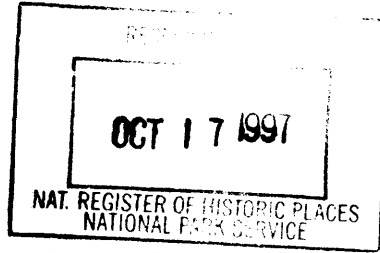


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Chickasaw Heritage Park (preferred)

other names/site number Fort Pickering; Jackson Mound Park; DeSoto Park; 40SY5

2. Location

street & number corner of Riverside Blvd. & Ornamental Metal Museum Dr. NA not for publication

city or town Memphis NA vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Shelby code 157 zip code 38104

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hays 10/8/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Barbara Faith

11/25/97

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing

Noncontributing

	2	buildings
1		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: village site

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE: park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NA

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation NA

walls NA

roof NA

other NA

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHAEOLOGY: prehistoric
 RELIGION
 SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

AD 400 - AD 700
 AD 1000 - AD 1500

Significant Dates

NA

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

Woodland; Mississippian

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:
Tennessee Division of Archaeology

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Name of Property

Shelby County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 17.22 acres 404 SE Southwest Memphis

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>766780</u>	<u>3890420</u>	3	<u>15</u>	<u>766430</u>	<u>3890280</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>15</u>	<u>766780</u>	<u>3890280</u>	4	<u>15</u>	<u>766410</u>	<u>3890430</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan J. Haun, c/o Charles McNutt
organization Dept. of Anthropology date November 1995
street & number University of Memphis telephone 901/678-3331
city or town Memphis state TN zip code 38152

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Memphis, Department of Parks and Recreation, c/o Wayne Bower
street & number 2599 Avery Avenue telephone 901/454-5200
city or town Memphis state TN zip code 38112

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The area currently known as Chickasaw Heritage Park in Memphis, TN., was part of a large prehistoric (Mississippian) Native American village which included seven mounds. The village contained pole – construction buildings and earthen platform mounds that served as raised platforms for special political or religious buildings. The park presently contains two of these structure mounds and the remains of the village site.

Since its prehistoric occupation, however, Chickasaw Heritage Park has been the site of several historical activities. The mound area was part of the town of Fort Pickering which included the westernmost mound (Mound A) as Monument Square, or public land. Later, during the construction of a Civil War fort also named Fort Pickering, two of the mounds (Mounds A and B) were used as gun batteries. In 1887 the area became an amusement park known as Jackson Mound Park. A bandstand and dance pavilion were built on top of the largest mound (Mound A) with a bowling alley, shooting gallery, and restaurant installed on the surrounding grounds. The City of Memphis purchased the park in 1912 changing the name to DeSoto Park. Most recently, the park was renamed Chickasaw Heritage Park and presently contains a basketball court, swings, public rest rooms and other park features.

Detailed Description

Prehistoric Occupation

The site is situated on one (the fourth Chickasaw) of a series of high bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River. These bluffs are the result of numerous Pleistocene loess deposits, the portion of which has been identified as the Peorian loess sheet and corresponds to the terminal period of the last glaciation [Nash, 1972:1]. This area is situated well above the flood plain and consequently contains no accumulated alluvial deposits. Loess, a silty type of soil, erodes easily, forming extensive gullies and ravines perpendicular to the river.

Although prehistoric use of the site probably began in the Archaic period, substantial use of the site, based on the presence of distinctive grog tempered ceramic sherds of the Baytown Plain type, occurred during the Late Woodland Period (AD 400 – 700). The presence of the mounds, as well as Bell Plain type ceramic sherds, indicates a prehistoric expansion of the site in the Mississippian Period. Based on an 1843 map of the area (Figure 1), the site contained at least seven mounds and associated village area.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

Presently, two substructure mounds (Mounds A and B) are extant on the site. Exposed surface areas exhibit a mixed assemblage of artifactual debris including lithic debitage, ceramic sherds, and historic period artifacts. No known burial mounds exist on the site, but the prehistoric people, who preceded historically known tribes in the area (Chickasaw and Choctaw), had the custom of burying their dead in and around their village area. Consequently, there may be isolated human burials in the park area.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

Several private collections include artifacts which were purportedly taken from the site area by early collectors. The Bartholomew Collection contains a number of vessels including a hooded water bottle, a Rhodes Incised jar, a Walls Engraved jar, and an animal effigy (cat-serpent) Walls Engraved bowl. Family accounts indicate that these vessels were found by Robert Bartholomew who moved to Memphis in the late 1800s or early 1900s. Working as a grading contractor on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River at Memphis, Mr. Bartholomew unearthed these vessels from an Indian burial mound located on the bluff [Robert Mainfort, personal communication, 1995]. Another collection contains a Barton var. Kent jar (Mississippi paste), which came from a mound in Chickasaw Heritage Park [Dye, personal communication, 1995]. Two surface collections made by amateurs at the site and later donated to the museum at Chucalissa include a celt, a discoidal (chunkey stone), a nutting stone, and numerous ceramic sherds (predominately Baytown Plain). Recently, two small triangular projectile points (Madison), diagnostic of the Mississippian period, were recovered from the surface of Mound A [Johnson, personal communication, 1995].

Approximately thirty burials, including the remains of a Federal soldier, were uncovered during the 1937 construction of a park roadway. A Memphis newspaper account from July 15th of that year stated that the Indians had been encased in earthenware coffins which were probably broken by WPA picks. This account may actually describe broken ceramic funerary vessels placed with the burials. Various lithic artifacts were also uncovered during road construction. Records do not indicate the disposition of the skeletal material or the cultural artifacts

In 1981, a University of Memphis (formerly Memphis State University) anthropology student excavated a 70 x 100 x 70 centimeter test pit along an existing drainage ditch between the two mounds [Weaver and Bowman, 1982]. The soil stratigraphy was detailed, but in light of recently discovered documentary evidence of the amount of park disturbance, the stratigraphic evidence is inconclusive. Weaver and Bowman [1982: 3] concluded that the site dates from the Late Mississippian Walls Phase (AD 1450 –1550). Other researchers think that the site may be better placed in the earlier Middle Mississippian time period since large multiple mound complexes are not known for the Walls Phase [Dye, personal communication, 1995].

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

The Department of Anthropology of The University of Memphis attempted an archaeological testing program of the site in June 1988, but protest by Native American activists, on grounds of violation of their religious beliefs on the sanctity of prehistoric Indian sites, led to cancellation of the project. The Tennessee Division of Archaeology staff mapped and photographed portions of the site on September 13, 1988. Plans to test the site were abandoned "because of escalating protests from Native American and community and religious leaders ..." [Beifuss, 1988: B1]

In 1993, Fred Prouty, Military Sites Preservation Specialist for the Tennessee Historical Commission, investigated the supposed powder magazine located within Mound A. The bricked - over entrance to the underground feature is located on the north side of the mound and had been presumed to open into a redoubt and/or powder magazine constructed during the Civil War at Fort Pickering. Prouty found that, unlike powder magazines representative of this historical period, the tunnel leading to the main room did not take a characteristic 90 degree turn, but instead angled slightly. A small chamber on the east end of the main room contained a 6 to 8 inch iron pipe which may have led to a septic tank or drain (Figure 2). In addition, the earliest graffiti on the tunnel walls dated only to 1882. Prouty believes that the underground chamber represents part of the construction of the 1887 Jackson Mound Park dance pavilion [Prouty, personal communication, 1995].

Current and Past Disruptive Influences

Alterations to the site are numerous due to the long history of use. Subsequent to its last use as a Native American village, perhaps around AD 1500, the site was apparently incorporated into the original Fort Pickering, established as a frontier post on the bluff south of Memphis in 1798. Roper (1975) concludes that the account placing the fort's watchtower on the "summit" may have been referring to the largest mound on the site. The fort was abandoned sometime after 1808 as the American frontier moved westward [Roper, 1970]. The town of Fort Pickering, including a park area called Monument Square, was developed in 1840 by John C. McLemore and became an important landing site. An 1843 map made by the Navy Department shows the town of Fort Pickering and seven mounds (Figure 1). The notes on the map are as follows :

Plat of a part of the Town of Fort Pickering exhibiting also a portion of the lands belonging to John C. McLemore and John Trigg with the height of the bluff, the table bench, the depth of the soundings and etc.

Surveyed and platted for the use of the commissioners appointed to survey the Harbor of Memphis, with a view to its adaptation for a Naval Depot and Dock Yard.

Monument Square has been conveyed by Mr. McLemore to Martin Van Buren and others trust for the purpose of erecting therein a monument to General Andrew

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

Jackson.. Taken from actual survey of undersigned ... this 3rd day of May 1843.
[Signed] C. Baumgantner, Surveyor and Draftsman.

The next account of the site comes from I. Dille [1872: 361] in which he describes the main mound:

At Fort Pickering ... stands what the writer supposed to be an altar, which is one of the most conspicuous objects on the river. It is in the form of a parallelogram, which by stepping was found to be about two hundred twenty feet long by one hundred twenty feet wide and by estimation about twenty to twenty-five feet high with steep sides and a flat upper surface. In 1849 this mound was in a good state of preservation, and on digging into the material of which it was composed was found to be calcined clay, changed by burning into a brick color, the clay before being burnt having been mixed with the twigs of cypress, birch, and poplar, which is clearly shown by examining fragments of charcoal under a magnifying glass.

In the vicinity of this mound were several small circles of fifteen or twenty feet diameter, some of which were circular ridges, and others were low mounds, seldom exceeding one foot in height, and flat on top.

The above account apparently describes a burned structure in the mound (Mound A) complete with wall daub. The second account appears to describe small house mounds and semi - subterranean dwelling structures. Other nineteenth and early twentieth century reports of these relatively undisturbed prehistoric sites contain similar house site descriptions. A drawing of the principal mound (Mound A) made in 1858 by H. J. Lewis probably depicts the mound described in Dille's account (Figure 3). A penciled notation on the front of the drawing reads, " Mound in South Memphis Tenn – in Fort Pickering ." [Jeter, 1990:8].

An 1858 map (Rucker) of this part of Memphis delineates three mounds and shows Carroll Street running north-south between Mound A and Mound C. Armstrong Street bounds the site on the east. Van Buren and Coffee Streets which run east-west also transect the site. Mound B is shown at the southwest corner of Armstrong and Van Buren. Mounds D, E, F, and G are not depicted (Figure 4).

Civil War Fort Pickering

During the Civil War the mound complex was incorporated into the massive earthworks of the new Fort Pickering, following the occupation by Federal troops of Memphis on June 6, 1862. Numerous sources indicate that mound A was hollowed out and converted into a redoubt and/or powder magazine. The site is located at the southern end of the fort and at least two of the mounds

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

(Mound A and possibly Mound B) are depicted on the fort plans shown in the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Figure 5). The mounds were apparently utilized as gun emplacements. Mounds C, D, E, F, and G are not noted. Presently the southern ditch and rampart earthworks are the sole surviving features of the once extensive Fort Pickering fortification. Weaver's investigations suggest that the previously mentioned prehistoric house mounds may have been incorporated into these Civil War features. If so, the ramparts may have served to protect some of the archaeological deposits on the site [Weaver and Bowman, 1982].

In 1884 a U. S. Marine Hospital was constructed by the U. S. Public Health Service on the northern boundary of the site effectively destroying mound F and associated village archaeological deposits.

Jackson Mound Park Construction

The park area was purchased by Daniel Lake in 1871, and later leased to the Jackson Mound Park Association for the development of an amusement park. Jackson Mound Park officially opened on July 4, 1887. An 1888 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Figure 6) documents the structures present at the park, including a dance pavilion and bandstand on Mound A, as well as a combination restaurant, bar and sleeping rooms. Other buildings shown are a shooting gallery, a bowling alley, and a horse shed. Outside of the park are the cattle pens and fertilizer works of the Union Stock Yard and Fertilizer Company.

The most detailed map of Jackson Mound Park development is a one inch equals fifty feet scale topographic (five foot contour interval) map prepared for the Memphis Park Commission on September 22, 1910 (Figure 7). This map shows Mound A with the dance pavilion and Mound B. Mound A top elevation is 195 feet AMSL and Mound B is noted at 191.8 feet AMSL. A deep erosional ravine is shown at the west end of Colorado Avenue (formerly Gaines Street in 1858). California Avenue (formerly Coffee Street) separates the hospital from the park. Mound B is shown at the corner of Armstrong and Jackson Mound Avenue (the western extension of Van Buren Street). Jersey Street (formerly Carroll) runs on the east side of Mound A. Several residences are shown on the west side of Delaware Avenue which also contains the tracks of the Memphis Street Railway. The area formerly occupied by Mound E is being used as the W. P. Stave Company. Mound D was located in an area now part of the large erosional ravine at the foot of Colorado Avenue.

The 1910 appearance of the park had been changed by the 1930s when Work Projects Administration labor was used to construct a roadway around the park boundary (the present Riverside Drive). Archaeological deposits from the village area and possibly Mound C were affected by this construction. As mentioned in the summary, some thirty burials were encountered at this time.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

The most recent disturbance to the site occurred around 1966 when a public rest room, backstop, swings, and landscape planters were installed. A basketball court was added at a later date. Presently the site is crossed by a sewer line and overhead power lines on wooden poles. The ravines shown on the 1910 map have been filled and some grading has occurred south of Mound B (Figure 8). It is not known if archaeological remains were encountered during the most recent construction projects. The present park location is bounded by Ornamental Metal Museum Drive on the north, west, and south, and by Riverside Drive on the east.

There have been numerous disturbances to the archaeological integrity of the original prehistoric site by its incorporation into Fort Pickering and later into Jackson Mound/DeSoto Park. Only two of the original seven known mounds still exist.

The basketball court and two rest rooms are considered noncontributing resources. The mounds are considered part of one contributing site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Chickasaw Heritage Park is eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion D because it is likely to yield information important to the understanding of the Woodland and Mississippian cultural periods in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley region of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas. In its original form, the site represented the largest multiple mound complex on the bluffs of the Mississippi River in this area. If the site was occupied during the Walls Phase, it may have been the major ceremonial center for that polity. Although the site has a long history of use, it has not been subjected to the types of disturbances typically associated with sites in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, namely agricultural plowing or the construction of large commercial buildings.

Historic Context

The prehistoric components of the site relate to two historic contexts: the Woodland Cultural Period (Baytown Phase), and the Mississippian Cultural Period. Major construction and occupation occurred during the Mississippian period, but some scattered Woodland artifacts are present on the site.

The Woodland Cultural Period

The Baytown period is synonymous with the Late Woodland in the Central Mississippi Valley. Sites with this component are relatively plentiful in the physiographic region [Smith and Weinstein, 1987]. Unlike the florescence of the Middle Woodland (Marksville period) these sites lack exotic artifacts and earthworks. "Pottery decoration ... was at a remarkably low ebb " [Phillips, 1970:901] Two distinct ceramic technologies are evident. Sites located along braided streams exhibit the sand – tempered Barrens tradition while sites on meander belts contain the grog – tempered Baytown tradition [Morse and Morse, 1983]. Baytown Plain and Mulberry Creek Cord Marked sherds are characteristic of meander belt sites [Phillips, 1970]. The Baytown period at this site is evidenced by the presence of grog-tempered Baytown Plain ceramic sherds [Weaver and Bowman, 1982].

Settlement patterns generally consist of small, dispersed villages. The presence of larger, often fortified sedentary villages, characteristic of the later Mississippian period, are absent. Evidence suggests seasonal movement possibly in response to changing environmental conditions. Morse and Morse [1983:182] note the similarity in dates with the Scandic climatic episodes (AD 320 to AD 740).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

The Mississippian Cultural Period

Throughout much of the Southeastern United States, the Mississippian period denotes a significant change in aboriginal cultural development from the earlier Woodland Period. The use of large earthen platform mounds as substructures for temples and elite residences, the practice of intensive horticulture, and the development of organized chiefdoms comprise significant achievements during the Mississippian period [Griffin, 1990]. This tradition began during the middle to latter part of the first millennium, emerging as a distinct lifestyle by AD 800 to AD 1000 [Hudson, 1976; Walthall, 1980]. A recent radiocarbon date from the Ames Plantation mound group (40FY7) in nearby Fayette County indicates the construction of Emergent Mississippian platform mounds and the use of shell tempered ceramics around AD 1000 [Mainfort, n.d.; cf. Jenkins, 1982]. Large multiple mound ceremonial centers, with surrounding fortified villages and farmsteads became apparent between AD 1000 and AD 1350. Populations throughout the Central Mississippi Valley increase in size and distribution. By the late 1300s to early 1500s the cultural florescence of the preceding centuries began to subside, marking the decline of the Mississippian period. Large areas of the Central Mississippi Valley were abandoned, while others became the focus of intense population nucleation [Morse and Morse, 1983].

Diagnostic Mississippian Features and Artifacts

A variety of features and artifacts are associated with sites which readily identify them as Mississippian. The truncated, pyramidal platform mound is one such feature. Used as substructures for temples and elite residences, these mounds have steep slopes with a ramp leading up one side to a flat top. Often these and other mounds were arranged to form a "plaza" or open courtyard which served as the staging arena for many ceremonial and social events of the community.

In general, the presence of shell tempered ceramics is one of the best diagnostic markers for Mississippian period sites. Assemblages from this time contain a wide variety of vessel forms including jars, bowls, bottles, pans, and plates. These vessels are usually separated into fine versus utilitarian wares based on a continuum of paste texture and surface luster. The fine nonutilitarian wares, classified as Bell Plain [Phillips, 1970], are characterized by a fine-textured paste with smooth to polished exterior surfaces. In contrast, utilitarian wares have coarser textured paste with larger temper particles. These coarse wares include Parkin Punctated, Barton Incised, and Mississippi Plain var. Neelys Ferry.

Jars are among the more common vessel forms recovered from Mississippian sites in the Central Mississippi Valley. These are generally characterized as globular, smooth surfaced, shouldered vessels with rounded bottoms and everted rims. Strap or lug handles are often present on or near the rim. The neck and shoulders may exhibit incised or punctate designs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

Bowls have round to flat bottoms with smooth exterior surfaces. One of the most common bowl types associated with the Central Mississippi Valley is the effigy bowl. These well-crafted vessels were made to resemble a number of shapes including humans, ducks, fish, dogs, turtles, owls, and frogs.

Bottles from Mississippian sites include effigy forms as well, although these are often of humans. Males and females alike are represented in these assemblages. Other bottle forms include: (1) round to flat bottomed, globular vessels with elongated necks, and (2) subglobular vessels with elongated necks and large, tetrapod legs for support.

With the exception of projectile point styles and exotic stone artifacts, chipped stone assemblages from Mississippi Alluvial Valley Mississippian sites are not much different from earlier occupations. One diagnostic projectile point for this time is the small, triangular Madison Point [Cambron and Hulse, 1975:84]. This thin point exhibits a straight base (sometimes slightly incurvate) and blade edges. The large chipped stone hoe used in agricultural activities is another diagnostic Mississippian artifact.

A variety of exotic, ground and polished stone artifacts were manufactured by Mississippian craftsmen. These include monolithic axes, spatulate celts, celts, bannerstones, ear spools, discoidals ("chunkey stones"), and pipes. Shell artifacts such as gorgets of non-local marine shell, beads, and spoons are common as well. The gorgets are often incised with motifs depicting important events and symbols.

The Walls Phase (AD 1450–1550) of the Late Mississippian Cultural Period is centered just south of Memphis in northern Mississippi (Figure 9) [Lumb and McNutt, 1988: 127]. Although Phillips [1970: Fig. 447] shows Wall's Phase sites on both sides of the Mississippi River, most of the sites are located on the eastern side. Morse and Morse [1983: 296] include Chucalissa (40SY1) in the Walls Phase and give radiocarbon dates of AD 1410, 1550, and 1560 for this site. Other Walls Phase sites include Cheatham, Irlly, Lake Cormorant, Norfolk, Walls, and Woodlyn [Smith, 1990]. Lumb and McNutt [1988: 137] note that the Chickasaw Heritage Park site may be the major ceremonial center for the Walls Phase.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

Specific Site Significance

Prehistoric Component

Although the archaeological test data from the Chickasaw Heritage site is limited, there is evidence which indicates possible intact archaeological remains in the following categories:

1. Structural and stratigraphic information in Mound B and possibly protected pre-mound surfaces beneath Mound B.
2. Structural and stratigraphic information in the southern one-fourth of Mound A and possibly protected pre-mound surfaces beneath Mound A
3. Residential structures beneath remaining Fort Pickering earthworks; and
4. Aboriginal features.

Mound B and the southern one-fourth of mound A offer potential structural and stratigraphic data which could provide better insight into dates of site construction and use. As previously mentioned, debate exists regarding the timing of site construction. If the sites are contemporaneous, comparisons with Chucalissa (40SY1), located in a similar geographic situation approximately two miles south, may indicate prehistoric political affiliations. Protected pre-mound surfaces may yield evidence of earlier occupations. In addition, data derived from mound fill could prove invaluable in establishing cultural sequences in the area. The initial cultural sequence in East Tennessee was based in large part on mound fill from Hiwassee Island Mound [Lewis and Kneberg, 1946].

Weaver's sketch of the remaining Fort Pickering earthworks (Figure 10) suggests that they may cover prehistoric house mounds and/or associated features such as hearths and pits. If so, this area could provide data on house structure, diet, and subsistence patterns. The site may also contain human remains of the Mississippian occupation period allowing greater information on questions related to status, diet, disease, stress, and warfare.

Additional Considerations

The information in this nomination assessed the property for its significance in prehistoric archaeology, as it relates to settlement and religion. There is historical information on additional uses of the site that are noted in this nomination. The site has not been assessed for integrity that relate to the later uses. If additional investigations determine that the site retains integrity, the considerations noted below may be important.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

A search of the literature indicates that some form of subterranean activity associated with Mound A was evident in 1858. Lewis 1858 drawing of the mound (Figure 3) suggests an opening on the northern face of the mound in a location similar to that of the present bricked entrance. A map of Fort Pickering (Figure 5), including inserts of gun emplacements on Mounds A and B, indicates a tunnel running from the northwestern side of Mound A to the southwestern side. Prouty (1993) observations suggest the use of this tunnel as part of the dance pavilion engineering design. Archaeological testing of Mound A may reveal the relationships, if any, of the above mentioned activities and the chronological sequencing of related structures.

Historical accounts of the region state that the French constructed a fort (Assumption) in 1739 on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River at Memphis in their campaign against the Chickasaw Indians. Although numerous historians estimate the location of the fort in the vicinity of Chickasaw Heritage Park [Roper, 1970; Robinson, 1951], no evidence of the fortification has ever been found. The park location offers the most strategic point along the river from both an offensive and defensive view. If Fort Assumption was indeed located on park acreage, archaeological evidence of its location may be present.

Civil War Component

Fort Pickering was an extensive fortification occupying most of the present day Memphis bluff line. A small earthwork line near Mound B may be the only remaining extant portion of the fort. Widescale and intense metal detecting in the park has probably removed a significant portion of metal artifactual evidence of Civil War activities. The earthworks may contain limited information on construction techniques, but from an archaeological viewpoint the site contains very limited research potential on the Civil War component. Archaeological excavation could discover remains of Civil War period soldiers as were found during roadway construction in 1937.

Park Construction Component

Chickasaw Heritage Park as an archaeological site also may yield information on the nature of late nineteenth century park construction as evidenced by the detailed 1910 map documenting the existence of such structures as a concession stand, shooting gallery, ticket office, and dance pavilion. Extensive relic collecting with metal detectors has compromised the archaeological potential of this aspect of the site, however, structural remains of some of the park's facilities should be intact. Prouty investigations of the room within Mound A indicate additional evidence which may relate to the engineering design of the dance pavilion.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 12

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

- Beifus, John
1988 "Archaeologist Seeks to List Mounds as Historic Site." *The Commercial Appeal*. August 25, 1988. Memphis. Page B1.
- Cambron, James W. and David C. Hulse
1975 *Handbook of Alabama Archaeology; Part 1: Point Types*. Revised edition. Archaeological Research Association, Inc. University, Alabama.
- Dille, I
1872 "Sketch of Ancient Earthworks by I. Dille of Ohio." In *Smithsonian Institution Annual Report for 1866*. Washington, DC
- Dye, David H
1995 Personal Communication; October 19, 1995. Professor of Anthropology University of Memphis. Interviewed by Susan J. Haun. Transcript stored at University of Memphis, Dept. of Anthropology.
- Griffin, James
1990 "Comments on the Late Prehistoric Societies in the Southeast." In *Towns and Temples Along the Mississippi*. Edited by David H. Dye and Cheryl Anne Cox. University of Alabama Press. Tuscaloosa. pp. 5–15.
- Hudson, Charles
1976 *The Southeastern Indians*. The University of Tennessee Press. Knoxville.
- Jenkins, Ned J.
1982 'Archaeology of the Gainesville Lake Area: Synthesis.' *University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Research, Report of Investigations, No. 3*. University.
- Jeter, Marvin D.
1990 "The Palmer–Lewis Mound Survey Forays into Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana, 1881–1883." In *Mississippi Archaeology*. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Jackson, MS.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 13

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

Johnson, Judith

1995 Personal Communication; October 20, 1995. Historic Preservation Analyst, City of Memphis. Interviewed by Susan J. Haun. Transcript stored at University of Memphis, Dept. of Anthropology.

