

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.45.0037	DATE 10/18/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Sewee Mound or The Old Fort

AND/OR HISTORIC:
(38CH45)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
[REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN:
Awendaw

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 39 COUNTY: Charleston CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 checked="" 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>National Forest</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

[REDACTED]

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
[REDACTED]

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: none

DATE OF SURVEY: [REDACTED] Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
[REDACTED]

STREET AND NUMBER:
[REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN:
[REDACTED] CODE: [REDACTED]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: [REDACTED]
COUNTY: [REDACTED]
ENTRY NUMBER: 70.10.45.0037
DATE: 10/18/70
FOR NPS USE ONLY

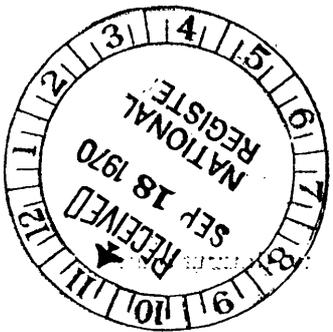
7. DESCRIPTION

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 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

Sewee Mound is a prehistoric Indian shell midden deposited in a ring shape. Approximately one quarter on the southeast has been removed by past erosion, and considerable shell has been [REDACTED]. The average diameter of the ring from crest to crest is about 149 feet. The midden in some areas reaches 10 feet above a flat central floor, devoid of shell, which is about 5 feet above mean sea level. The ring is composed of loosely packed oyster shell and lesser amounts of pottery sherds, bone, and other molluscs. [REDACTED] and is only partially covered by tree growth. A small midden of oyster shell about 35 feet in maximum dimension [REDACTED].

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

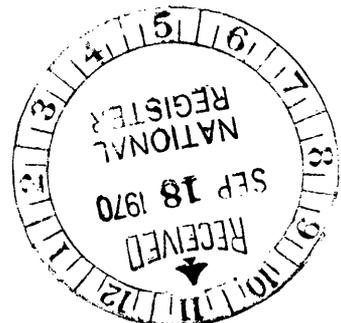
- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sewee Mound is one 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 past 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 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 Sewee Mound was tested by W. E. Edwards, University of South Carolina, in 1965. Material recovered and a manuscript report of the excavation are located at the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina. Sewee Mound is the northernmost known shell ring on the coast, and contains possibly the deepest shell deposit. It has never been dated. Approximately one half the ring is essentially intact.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edwards, W. E., n.d., A Preliminary Report on the Sewee Mound Shell Midden, Charleston County, South Carolina. Manuscript, Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

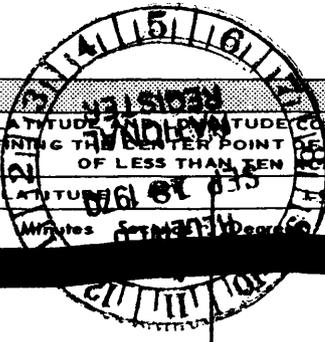
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "
NE	° ' "	° ' "
SE	° ' "	° ' "
SW	° ' "	° ' "

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
° ' "	° ' "



APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: _____

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
South Carolina	39	Charleston	019
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

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

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 S. [Signature]

Title: Director, South Carolina Department Archives & History

Date: August 29, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen [Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

OCT 15 1970

Date: _____ 1970

ATTEST:

William J. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: OCT 12 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS