

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Beaufort	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.11.45.0043	DATE 11/10/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Skull Creek or Hilton Head

AND/OR HISTORIC:
(38B08, 1 and 2)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
[REDACTED]

CITY:
Hiltonhead, Hilton Head Island

STATE South Carolina	CODE 39	COUNTY: Beaufort	CODE 013
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

[REDACTED]

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
County Auditor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
[REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN: Beaufort	STATE South Carolina	CODE 39
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
none

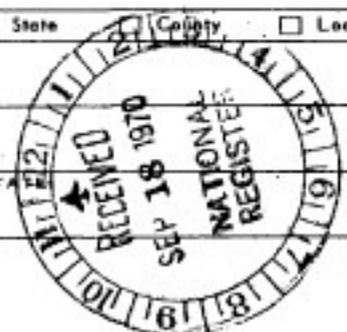
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
[REDACTED]

STREET AND NUMBER:
[REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN: [REDACTED]	STATE [REDACTED]	CODE [REDACTED]
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:
COUNTY:
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ENTRY NUMBER
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7. DESCRIPTION

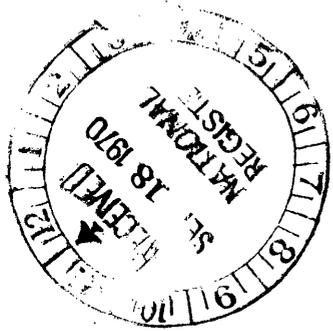
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

2

1

The Skull Creek site consists of two prehistoric Indian shell middens deposited in ring shapes. The northernmost ring, about 133 feet in diameter from crest to crest, is nearly plowed level. The southernmost ring, about 128 feet in diameter from crest to crest, stands about 7.5 feet at some points above a flat central area, but has suffered extensive removal of shell. Probably only 20 percent of the original volume of this ring remains. The southernmost ring, referred to as Skull Creek No. 1, contains primary oyster shell with smaller amounts of other molluscs. Pottery sherds and animal and fish bones are relatively abundant. This shell ring appears to partially overlie the northernmost ring (No. 2). The flat central area of Skull Creek No. 1 stands about 12 feet above mean sea level. Test excavations have been undertaken in both rings, with what seem to be promising results. Radiocarbon dates were obtained for both rings (Calmes 1968).



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SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1635 ± 115 B.C. (T-2850); 1170 ± 110 B.C. (T-2849); Calmes 1968.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Skull Creek shell rings, Nos. 1 and 2, are two of 20 or more prehistoric shell rings located from the central coast of South Carolina to the central coast of Georgia, a distance of about 150 miles. All are believed to date early in the second millenium B.C., and they contain some of the earliest pottery known in North America. Only very limited excavations have been undertaken in a few of these rings. Consequently, the function of the ring shape is unknown, although the rings appear to be carefully planned and systematically deposited structures. As such, they also present one of the earliest records of sedentary life among people who must have lived entirely by foraging. The shell rings can be expected to yield valuable information about the habitats on the coast, both from their rich content of food refuse and from their relationships to modern environments. Most are situated about 5 feet above present mean sea level, but the relationship to the sea level at the time of occupation is unknown. It seems unlikely that sea level was a great deal higher about 4000 years ago than at present from the evidence of these lowlying rings. An unknown number of shell ring sites has been lost to marine erosion and to borrowing shell for road building; many of the remaining rings show the effects of unauthorized digging.

The Skull Creek rings are the only known example of a later ring superposed over an earlier one, although the precise relationship and reason for building this way have not been determined by excavations, Calmes' (1968) test excavations give some idea of the content of the rings, and indicate dates of occupation between 1635 ± 115 and 1170 ± 110 years B.C. The Skull Creek rings are badly damaged, but are still clearly identifiable as ring shaped structures, and should be protected.



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Calmes, Alan, 1968, Test Excavations at Three Late Archaic Shell-Ring Mounds on Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina. Proceedings of the 24th Southeastern Archeological Conference, Bulletin No. 8, pp. 45-48. Morgantown

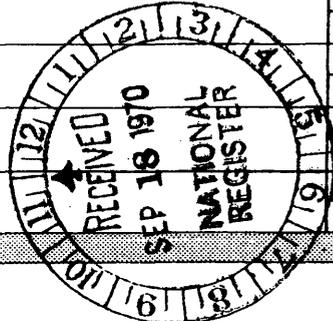
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "				
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: [REDACTED]

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
South Carolina	39	Beaufort	013
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Dr. E. Thomas Hemmings

ORGANIZATION: Institute of Archeology and Anthropology DATE: 4-15-70

STREET AND NUMBER: University of South Carolina

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 39

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Charles E. Lep

Title Director, South Carolina Department Archives & History

Date August 29, 1970

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

Robert Allen Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 NOV 10 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:
William J. Muntz
 Keeper of The National Register

Date NOV 8