Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

Theme: The Original Inhabitants

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Toltec Mounds Site

AND/OR COMMON
Knapp Mounds

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER portions of Secs. 10 and 11, T.1S., R.10W. off State Rte. 130

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Scott

XX VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Second

STATE Arkansas

CODE 05

COUNTY Lonoke

CODE 085

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	XX PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	XX PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
XX SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	XX YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME State of Arkansas

administered by:
State Parks Department
Current Director: Richard Davies

STREET & NUMBER State Capitol Building

CITY, TOWN Little Rock

__ VICINITY OF

STATE Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lonoke County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Lonoke

STATE Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Arkansas Archeological Survey

DATE 1966

__FEDERAL XX STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS University of Arkansas Museum

CITY, TOWN Fayetteville

STATE Arkansas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	XXORIGINAL SITE
XXGOOD	__RUINS	XXALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	XXXUNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE *

Situated on the bank of Mound Lake--an oxbow lake and a relict channel of the Arkansas River near Scott, Arkansas, the Toltec (Knapp) Site consists of some 24 features (mounds, mound remnants, borrow areas, and concentrations of village debris) enclosed within an oval-shaped embankment and ditch on three sides and Mound Lake on the fourth. At the present time, only five mounds (labelled A, B, C, F, and Q) and a portion of the embankment are readily visible at the surface. Following is a description of the various features of the site. Refer to the accompanying Map B (from Rollingson, 1977, who adapted it from Thomas, 1894) for a clarification of the relative locations of each of these features.

The embankment is a levee of earth with an adjacent shallow ditch on its exterior. The earth removed from the ditch probably served as the building material for the embankment's construction. The embankment feature is readily visible and covered with thick vegetation on the Cobb-Phillips tract where in most cases it is less than 5 feet above the general surface level. On the Oates tract, the embankment cannot be seen at the surface but can be discerned on aerial photographs as a change in soil color. Only small remnants of the embankment are visible on the Alexander tract where it rises as high as three feet in some places. Other portions of the embankment on the Alexander property are visible only as slight rises or as soil color changes on aerial photos, and some of the northernmost parts may have been oblitereated by the construction of an irrigation ditch. There are two gaps in the embankment on this tract. These were both noted in historic times when the site was first recorded and appear as depressions containing water.

No preshistoric cultural features have been discerned by a surface examination of the area outside of the embankment and ditch, but the enclosed zone contains numerous features and much artifactural material. Mounds R-A-Q, F, P-B, G, and C form four sides of what appears to represent a plaza area. A depression once existed in this possible plaza north of Mound C, but it has been obliterated by recent earth-moving activities. Controlled surface collections revealed scatterings of artifacts in the possible plaza area, but no concentrations of debris were discerned. Even the scatterings were unexpected, however; for plazas in Mississippian sites usually lack occupational debris.

*taken primarily from Rollingson (1977).

Mound A, the tallest on the site, is an oblong cone rising to an estimated height of 14 meters (46 feet). At one time, two smaller mounds (R and Q) flanked Mound A. Unfortunately, Mound R has been completely leveled, and Mound Q remains only as a rather shapeless remnant less than three feet in height. Mound B, a flat-topped, rectangular pyramidal structure, rises to a height of about 11 meters (36 feet) and is suffering from erosion in its southeast corner. Like Mound A, Mound B had a small mound (P) adjacent to it, but complete leveling has also occurred in this area. Mound C, apparently a burial mound, is the third highest at the site and measures about 3.19 meters (10.5 feet) in height and 30 meters (98 feet) in diameter. A deep pothole has been discerned in the center of this structure, and it currently may suffer from some erosional problems. Mound F, a badly damaged oblong structure, stands about 3 feet in height. Mound G, leveled by cultivation, is evident as a dark, oblong soil coloration containing a greater concentration of artifacts than the surrounding area. A 19th century structure may have once stood on this mound as evidenced by the presence of surface artifacts of that date in the vicinity. Mounds D and E have been recently leveled and now appear as artifact concentrations at the surface. Similarly, the leveled Mounds H, I, J, K, and L are visible only as dark soil areas containing concentrations of artifacts. The presence of Mound M is marked only by a scattering of artifacts. It should be pointed out that basal features of the obliterated mounds and even perhaps of the embankment may be evident upon excavation of the site.

Areas N and O are the locations of dark-colored soil zones yielding midden material, and areas S and T contain artifact concentrations. Local informants have indicated that the artifacts at Area S may have resulted from the fact that earth was taken from other parts of the site to fill a depression at this point. Just northeast of Mound B is a large, shallow, partially filled in depression measuring about 40 by 60 meters. This feature probably represents a borrow area from which earth was taken for the construction of the mounds.

In addition to these man-made features, Mound Lake adjacent to the site also represents an archeological resource which can yield information about the environment at the time of the site's occupation. Through studies of the lake bed deposits, archeologists hope to arrive at a determination of whether or not the river was in this channel during occupation and to identify the vegetation in the area at the time. In addition, trash deposits may also exist in the lake bottom.

Investigations

The earliest available description of the Toltec (Knapp) Site dates from the late 19th century when a letter to the Smithsonian Institution from Mary Eliza Knapp, then owner of the site, was published in the Smithsonian's Annual Report to the Board of Regents for 1877. At that time, Mrs. Knapp reported that the embankment measured about 6 to 10 feet in height and formed a half circle with two gaps, both marked by deep pools of water. Her account indicates that two of the mounds (identified as A and B) were about 100 feet high, that Mound A was covered with trees, and that the top of Mound B had been cultivated for 20 years.

The site was examined in the 1880's in conjunction with the Bureau of Ethnology's investigation of mound complexes in the eastern United States. Cyrus Thomas's report (1894) on this work put to rest the theory that these sturctures had been constructed by Mexican immigrants rather than by local Indian populations. Edward Palmer was in charge of the Bureau's work at Toltec (Knapp), and his results were published both in Thomas's report and in the Arkansas Historical Association Publications in 1917. A map of the site which has been extensively used by subsequent investigators was prepared at this time. Palmer's descriptions indicate that cultivation had already obliterated portions of the embankment -- a mile in length, five feet in height, five feet in width at the top, and 8 feet in width at the bottom. A third break--possibly for a roadcut through this encircling wall-- was noted in addition to the two already mentioned by Mrs. Knapp, and a fourth break appears on the map prepared at the time but is not explained.

Palmer measured the mounds at the site. According to the various reports of these measurements: 1-Mound A was from 204 by 165 feet to 280 by 150 feet at its base with its slope height falling somewhere between 96 feet and 108 feet, its true height calculated at 48 feet, and its circumference measuring between 743 and 813 feet; and 2-Mound B was from 180 to 235 feet long, from 155 to 192 feet wide, and about 75 feet high with a slope height of between 71 and 86 feet. It appears probable that Mrs. Knapp's measurements of 100 feet in height for both Mounds A and B were exaggerated or that she was calculating the slant, rather than the true, height. Palmer also measured Mound C which was 12 feet in height and had basal dimensions of 180 by 90 feet. Mound D was 5 feet high and 102 by 78 feet at its base, and Mound E and one of the small mounds adjacent to Mound A were each 4 feet in height. Ten other circular and oblong mounds, ranging in height from 2 to 10 feet, were noted. Diameters ranged from 25 to 100 feet for the circular structures, and the oblong mounds measured from 40 to 350 feet in length.

Palmer conducted excavations into Mounds A, B, C, D, E, and either Q or R. Finds of particular interest include two fine quartz crystals from Mound B, and a polished stone celt, four areas of burned clay and five areas of ashes with human bones in Mound D. A small Catholic medal was also recovered from Mound D and dated to the historic 19th century occupation of the site. Pottery sherds unearthed during Palmer's work include examples of Baytown Plain, Larto Red-Filmed, Coles Creek Incised, French Fork Incised, Mississippi Plain, Wallace Incised, and Friendship Engraved types. These materials are housed at the Smithsonian Institution as are other artifacts from the site (including Mississippi Plain, Carson Red on Buff, Baytown Plain, French Fork Incised, and Coles Creek Incised sherds and several celts) donated by Mrs. Knapp.

Although interest in the site continued through the first part of the 20th century, no excavations were conducted until 1966 when the University of Arkansas Museum and the Arkansas Archeological Society held a training season at the site. Test trenches in Mound C indicated that the structure had been built of basket loads of earth and yielded two burials from which the excavators inferred that the structure was probably a burial mound. According to local informants, pot hunters had unearthed other burials from the structure. In addition, major portions of a Baytown Plain bowl and a small quartz crystal point were recovered but no artifacts were found in direct, positive association with the burials. Another excavation unit adjacent to the mound revealed undisturbed midden below the plow zone between 30 and 60 cm. beneath the surface. Examination of artifacts from these trenches and from local collections indicated that the majority of the pottery was an undecorated, clay-tempered ware related to the Coles Creek culture to the south, that points found at the site were mainly triangular, and that plummets were found on the surface.

Ten years passed, and the State of Arkansas bought Toltec (Knapp) Mounds to develop it into an interpretive park. The goal of recent research at the site, which began in September 1976, has been to collect the information necessary for the development of a master plan and research design for an extensive program of investigation and interpretation at the site. David Anderson completed a report on the 1966 excavations in which he described the artifacts and their distribution and discussed the site function, occupational history, and disturbances of the deposits. His analysis indicates: 1-that raw materials such as chert, novaculite, and quartz were brought into the site where they were manufactured into tools; 2-that because Mound C was relatively free from artifacts and midden in the immediate vicinity of the burials, it probably served as a burial mound;

3-that plowing over the years has allowed the removal of most tools and decorated ceramic material from the site by local collectors, thereby skewing any recent surface collections; 4-that Larto Red-Filmed and Mulberry Creek Cord-Marked ceramics and Gary points may be earlier than small points and Coles Creek Incised wares; and 5-that Mound C and the immediate vicinity were probably used for ceremonial activities and lithic reduction and manufacturing activities. Anderson also began the analysis of artifacts in local surface collections in an attempt to have a broader base of information on materials recovered from the site.

In 1976 and 1977, controlled surface collections were conducted at Toltec. These surface collections, in conjunction with the old 1894 maps by Thomas and Palmer, enabled the current investigators to locate the mound areas and concentrations of debris which have been described in the paragraphs in the beginning of this section. This ability to discern the locations of the various features was especially pronounced in Sec. 11 where all the mounds mentioned in the 1894 descriptions of the site were relocated--with the exception of a definite location for Mound M. In addition, two possible mounds and a scatered midden area were identified. The Sec. 10 surface collection was not as successful because collecting conditions were not as good.

In 1977, the University of Arkansas held its summer field school season at Toltec. The results of this 1977 work have not been published, but one of the most exciting discoveries resulting from this excavation was that much more of Mound D remained intact beneath the surface than was originally supposed. In fact, 1-1/2 meters of mound fill and 30 cm of village refuse lay undisturbed below the plow zone. This discovery indicated that, despite cultivation, the site still has great research potential.

Extremely detailed research designs and developmental plans are being formulated by the Arkansas Archeological Survey in an attempt to give a direction to future work at the Toltec Site. Excavation, preservation, control of erosion, and the development of interpretive aspects are being thoroughly considered. Some of the goals of this research plan will be discussed in the following Statement of Significance (Sec. 8 of this report). Top excavation priorities include: tests in the plaza area in an attempt to determine its function, tests of the embankment to determine its design and function, tests in those mound areas such as G and P which have potential for yielding post molds or information on structural remains, and studies of Mound Lake to gain environmental information. Mounds A and B are not considered high priority on the list for excavation, but techniques such as

core drilling and sonar testing may be used. Similarly, the borrow pit should be tested because of its possible function as a water source or trash dump, but as it yielded no artifacts during the recent surface collections, it is low on the list of priorities. Developmental plans include keeping all public facilities outside of the site area, cutting trees at the surface, protecting structures and deposits from erosion and vandalism by maintaining a good ground cover of suitable vegetation, perhaps differentiating the mound locations by a difference in ground cover, and carefully removing intrusive elements.

Condition

The site is in good condition when compared with others of its time period and location. Unfortunately, the mounds have been reduced and the site has been damaged by cultivation of such crops as rice and soybeans, by surface collecting, and by some pot-hunting, but the destruction is less than at many other similar sites. At the present time, all three of the largest mounds are covered with large trees. With the exeeption of Mound A and perhaps the southern end of the embankment and some of the village area, all of the site has been cultivated, and historic sources indicate that there were structures in various areas of the site during the 19th and 20th centuries. Nevertheless, material remains buried beneath the plow zone, and recent investigations indicate great potential for additional research as will be discussed in the Statement of Significance.

At the present time, several intrusions exist within landmark boundaries including a few small buildings (a residence now used by the park superintendent and a temporary structure formerly used as a barn), a gravel county road, dirt roads, power lines and poles, an irrigation ditch, and two well housings, one of which is abandoned. As previously mentioned, developmental plans call for the removal of these modern features which do not contribute to the national significance of the property.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
XX PREHISTORIC	XX ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 2000-1000 B.C.
ca. 500-1800 A.D.

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE *

Located in a State Park now being developed near Scott, Arkansas, on the banks of a relict channel of the Arkansas River, the Toltec (Knapp) Site consists of over 15 mounds and mound remnants, at least one borrow pit, and scatterings of cultural debris enclosed by the bank of Mound Pond and remnants of a C-shaped earthen embankment and paralleling ditch. The name of the site derives from the fact that Gilbert Knapp--owner of the site during the mid- to late 19th century--thought that immigrants from Mexico--in this case, the Toltecs--rather than local Indians had constructed the mounds; this erroneous notion was an extremely common one at the time.

As the largest mound complex in Arkansas with two of the largest mounds remaining west of the Mississippi (except for those at Poverty Point and Troyville), the site was called "the most interesting group in the State, and, in fact, one of the most important in the United States" by Cyrus Thomas (1894, p. 243) of the Bureau of Ethnology. Brief excavations conducted in the 1880's and in 1966 and surface surveys undertaken in 1976-77 have revealed that the major occupation of the site probably occurred during the Coles Creek period (ca. 700- 1000 A.D.). Analysis of the data has also provided evidence for smaller components relating to Late Archaic (ca. 2000 - 1000 B.C.), Baytown (ca. 500 - 700 A.D.), Mississippian (ca. 1000 - 1400) and protohistoric Quapaw (ca. 1600 - 1800 A.D.).

Some of the mounds and possibly the earthwork may have been constructed during the Baytown period; and as a result, the site probably represents one of the early multiple mound ceremonial centers of the Lower Mississippi Valley and may be the earliest on the Arkansas-Mississippi alluvial plain. Therefore, excavation of the site may yield information on reasons for the rise and dominance of the complex cultural traditions in the Lower Valley.

The primary importance of the site stems from the potential it has to contribute to an understanding of the complex interplay of cultures which affected prehistoric development in the Lower Mississippi Valley. The Coles Creek occupation at the site represents the northernmost of the major sites closely related to that culture. As such, the site can provide insight

*taken primarily from Rolingson (1977).

into the spread and distribution of the Coles Creek traits, and its frontier status means that it has the potential to yield valuable information concerning the interaction of Coles Creek/Plaquemine cultures of the Lower Mississippi Valley with the developing Mississippian cultures in the central valley and also with the Caddoan cultures to the west.

Discussion

The Arkansas Archeological Survey is in the process of developing a long-term research plan for the Toltec (Knapp) Site. Phillips (1970) named the Toltec phase after the site, thereby making it a type site; but the characteristics for the phase have never been adequately defined. A valid definition for the phase is one of the research goals of the current investigators.

On the basis of point and ceramic types from surface collections, archeologists have identified five possible prehistoric/protohistoric cultural components. The earliest dates to the Late Archaic period and is indicated by the presence of large stemmed points. The next occupation appears to have occurred during the late Baytown period (ca. 500 - 700 A.D.) as evidenced by the presence of Gary var. Mabin and Means Stemmed points and Larto Red, Mulberry Creek Cord-marked, and Salomon Brushed ceramics. The initial consturction of the earthwork surrounding the site may have occurred during this period. The next period at the site represents a Coles Creek occupation (ca. 700 - 1000 A.D.) This Late Woodland component, characterized by Rockwall-Agee and "scallorn" style points and Coles Creek Incised, French Fork Incised and Larto Red ceramics, is considered to have been the period of major mound construction because of the relative abundance of diagnostic Coles Creek artifacts. A Mississippian period component is indicated at the site by the presence of shell-tempered pottery including Barton Incised types. A spatulated celt from a local collection suggests that at least a portion of the Mississippian occupation occurred between 1200 and 1400 A.D. Some of the mound construction may date to this Mississippian component. The fifth component, represented by Carson Red on Buff, Wallace Incised, and Mississippian Plain relates to protohistoric Quapaw occupation dating from about 1600 to 1800 A.D. Historic records from after 1672 do not indicate that the Quapaw engaged in any mound-building activities but do not rule out the possibility that they may have placed burials in already existing mounds.

These five components have been recognized only on the basis of surface collections and small-scale test excavations. The occupational sequence

described above is by no means definitive, and future excavations will be directed toward the discernment of the date of construction of the mounds and other features and of the cultural affiliations of the site's builders.

The relationship between the Baytown period which generally developed in the central Mississippi Valley and the Coles Creek period generally regarded as a product of the Lower Valley is unclear, for the two were developing at different rates. Excavations at Toltec may shed light on this aspect.

Although the relative abundance of Coles Creek artifacts indicates a major Coles Creek occupation, it should be pointed out that the site plan does not reflect that of a typical Coles Creek village. The embankment is remniscent of earthworks at Marksville and Troyville dating to the Marksville and Baytown periods while truncated rectangular pyramids and mounds arranged around a plaza generally characterize Mississippian sites. Therefore, the site has the potential to clarify many aspects of the relationship between Coles Creek and Mississippian cultures.

In addition, the occupational sequence may be interpreted in various ways. For instance, the Baytown, Coles Creek, and Mississippian occupations may lie on a continuum, thereby making any divisions between the periods arbitrary. It is also possible that the major occupation occurred during the Coles Creek period, that there was no significant Mississippian occupation, and that all the shell-tempered wares assigned to a Mississippian component actually related to the Quapaw occupation. A third alternative explanation would acknowledge minor occupation during the Baytown and Coles Creek periods but would place the major mound construction activities in the Mississippian with the site serving as a ceremonial center at that time; this ceremonial use of the site might explain the relative paucity of Mississippian artifacts.

Another major research goal of investigators at Toltec involves the recognition of changes in use of both the total site and areas of the site through time. The truncated pyramidal shape of Mound B indicates the probability that it served as a platform to support some sort of structure--probably a temple or a priest's or chief's residence. The function of Mound A is unknown, and judging from the limited excavation in Mound C, that structure may have served as a burial mound. Unfortunately, many of the other mounds on the site have been leveled, but the possibility exists for the presence of basal remnants which might reveal the functions of these features. In addition to the need for data on the mounds, the current

investigators at Toltec hope to determine the nature and function of the embankment surrounding the site. If post molds of a stockade are found, then the embankment, ditch, and palisade may have served defensive purposes. It is also possible that the earthwork served merely to enclose a sacred area.

Excavations may also reveal the presence of various activity areas at the site--eg. residential areas, food preparation and storage areas, lithic manufacturing areas, burial areas, etc. Even the limited excavations already conducted at the site have revealed a possible chipping feature. It has been hypothesized that raw lithic resources from the Ouachitas were brought to Toltec, processed on the site, and then distributed. This hypothesis stresses the economic importance of the site as a distribution center for tools made from Ouachita Mountain resources into the alluvial plain of eastern Arkansas and has obvious socio-political implications involving craft specialization and class differentiation. Social ranking might also be revealed by comparative analysis of house size and content in different areas of the site. Similarly, analysis of mortuary practices may provide evidence for class differentiation.

It should be remembered that the Toltec Site did not exist in a vaccuum. It was the result of a complex socio-political, religious, and economic system, and this complexity is revealed by examining not only the site itself but also its relationship to other nearby sites. Surface collections have indicated that the site does not yield an abundance of residential debris, and it probably served as a social, political, economic and religious center for numerous satellite villages, towns, hamlets, and farmsteads. The area must be surveyed to determine the locations and nature of these sites. To understand how Toltec functioned in the exploitation, processing, and distribution of resources, it is necessary to understand this settlement system. Some of the smaller nearby sites may have had specific functions, and ranking in the society might also be revealed by differences in artifacts between the various villages.

It has been suggested that this complex way of life took hold because of the need of lowland peoples for lithic resources of the highlands. Certainly, some organization was required for the distribution of these items, but the actual reasons for the origins of the site and others like it are still unclear. The most recent interpretations (Rolingson, 1977) suggest that the site resulted from either the development of a ceremonial expression of local small Woodland communities and/or the introduction into the local culture of new patterns of behavior, crops, etc. The pottery at Toltec,

while exhibiting definite Coles Creek affiliations, appears distinct enough to warrant the conclusion that the culture was a local development rather than an actual intrusion or migration of people from the south.

Historic accounts of Southeastern tribes indicate that they were horticulturalists and were considered chiefdoms. Rank in these societies was ascribed rather than achieved, and there was a priest class as well as a chief. Craft specialization and the economic redistribution of goods were characteristic of these tribes, and the chief generally had the authority to coerce followers into the construction of public works. This socio-political organization has been projected backwards in time into the prehistoric periods of the area, and excavations at Toltec may provide evidence to substantiate this projection. As indicated previously, analysis of artifact distribution may enable archeologists to identify residences, chief's houses, religious structures, craft specialization areas, etc. If a time depth exists at the site, research may also illustrate developmental changes in this socio-political organization which resulted in the historically known tribes.

Knowledge of the natural environment in the vicinity of Toltec is vitally important to an understanding of the site. This type of analysis necessitates a mult-disciplinary approach to the research, and geologists, palynologists, botanists, zoologists, etc. will have to be consulted. The investigators will attempt to determine historic flora and fauna and project them back into prehistoric times. Pollen analysis will aid in the determination of the past environments. Analysis of animal bones and plant remains recovered from the site will provide additional insight into the environment as well as into some of the specific subsistence practices of the site's inhabitants. It should be noted that the site is situated on a sandy loam soil which is critical to agriculture using simple hand tools. It is possible that the satellite villages and farmsteads associated with Toltec are also confined to this soil type.

The site is situated in a place which afforded its occupants access to the Mississippi Embayment, the Ouachita Mountains, the Ozark Plateau, the Gulf Coastal Plain, and the Arkansas River lowland. A wide variety of natural resources were thus available to Toltec's inhabitants. Certainly these environments were exploited for lithic materials and for dietary supplements; and archeological surveys in the area might reveal lithic sources, hunting camps, etc. This information could provide additional insight into the economic and socio-political organization of the area's inhabitants.

A prime consideration is the determination of the channel of the Arkansas River at the time of the site's occupation. If the Arkansas was in its present channel, then the site would have been some 2-1/2 miles from the river. In this channel, the river would have provided easy access to the White and Mississippi Rivers. However, if the river flowed in its Plum Bayou a at the time of occupation, as has been postulated by the recent investigators at Toltec, then the site would have been right on the Arkansas. In this latter instance, the river would have provided easy access to the Ouachitas. It has been suggested that abandonment of the site resulted from a change in the river's channel from the Plum Bayou to its present course.

As indicated in Section 7 (Description) of this report, the Toltec Site is better preserved then many of the large sites in the Lower Mississippi Valley. As such, it has potential to yield much information about the intrinsic nature of the cultures of the area. The reasons for the rise of these complex cultural systems, for their dominance, and for the eventual abandonment of the large centers can be examined at the site. In addition, because of Toltec's location at the northern periphery of the large Coles Creek period sites, it has the potential to clarify relationships of Coles Creek culture with the developing Mississippian cultures of the central Mississippi Valley and with the Caddoan cultures to the west.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 170 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	15	586070	3854040
B	15	586050	3830600
C	15	585190	3830600
D	15	585200	3825610

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Francine Weiss-Bromberg, Staff Archeologist

ORGANIZATION
Historic Sites Survey Division - Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

DATE
2/8/78

STREET & NUMBER
1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Washington

STATE
D.C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL XX STATE ____ LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 892-453

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Thomas, Cyrus
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Refer to the accompanying Map A (USGS 7.5' quad-Scott, Arkansas) for a clarification of the boundary description. Beginning at the intersection of the north section line of Sec. 10, T. 1S., R.10W., with the western bank of Mound Pond, the boundary proceeds east about 1550 feet, then south about 2050 feet, then southwest (S 45° W) for about 1600 feet, then west about 1800 feet, then north about 1500 feet to the west bank of Mound Pond, and then generally northeast along the west bank of Mound Pond to the beginning point.

The northern, southern, and eastern landmark boundaries are lines which generally enclose the C-shaped embankment and lie several hundred feet outside of it. These boundary lines are justified by the fact that cultural material has not been found in the fields outside of the embankment and paralleling ditch. Basically, Mound Pond serves as the western limit of occupation. However, the far side of this oxbow lake has been chosen as the landmark boundary because the pond has the potential to yield important environmental data relevant to interpretations of the site and may also have served as a trash dump.