

Form 10-300
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	South Carolina
COUNTY:	Beaufort
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 14 1972



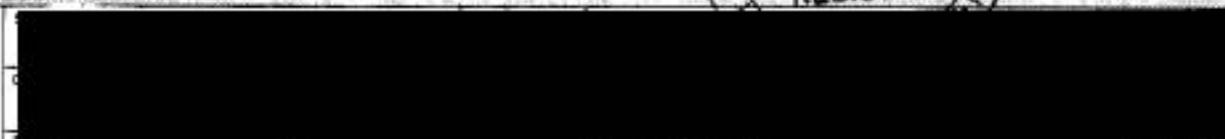
1. NAME

COMMON:

Little Barnwell Island (38BU23)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION



South Carolina

CODE
45

COUNTY:

Beaufort

CODE
013

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Unoccupied</u>
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Beaufort County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Beaufort

STATE:

South Carolina

CODE:

45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

S.C. Preliminary Survey of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY:

1969

 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

S.C. Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:

1430 Senate Street, P.O. Box 11,188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN:

Columbia

STATE:

South Carolina

CODE:

45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

5-15-74

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

38BU23 consists of two shell and earth mounds located on the eastern side of Little Barnwell Island overlooking Whale Branch. The larger of the two mounds is elliptical in outline measuring 150 feet north - south and 100 feet east - west. The altitude of the mound varies from 11 feet on the north to 14 feet on the south. Excavations conducted in the late 19th century have demonstrated that this mound once served as the base for a temple or ceremonial building. In the lower levels of the mound the remains of a very well preserved building were uncovered. Judging from the height of the standing wall, 4 feet, 3 inches, the structure was undoubtedly purposely covered by the Indians. Impressions from the rafters indicate that the roof was probably gabled and thatched with bark or palmetto.

The practice of purposely destroying a temple, adding a fresh cap of clay or earth, and then constructing a new building on the mound summit was widespread in the Southeast. Usually the old buildings were burned or torn down. Little Barnwell Island is the only known situation where the structure was covered with earth while still standing. In one of the later construction stages of the large mound, post holes were again encountered, but the building had been destroyed prior to the addition of the last cap of earth.

The smaller mound is located 100 feet south of the large mound. The basal diameter is about 50 feet with a height of three feet. The mound was constructed of various alternating lenses of sand, clay, and oyster shell. Judging from Moore's description of the excavation, it appears that a subterranean tomb containing cremated human remains was encountered in the center of the mound.

Today both mounds are in good condition with the exception of the areas excavated in 1898. The smaller mound is being slowly eroded by the waters of Whale Branch.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input 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 mound on Little Barnwell Island has produced one of the most unique architectural features ever excavated from a prehistoric site in the Southeastern United States. While excavating the mound in 1898 C. B. Moore uncovered a remarkably well preserved building near the base of the large mound. The structure which was covered by five to nine feet of fill was quadrilateral in shape measuring 40 feet, two inches on the northern side, 41 feet, 9 inches on the southern side, 35 feet, 7 inches on the east and 36 feet, 9 inches along the western wall. The corners of the structure were rounded with an entrance and anteroom facing east.

In most cases when prehistoric structures are unearthed, usually only traces of the foundations remain. Very seldom will the remains of the actual building be preserved. What is exceptional about the site is the state or preservation of the building walls and indication of such perishable architectural features as roof and wall supports. The wattle and daub walls of the building measured four feet, three inches in height with traces of the posts which supported the wall still remaining. Along the top of the wall semi-circular depressions two to four inches in diameter probably supported the roof rafters.

In addition to the building, Moore found the remains of slender corncobs in one of the post holes. On the floor of the structure a central fire place, made of clay, and a burial were uncovered.

Based on a comparative analysis of pottery, from the site, the mounds and building were probably constructed during the late Savannah II Period ca. A.D. 1500. Future excavations will undoubtedly uncover additional data which will lead to an even better understanding of the prehistory of the South Carolina coast.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Moore, Clarence B.
 1898 "Certain Aboriginal Mounds of the Coast of South Carolina",
 Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia
 Vol. XI, pp. 152-162.

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	° ' "	° ' "		32° 30' 06"	80° 47' 25"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
South Carolina		Beaufort	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Thomas M. Ryan

ORGANIZATION: Institute of Archeology and Anthropology DATE: June 21, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: University of South Carolina

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

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. Lee

Charles E. Lee

Title Director, S.C. Department of Archives and History

Date Sept. 6, 1972

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

Robert W. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/14/73

ATTEST: Lon [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 8 6 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

81°00'

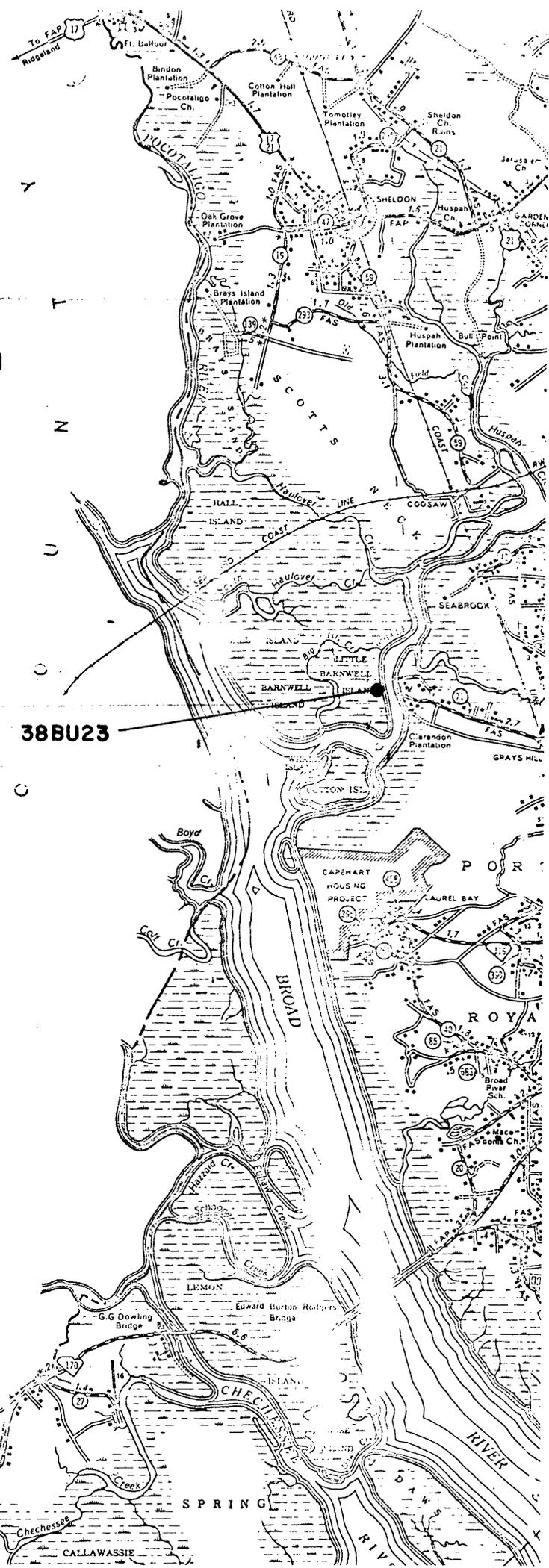
80°55' H A



MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF BEAUFORT COUNTY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

LITTLE BARNWELL ISLAND SITE

38BU23



38BU23

SOURCE.

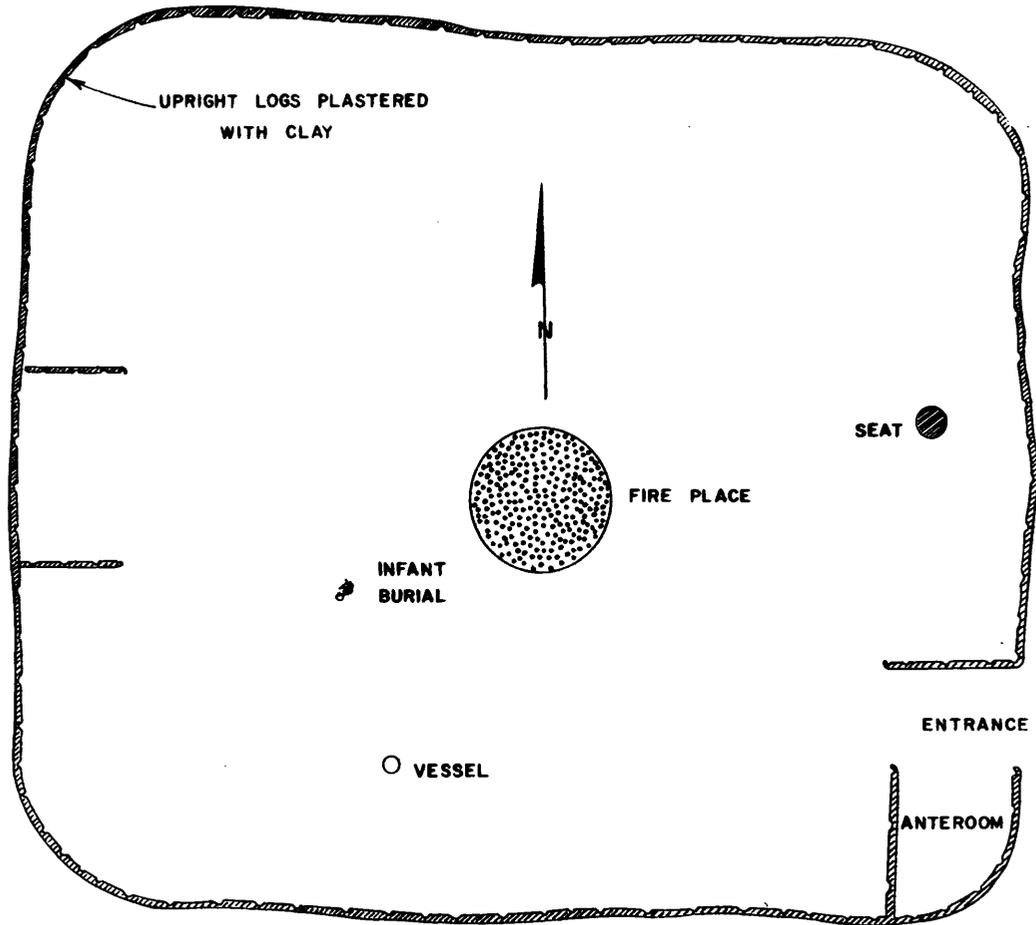
GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP OF BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



LAT. 32° 30' 06"
LONG. 80° 47' 25"



LITTLE BARNWELL ISLAND (38BU23)



GROUND-PLAN OF STRUCTURE EXCAVATED
BY C. B. MOORE, 1898

0 1 2 3 4 5
SCALE-FEET

INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA