

2. Snaketown, Pinal Co., about 12 miles southwest of Chandler in the Gila River Indian Reservation, Arizona. Snaketown was one of the large Hohokam Indian "city states" of prehistoric Arizona. Excavations there not only proved the Hohokam to be one of the main culture groups of the Southwest, but also showed their chronological development.

3. Winona, Coconino Co., in Coconino National Forest near Winona, Arizona. Winona Ruin was one of the major Indian towns which developed just after the eruption of Sunset Crater in 1065. Excavations there showed great changes in the cultures of three Indian groups who joined together to form one tribe.

4. Point of Pines, near the village of Point of Pines, San Carlos Indian Reservation, Arizona. The region of the Apache settlement of Point of Pines, Arizona, contains many Indian ruins from early pit houses to huge pueblos up to about 800 rooms in size. Excavations here by the University of Arizona have defined new concepts about the Indians involved.

5. Pueblo Grande Ruin, Phoenix, Arizona. Pueblo Grande City Park in Phoenix preserves the ruins of one of the few remaining large Hohokam village sites in the area. The major features are a large platform mound standing some 20 feet above the desert floor and the remains of four prehistoric canals.

6. Kinishba, Gila Co., in the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, Arizona. Kinishba is a large pueblo consisting of two large and seven small masonry structures. The culture of the inhabitants is that of the climax period of the White Mountain area and is a blend of the cultures of two Indian groups. Maximum occupation of the site was in the late 1200's or early 1300's.

7. Gatlin, Maricopa Co., about 3 miles north of Gila Bend, Arizona. The platform mound at the Gatlin site is a unique ceremonial feature in southern Arizona seemingly influenced by the pyramid idea of Mexico. It and the associated ball court and cremation area seem to have been used by the Indians approximately from A.D. 900 to 1150.

8. Casa Malpais, Apache Co., 2 miles north of Springerville, Arizona. Casa Malpais is an unexcavated pueblo ruin about 10 acres in size showing considerable community effort to build it in an easily defended spot. It is one of three sites in the area which were occupied after A.D. 1300.

9. Nodena, Mississippi Co., near Wilson, Arkansas. This is the type of site of the Nodena phase, an important part of the Late Mississippian, or temple mound, culture in Arkansas. The site produced over 1,500 burials and great quantities of pottery vessels and other artifacts characteristic of the period. It was occupied in the last few centuries prior to the time of Columbus.

10. Parkin, Cross Co., near Parkin, Arkansas. This is the type site of Parkin phase, a late Mississippian culture component in northeast Arkansas. It is an extremely rich site, characterized by concentrated midden area of considerable depth and a well preserved temple mound.

11. Gunther Island Site 67 (Tolowot), on Gunther Island, Eureka, California. The Tolowot site on Gunther Island, California, is a tremendous Indian shell mound 14 feet deep on which was located a Wiyot Indian village. This site typifies the late prehistoric period for this coastal region.

12. Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons, Inyo Co., near China Lake, California. Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons in the Coso Range probably contain the most spectacular petroglyphs in the entire western United States. More than 20,000 petroglyphs, showing many designs--geometric, animal, and human--were placed in the rock over a great period of time.

13. Lowry Pueblo, 45 miles northwest of Cortez, Colorado. Lowry Pueblo was a small pueblo typical of the area except in having a ceremonial great kiva that seems to have become a ceremonial center, increasing in size to about 50 rooms. The great kiva and other features show definite influences from the south.

14. Fort Walton Mound, Fort Walton Beach, Florida. The Fort Walton mound site is the type site of a late prehistoric and early historic culture period represented along the northwest Florida coast. The large temple mound on the site has produced numerous burials.

15. Safety Harbor, Pinellas Co., in Phillipi Park, Florida. The Safety Harbor site is the type site of the Safety Harbor culture, a late prehistoric and early historic period which represents the culture of the Gulf Coast Timucua Indians at the time of European contact and somewhat before.

16. Etowah, near Cartersville, Georgia. This site is one of the three prehistoric major Southern Cult centers in the East, and has produced a vast quantity of elaborate ceremonial material. The site is excellently preserved as a park by the Georgia Historical Commission, and their small museum tells the story of the site very well.

17. Kolomoki, Early Co., near Blakely, Georgia. Preserved in Kolomoki Mounds State Park, this impressive site contains the largest mound group in the Gulf Coast area, and has yielded much elaborate pottery, some of which is displayed in a small on-site museum.

18. Cahokia Mounds, east of St. Louis in portions of Madison and Clair Counties, Illinois. One of the major Mississippian, or temple mound, sites, Cahokia is one of the largest prehistoric sites in the United States. It is dominated by the great Monks Mound, nearly 100 feet high. At one time the site had nearly 100 mounds and covered about three square miles.

19. Kincaid Site, Massac and Pope Counties, near Brookport, Illinois. This site, one of the major temple mound sites in southern Illinois, was occupied in late prehistoric times. Archeological materials uncovered at the site show connections with the Cahokia Mounds site, with the Angel Mounds site in Indiana, and with Mississippian sites in southeast Missouri.

20. Wittrock Site, O'Brien Co., near Sutherland, Iowa. The Wittrock Site is a small Mill Creek Culture Indian village which is unique among Mill Creek Sites, and possibly among village sites in Iowa, it being essentially undisturbed. Archeological materials recovered from the site indicate a culture which was in transition from eastern forest agriculture to Plains horticultural practices.

21. Phipps Site, Cherokee Co., north of Cherokee, Iowa. This is the type site of the Mill Creek Indian culture, which represents Late Woodland-Mississippian peoples who were developing (or acquiring) Plains agricultural patterns, late in the first millennium or early in the second millennium A.D.

22. Whiteford Site, Saline Co., 4 miles east of Salina, Kansas. The Whiteford Site is a prehistoric cemetery in which some 146 skeletons of the Smoky Hill culture have been uncovered and left in situ, protected by a building, for commercial purposes.

23. Marksville, near Marksville, Louisiana. This is the type site for Marksville culture, an early southern variant of the Ohio Hopewell, which dates about the time of Christ. The burial mounds and the earthwork at the site are similar to those found in Ohio. Artifacts, also showing Hopewell connections, are displayed in an on-site museum administered by the Louisiana Parks and Recreation Commission.

24. Accokeek Creek Site, Prince Georges Co., west of Piscataway on the Potomac River, Maryland. This site has been intermittently occupied for at least 5,000 to 6,000 years with the major habitation taking place around A.D. 1400 and extending into historic times.

25. Holly Bluff, Yazoo Co., near Holly Bluff, Mississippi. This impressive prehistoric mound site with encircling wall and ditch still intact is the type site for the Lake George phase of the Mississippian, or temple mound, culture.

26. Research Cave, Callaway Co., near Portland, Missouri. Research Cave contains significant prehistoric Indian remains which were deposited, off and on, over a time span exceeding 8,000 years. Four major cultural periods are represented. Perishable materials found in the cave indicate that agriculture was practiced by the peoples of the two most recent cultures, Woodland and Mississippian.

27. Pictograph Cave, Yellowstone Co., near Billings, Montana. Pictograph Cave is a large rock shelter with striking pictographs, which contained stratified deposits reflecting occupation beginning with early Indian hunters and gatherers and coming up to the historic Indian period.

28. Hagen Site, Dawson Co., southeast of Glendive, Montana. The Hagen Site is a late prehistoric Indian village dating about 1600 A.D. It represents the Crow at about the time they split from the sedentary Hidatsa.

29. Ash Hollow Cave, Garden Co., 2 miles southeast of Lewellen, Nebraska. Ash Hollow Cave, a rockshelter which was occupied sporadically by prehistoric hunting parties for over 3500 years, was first occupied perhaps as early as 2000 B.C. The most recent occupation occurred in protohistoric times. Because of this long archeological sequence the cave was one of the key sites in establishing the sequence of events in Central Plains prehistory.

30. Coufal Site, Howard Co., on Davis Creek, Nebraska. The Coufal site is a major village of the Central Plains prehistoric cultural tradition and the one which has been most comprehensively studied. It was occupied about A.D. 1138 and gives information improving our knowledge of nearby Plains cultures.

31. Leary Site, Richardson Co., 4 miles southeast of Rulo, Nebraska. The Leary site is a large prehistoric village and burial area of the Oneota culture, a late precontact complex which in Nebraska represents incursions of Siouan peoples across the Missouri River into the Plains. Dating from about A.D. 1500 to A.D. 1600, it contains a wealth of information about life in this area shortly before the coming of the white man.

32. W. H. Schultz Site, Valley Co., 6 miles northwest of North Loup, Nebraska. The W. H. Schultz site is one of the earliest villages in the entire Plains. A small semisedentary village which dates from the middle part of the first millennium A.D., it was occupied by people who apparently lived by hunting animals and gathering wild plant foods. It is the type site of the Valley Focus, an early Plains Woodland complex.

33. Walker Gilmore Site, Cass Co., near Murray, Nebraska. The Walker Gilmore site is recognized as one of the most important and interesting sites in the entire Great Plains as it was there that evidence of Plains Woodland culture was first recognized. It is one of three key stratified sites which permitted outlining cultural sequences in the Central Plains.

34. Holmes Site, San Juan Co., across river from La Plata, New Mexico. The Holmes site is an important area with many differing Indian features including a variety of pueblos, ceremonial kivas, and towers on the points of the mesa. Although unexcavated, the site is still rated of great scientific value.

35. Manuelito Complex, McKinley Co., New Mexico. A great number of sites are located up and down the Manuelito Wash representing inhabitation from before A.D. 700 to 1400. One major late site includes about 1,500 rooms with indications of derivation out of earlier occupation in the immediate area.

36. San Lazaro, Santa Fe Co., near Cerrillos, New Mexico. San Lazaro contains two pueblos, one historic, one prehistoric, which together contain 1,950 rooms and form the largest ruin in the Galisteo Basin. These pueblos, abandoned soon after the 1680's, were the ancestral home of the present inhabitants of Hano in the Hopi villages.

37. Town Creek Indian Mound, Montgomery Co., about 4½ miles east of Mount Gilead, North Carolina. This site, which was the ceremonial center for a group of peoples with a Mississippian-influenced culture who moved northward into the area in late prehistoric times, contains the northernmost temple mound at the East Coast. Parts of the aboriginal construction have been reconstructed, and an on-site museum interprets the story of the Indians who lived there.

38. Newark Works, Licking Co., within Newark, Ohio. One of the few remaining Hopewellian earthworks dating from about the time of Christ, the Newark Works are being preserved by the State of Ohio as Mound Builders State Memorial. These earthworks are outstanding for the precision of layout and the magnitude of the plan.

39. Serpent Mound, Adams Co., near Locust Grove, Ohio. This magnificent effigy mound in the form of a serpent measures 1,300 feet long. Although built during Hopewellian times some 2000 years ago, it is still well preserved. The site is administered by the State of Ohio as Serpent Mound State Memorial.

40. Hopeton Earthworks, Ross Co., across the Scioto River from Mound City Group National Monument, Ohio. The Hopeton Earthworks is the site of a large Hopewell ceremonial center dating from about the time of Christ. It is composed of large conjoined circular and square earthen enclosures with attached small circular enclosures, four small mounds, and parallel earthen walls.

41. Fort Ancient, Warren Co., near Fort Ancient, Ohio. Although the earthwork at Fort Ancient was built some 2000 years ago by Hopewellian peoples, the name Fort Ancient is applied to the culture of a different people who reoccupied the site in late prehistoric times. The site is preserved by the State of Ohio as the Fort Ancient State Memorial.

42. McLemore Site, Washita Co., 4 miles west of Eakly, Oklahoma. The McLemore site is a key site to the study of Southern Plains prehistory because the archeological evidence uncovered there shows relationships both locally and with more distant Caddoan and Plains village cultures. It was a small agricultural village and burial ground dating from around A.D. 1300.

43. Stamper Site, Texas Co., about 2½ miles south of Optima, Oklahoma. A small village site on which are the remains of 18 single-room structures, the Stamper site was occupied between about A.D. 1300 and 1450. It is rather typical of the southern Plains, because at the time of occupation village culture extended from the Caddoan area in the eastern forests to the Pueblo area of New Mexico.

44. Arzberger Site, Hughes Co., 7½ miles east-southeast of Pierre, South Dakota. A huge fortified village site on top of a low mesa 1/2 mile north of the Missouri River, the Arzberger site contained 44 circular house rings surrounded by a ditched fortification with 24 bastions. The site is the northernmost outpost of the Central Plains tradition and is thought possibly to represent the ancestral Arikara Indians about A.D. 1500, when they were differentiating from the parent Pawnee. Although partially destroyed, much of this important site remains in a good state of preservation.

45. Bloom Site, Hanson Co., near Ethan, South Dakota. The Bloom Site is a classic example of a fortified village site. It was occupied about A.D. 1000 by Indians who were probably the ancestors of the Mandans. The village consists of some 25 lodge sites, and nearby is a series of about 50 burial mounds which may be related.

46. Fort Thompson Mounds, Buffalo Co., in vicinity of Fort Thompson, South Dakota. The Fort Thompson Mounds are a large group of low burial mounds dating from Plains Woodland times, about A.D. 800. They are of great importance as they contain the only evidence so far found for the first pottery-making peoples in the area.

47. Crow Creek Site, Buffalo Co., east bank of Ft. Randall Reservoir between Crow Creek and Wolf Creek, South Dakota. Crow Creek is a large fortified prehistoric Indian village site at which evidence has been uncovered for two separate occupations. One of these is related to the Over Focus of the Middle Missouri tradition; the other, to the Campbell Focus, affiliated with the Central Plains. Work at the site has been important in gaining an understanding of the relations between cultures of the Middle Missouri and the Central Plains during the time of Plains village life.

48. Langdeau Site, east bank of the Missouri River, just north of the neck of the Big Bend, South Dakota. The Langdeau site is a village site which is the type site for an as-yet-unnamed complex within the Middle Missouri tradition.

49. Mitchell Site, Davidson Co., Mitchell, South Dakota. Archeological materials excavated at the Mitchell site present evidence of the movement of a culture from the east into the Missouri River Valley with some combination with cultures already present in the area. It seems likely that this occurred about A.D. 1000 and that the people involved were ancestral to the Mandan.

50. Molstad Village, Dewey Co., on the west bank of the Missouri River about 18 miles below Mobridge, South Dakota. Molstad Village is a small fortified village site containing five circular house rings enclosed by a ditch with a bastion. It represents the important period of transition when Central Plains culture elements, such as circular houses, were moving up the Missouri and combining with Middle Missouri culture traits, such as bastioned fortifications, to form the Coalescent tradition which was the basis for the way of life practiced by the Mandan, Arikara, and Hidatsa when the white man arrived.

51. Harrell Site, Young Co., 1 mile north of South Bend, Texas. The Harrell site is the type site of the Henrietta Focus, the southernmost of the Plains Village agricultural complexes. This focus resembles in many ways the village cultures of central and western Oklahoma, and is currently felt to represent one of the groups ancestral to the historic Wichita tribes. There are evidences showing contacts with the Caddoan peoples to the east and the Pueblo peoples to the west. It is a key site in the study of the development of Southern Plains village life.

52. Landergin Mesa, Oldham Co., east side of East Alamosa Creek, Texas. The Landergin Mesa site is one of the finest ruins of the unique Panhandle Culture, being one of the largest, best stratified, least damaged, and most spectacularly located. The culture is a combination of a Plains agricultural village people showing many Southwest Pueblo influences.

53. Alkali Ridge, San Juan Co., Utah. Excavations along Alkali Mesa closed the gap in the known development of the now famous Pueblo Indian Culture by defining the A.D. 900 to 1100 period. Also evident was the continual growth of the culture from the late 700's to the 1200's, and this seems to be the area out of which the ceremonial kiva developed.

54. Grave Creek Mound, Marshall Co., Moundsville, West Virginia. One of the largest prehistoric mounds in the Eastern United States. It is representative of the burial mound tradition of the Adena culture about the time of Christ.

55. Aztalan, Jefferson Co., Sections 17, 20, 21, T 7N, R 14E, Wisconsin. A large temple mound site of the period of 1200- 1300 A.D., this is the northernmost of the large Mississippian sites.

NSHSB:JMC
5-14-64

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Marksville, Louisiana

This is the type site for the Marksville culture, a southern variant of the Ohio Hopewell which dates before the time of Christ. The culture is characterized by extensive burial mounds, often associated with elaborate earthworks. Evidently individuals of importance within the society were accorded crematory burials, accompanied by elaborate grave goods. Sometimes the grave goods were likewise subjected to fire. Afterwards the ashed were either buried in place or gathered up and reburied in what developed into large burial mounds. The site was excavated in the 1930's, but is in good condition. It is owned and operated as a state park by the Parks and Recreation Commission of the State of Louisiana.

NSHSB 5/1 64 JMC

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
BIENNIAL VISIT REPORT

SITE Marksville Indian Mounds

LOCATION Marksville, Louisiana

DAY(S) VISITED August (Month) 19 (Day(s)) 1976 (Year)

VISITED BY Iris R. Coumes
(Name)

Acting Superintendent
(Title)

Chalmette NHP
Box 429
(Address)

271-2412
(Phone Number)

PERSON(S) CONTACTED, WITH TITLE(S) Ranger (Entrance Station)

Gilbert Lagasse, Former Director, La. State Parks

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Name Iris R. Coumes

Title Acting Superintendent

Signature Iris R. Coumes

Date 1-7-77

IX. Is the site used for commercial purposes? Yes____ No X If yes, does this present any problems related to maintaining the integrity of the site? Yes____ No____ If yes, please describe:

X. Please describe any financial problems related to the site:

. Not known. Area is funded from La. State Park funds.

XI. What other problems did you encounter, if any?

None

XII. What specific suggestions, if any, did you make to the owner or administrator?

None

XIII. What follow-up action do you suggest for the SWRO and/or others?

No suggestions.

XIV. Is there any urgency regarding the suggested action? Yes____ No____ If yes, please clarify:

XV. If this site is being managed under the terms of a signed agreement, has the plaque been mounted? Yes X No____ If yes, describe exact location. If no, please explain why it has not been accepted or not been mounted. Also, describe location of the Certificate.

The plaque is mounted on a stone on the lawn in front of the Visitor Center.

Questions?

(PLEASE ENCLOSE PHOTOS, CLIPPINGS, COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE, OR ANY OTHER MATERIALS WHICH WILL SUPPLEMENT THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE REPORT)

REPORT

I. Did you have any difficulty making contact with the owner or administrator in advance of your visit? Yes____ No X If yes, please describe:

Did not contact administrator in advance.

II. Did you feel that your visit was welcome? Yes not welcome?_____
If not, please describe circumstances:

III. Was the material provided by SWRO ample and helpful? Yes X No____
If not, please explain:

IV. Approximately how long did you spend at the site? Two hours

V. Please describe the condition of the site (structure(s), grounds, furnishings, etc.)

The entire area was neat and clean. The grounds and Indian Mounds were well maintained; grass neatly mowed, hedges trimmed and trash containers available.

The visitor center, which is spanish archectural, had very good interpretive displays. Artifacts found in the mounds were also on display.

VI. Based on the reasons for the original designation, is it your opinion that the integrity of the site is being adequately maintained? Yes X No____
If no, please explain:

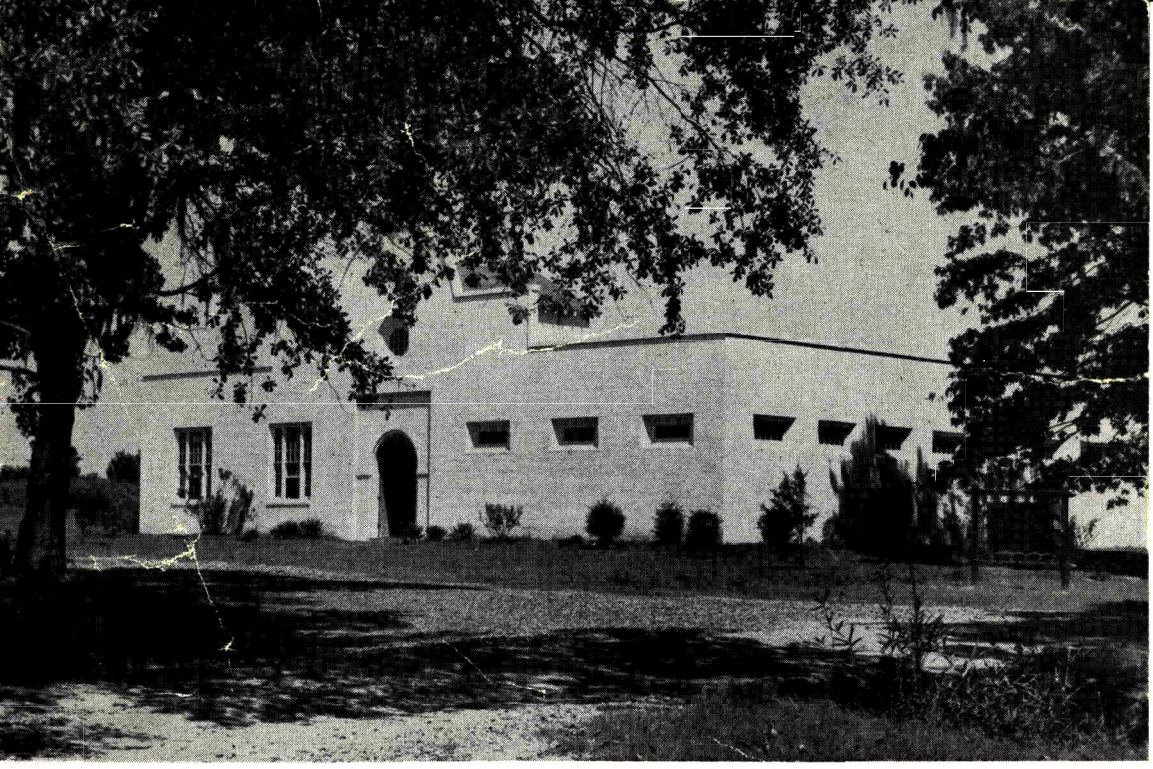
VII. Please describe in detail the management of the site (owner-managed, employee-managed, government-managed, etc.):

State managed. (State Park).

VIII. In your opinion, is the site management adequate? Yes X No____ If you have any reservations, please describe:

5. Marksville Mounds, Louisiana--

The Marksville Mounds were indicated in the 1934 survey to be one of the major sites in Louisiana. Exploration of the site by the Smithsonian Institution, and subsequently by Louisiana University, has resulted in important finds which relate Marksville to the oldest mound areas of the upper Mississippi. A portion of the mound site and some of the prehistoric earthworks are owned by the city of Markville. The area was proposed for national monument status in 1938.

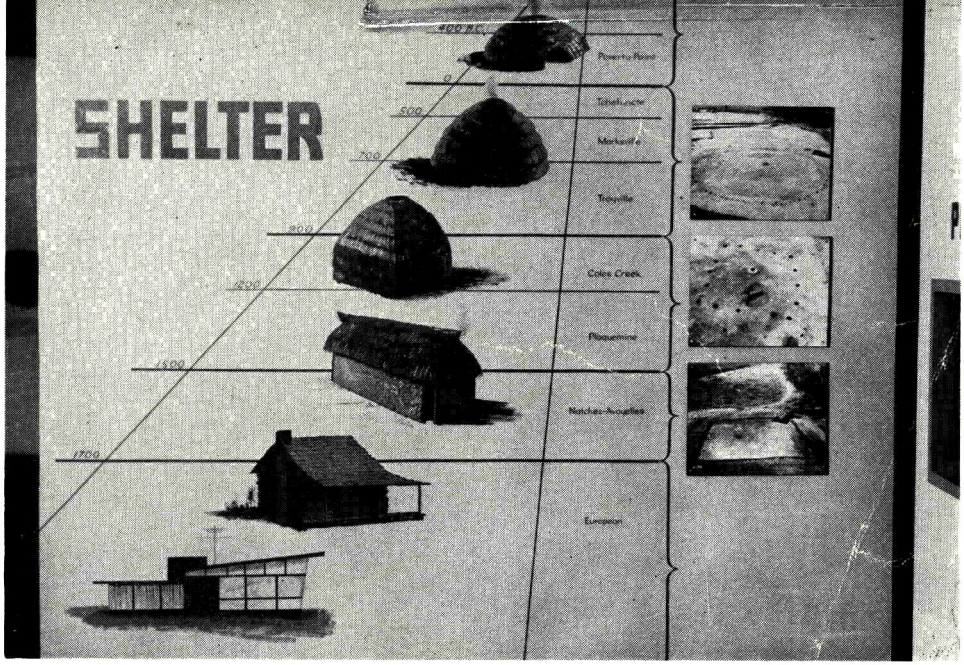


MARKSVILLE PREHISTORIC INDIAN PARK AND MUSEUM

MARKSVILLE, LA.

LOCATION: The park is located one mile east of the Town of Marksville. State Highway 29 connects with Highway 71 at Bunkie, a distance of 16 miles, or State Highway 1 can be taken directly from Alexandria, a distance of 30 miles. From Baton Rouge it is suggested that Highways 190 and 1 be followed by way of New Roads as a scenic route.

ADMINISTRATION: The park area and museum are administered by the State Parks and Recreation Commission. The archeological phases of the area are supervised by a trained archeologist. The grounds and building are maintained by a superintendent and two attendants. Additional facilities are to be expected from time to time.



SHELTER TYPES FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES TO PRESENT DAY

FACILITIES: The park consists of 35 acres of natural woods and swards surrounded by an earthen embankment erected by the early Indian mound builders for defensive purposes. Five mounds are in the enclosure which abuts at each end on Old River bluff. Old River lake is an ancient channel of the Mississippi River which flowed past the park as early as 400 A.D. The river is now about 30 miles to the east of this old course. A small natural history zoo and picnic areas are open to the public at all times. Special permission can be obtained from the Superintendent for overnight camping privileges. The museum is open from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. weekdays and 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Sundays. Arrangements can be made in advance with the Curator to serve special groups and organizations interested in the archeology and history of the region. For information, write the Curator, Marksville Prehistoric Indian Park, Marksville, Louisiana.

A charge of 25¢ is made to go through the museum. Children twelve years of age and under are admitted free and supervised school groups are admitted free. The funds collected from this source are used to help pay operating expenses and to provide additional exhibits.

The architecture of the museum is patterned after early Spanish Colonial buildings in the new world because of the long Spanish dominion (1762-1803).

DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA: The park and numerous nearby Indian sites have been the scene of intermittent archeological activity since 1911. The Philadelphia Academy of Sciences has published several volumes pertaining to the general area. The Smithsonian Institution worked here in 1926 and again in 1933. Photographs and charts and some of the artifacts in the museum were recovered by these digs.

Subsequently in 1938 parts of the Marksville site, as well as numerous other mounds, cemeteries and villages in the vicinity, were excavated on a large scale basis by the LSU-WPA Statewide Archeological Survey. Large quantities of artifacts, pottery and voluminous records, charts and photographs were accumulated.

The State Parks and Recreation Commission acquired the area in 1949. The museum building was erected in 1952 and the exhibits installed in 1954. The interpretive work was done under the direction of Dr. James A. Ford of the American Museum of Natural History. All exhibits were prepared and installed by the National Park Service Museum Laboratory under a cooperative arrangement with the Louisiana State Parks and Recreation Commission.

FORMATION OF THE VALLEY

ARCHEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION: The museum displays typical specimens of the many things found and portrays visually, and in some detail, the story of man in the Lower Mississippi Valley from about 400 B.C. up to the present time. Additional scattered information hints tantalizingly of earlier prehistoric peoples occupying the region as far back as 1500 B.C. and further exploration will undoubtedly reveal their part in the picture.

Archeologists are unable to identify these various early dwellers by tribes as Indians are thought of today, but the sequence of cultural remains, such as pottery, stone and bone tools and styles of architecture is unbroken though constantly changing for more than twenty centuries.

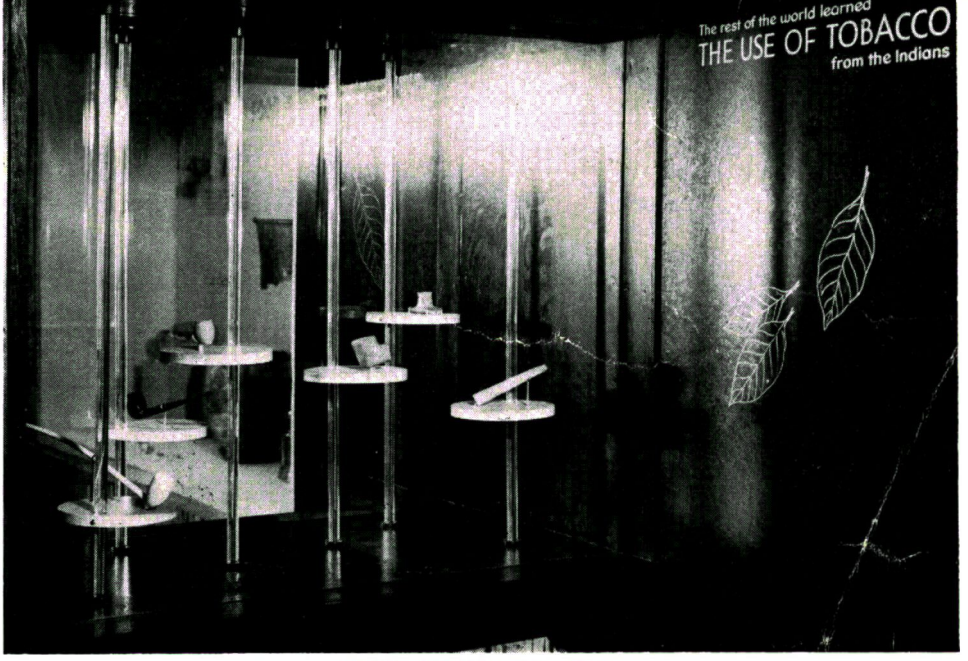
The Natchez, Tensa and Avoyel tribes contacted by the earliest explorers in the 16th and 17th centuries were the decendants and final consummation of this chain of cultural evolution. The colonization by Europeans and attendant historical transition from the primitive cultures of the Indians into our modern civilization is a continuation of the same story.

FORMATION OF THE VALLEY: In order to understand thoroughly the situation of the ancient and modern inhabitants of the Lower valley and the cultural changes which took place, it is well to become acquainted with the geology even as far back as the last or Wisconsin glacier which advanced across the northern part of the continent. The foundations of the present valley terrain or physiography were established at least 10,000 years ago.

During the onset of the ice age sea level was lowered some 400 feet and the continental rivers became rushing torrents which hollowed out a vast canyon. With the restoration of sea level as the glacier receded, the rivers lost their velocity and the canyon was gradually filled with gravels, sands, silts and clays. By about 3000 B.C. the Mississippi River and its tributaries had filled the valley with such sediment and it appeared much as it does today.

The river is constantly adding to and altering this basic condition and the mechanical processes involved are a normal routine function affected only slightly by the puny efforts of man with his levees, revetments, channel dredging and dams.

The shape of the surface, the textures, even the very colors of the soils are due to this behavior of the rivers. In this flat valley one foot difference in elevation may be as important economically as 100 feet in a hilly or mountainous region. The alternation of low alluvial ridges and back swamp sloughs and the maze of bayous, lakes and rivers are the determining features that both ancient and modern man must confront in pursuing the serious business of living.



EVOLUTION OF PIPES

THE MUSEUM'S STORY — The entry hall of the Museum portrays these physiographic features with aerial photographs, maps and diagrams. The careful observer may learn in a painless fashion the foundations of the environment of the Lower Valley and correlate the topography with plants, animals and man. One chilling thought in this connection is the belief that if the average world temperature were reduced 4 degrees Centigrade or about 7 degrees Fahrenheit we would be confronted with another ice age and forced to submit to another complete cycle of valley degradation and subsequent aggradation such as has occurred in the past ten to twenty thousand years. Life in the valley would hardly be tolerable.

Comprehension of these basic features prepares the museum visitor for an interpretation of the problems of archeology of the region. Wall cases, diagrams, photographs and exhibits of pottery and artifacts tell the story of both ancient and modern man's adaptation to his environment. Here, too, is the tale of the archeologists' efforts to discover and unravel the clues of the past and interpret them in present day meanings.

Modern museum methods seek to present this information in a simple, logical manner. Attractive art motifs, well lighted cases and thoughtful presentation with a minimum of actual materials demonstrates the theme of life in the valley as well as neighboring areas. Man's culture cannot be confined behind geographic or political barriers. Exchange of ideas, customs and the actual materials of living are the essence of cultural growth and change.

PROCESSES OF CULTURE — There are cases in the museum demonstrating how the material culture of the Indians and the modern population follow these processes. Even the physical type of the people alters. The immigration of strangers into the region, their assimilation and the dislocation or disappearance of the indigenous population are all reflected in the change over from the practice of burying in conical mounds to the adoption of large flat-topped pyramids. Temples were erected on the latter and sun worship became the predominant religion. Changes in pottery styles, hunting and fishing implements and methods of food preparation accompany such cultural alteration.

Recognition of the peaks of such changes in living serves to distinguish the different cultural eras or periods in time. Since there is no way of identifying these periods with known Indian tribes, arbitrary place names or labels are assigned to distinguish the different stages of cultural evolution. The bearers of the cultures from early Tchefuncte times, dating to the birth of Christ, up to the historic horizon or about 1700 A.D. prove to be a long continuous line of cultural ancestors of the Natchez, Bayou Goula, Avoyel and other related tribes contacted by the Europeans.

MOUND 4

PARK TOUR — Reference to the map of the park area will show that the road cuts through the earthen embankment which served to fortify the site in aboriginal times. Driving past the south side of the museum building, Mound 4, a cone-shaped burial, is seen to the left of the lane. This mound has been completely excavated and restored. A central burial tomb, numerous skeletons, decorated pots and pipes of clay were found.

Mound 5 is a short distance behind Mound 4. A barbecue pit and picnic table occupy the top of it. Apparently it is the initial stage of construction of another burial mound which was not completed.

Continuing through the park lane and to the right just past the zoo is Mound 3, another small platform like Mound 5.

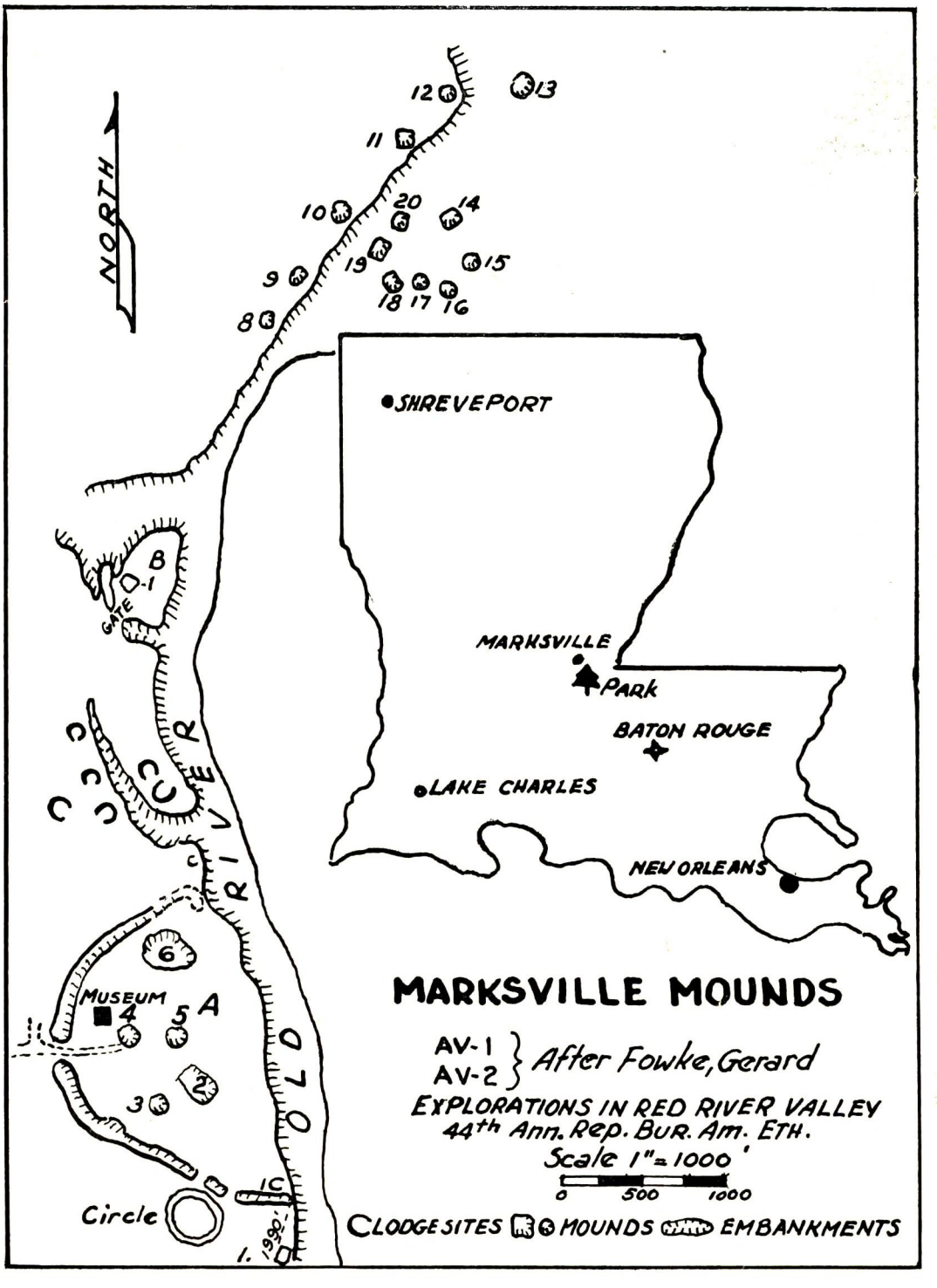
As you approach the bank of Old River you are passing Mound 2 on the right. It is a large truncated pyramid which served as the foundation of a ceremonial temple. It has been partially excavated and has suffered much damage from erosion and cultivation. The flat-topped mounds represent a later cultural period than that of the early burial mounds. In Troyville and Coles Creek times the strong influence of cultural traditions introduced from Mexico were felt.

Turning left at the River bank and following north along it, slight elevations may be seen. These are the old middens or dumping grounds of the people who lived in the area.

The park lane circles about Mound 6 and returns to the front door of the Museum. The latter mound has been partially explored and is another ceremonial house mound. Originally it had a cone shaped mound of some size erected in the middle of its flat top. It, too, has been damaged considerably from plowing and erosion.

Other mounds are to be seen on the map which are not accessible by automobile. Mound 1 to the south has been partially excavated and found to have been built in the Plaquemine Period nearly a thousand years later than the earliest burial mound occupants of the site. Its builders were probably the immediate ancestors of the Avoyel tribe found living in the Parish in the early 1700's.

Of the remaining mounds shown on the map only Nos. 7, 10, 11, 18 and 20 can be found. The others have been completely excavated or eroded away. Mounds 18 and 20 are at the Greenhouse Site and can be visited by returning to Preston Street in Marksville and driving toward Spring Bayou Landing. They are all located on private property and permission should be obtained from the owners before walking over them. There is a narrow gravel lane along the top of the bluff opposite Mounds 18 and 20 which affords a comprehensive view of them situated as they are on the Recent floodplain. Mounds 14, 15, 16, 17 and 19 were completely excavated by the LSU-WPA Statewide Archeological Survey party in 1938-39.


NORTH
12
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SHREVEPORT
B
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GATE
MARKSVILLE
Park
BATON ROUGE
LAKE CHARLES
NEW ORLEANS
C C C C
RED RIVER
OLD
6
MUSEUM
4
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A
2
3
Circle
1
1930'
MARKSVILLE MOUNDS
AV-1
AV-2
After Fowke, Gerard
EXPLORATIONS IN RED RIVER VALLEY
44th Ann. Rep. Bur. Am. Eth.
Scale 1" = 1000'
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500
1000
CLODGE SITES
MOUNDS
EMBANKMENTS