Lewis, T. M. N. and Madeline Kneberg

1946 *Hiwassee Island: An Archaeological Account of Four Tennessee Indian Peoples*. University of Tennessee Press. Knoxville.

Lumb, Lisa C. and Charles H. McNutt

1988 "Chucalissa: Excavation in Units 2 and 6, 1959–67." *Memphis State University Anthropological Research Center, Occasional Papers, No. 15*. Memphis.

Mainfort, Robert C. Jr.

n.d. "The Woodland Period in the West Tennessee Coastal Plain." Report in preparation, Tennessee Division of Archaeology.

1995 Personal Communication; October 31, 1995. Archaeologist, Arkansas Archaeological Survey. Interviewed by Susan J. Haun. Transcript stored at University of Memphis, Dept. of Anthropology.

Morse, Dan F. and Phyllis A. Morse

1983 *Archaeology of the Central Mississippi Valley*. Academic Press. New York.

Nash

1972 "Chucalissa: Excavations and Burials Through 1963." *Memphis State Anthropological Research Center, Occasional Papers, No. 6*. Memphis.

Phillips, Philip

1970 "Archaeological Survey in the Lower Yazoo Basin, Mississippi, 1949–1955." *Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Vol. 60*. Cambridge, Ma.

Prouty, Fred

1995 Personal Communication; October 25, 1995. Military Sites Preservation Specialist, Tennessee Historical Commission. Interviewed by Susan J. Haun. Transcript stored at University of Memphis, Dept. of Anthropology

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 14

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

Robinson, James Troy

- 1951 "Fort Assumption: The First Recorded History of White Man's Activity on the Present Site of Memphis." *The West Tennessee Historical Society Papers*. The West Tennessee Historical Society. Memphis.

Roper, James E.

- 1970 *The Founding of Memphis, 1818–1820*. Memphis Sesquicentennial, Inc. Memphis.
- 1975 "The Fort Pickering Heights." *Center City* (2), No. 26 (July 3, 1975). Memphis.

Smith, Gerald and Richard A. Weinstein

- 1987 Cultural Resources Survey, Without Testing, of the Nonconnah Creek Project, Shelby County, Tennessee: A Negative Report. Report submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District Contract No. CW66–87–D–0025.
- 1990 "The Walls Phase and Its Neighbors." In *Towns and Temples Along the Mississippi*. Edited by David H. Dye and Cheryl Anne Cox. University of Alabama Press. Tuscaloosa. pp. 135–169.

Walthall, John A.

- 1980 *Prehistoric Indians of the Southeast*. University of Alabama Press. Tuscaloosa.

Weaver, Guy and David Bowman

- 1982 "DeSoto Park Site/Preliminary Investigation." Report prepared for MMH Hall Architects/Planners. Manuscript on file, Tennessee Division of Archaeology. Nashville.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 15

Chickasaw Heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Chickasaw Heritage Park is bounded on the west, south, and north by Ornamental Metal Museum Drive (formerly DeSoto Dr.), and by Riverside Drive on the east (excluding the residential area). A small northeastern segment is bounded by Illinois Ave. It contains the 17.22 acres associated with the park. See figure 8.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Boundaries of the site were selected using the edge of the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, the surrounding streets, and the residential area on the east side of the park. The site was originally much larger, but urban development has encroached on site boundaries effectively limiting the extent of archaeological research potential. The boundary includes all land under ownership of the City of Memphis that is part of the park.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 16

PHOTO LOG

Chickasaw heritage Park
Shelby County, Tennessee

Photo by: Susan J. Haun

Date: November 1995

Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission

North side of Mound A

1 of 14

Close-up of feature located on north face of Mound A

2 of 14

Top of Mound A; taken from the southwest corner of mound

3 of 14

Taken from top of Mound A, facing southwest

4 of 14

South side of Mound A

5 of 14

South side of Mound A

6 of 14

West (longer side) and south sides of Mound B

7 of 14

North and west sides of Mound B; taken from northwest

8 of 14

West side of Mound B and rest room facilities

9 of 14

Plaza area; taken from the top of Mound B, facing west

10 of 14

Remains of Fort Pickering rampart and ditch; taken from Mound B, facing west

11 of 14

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 17

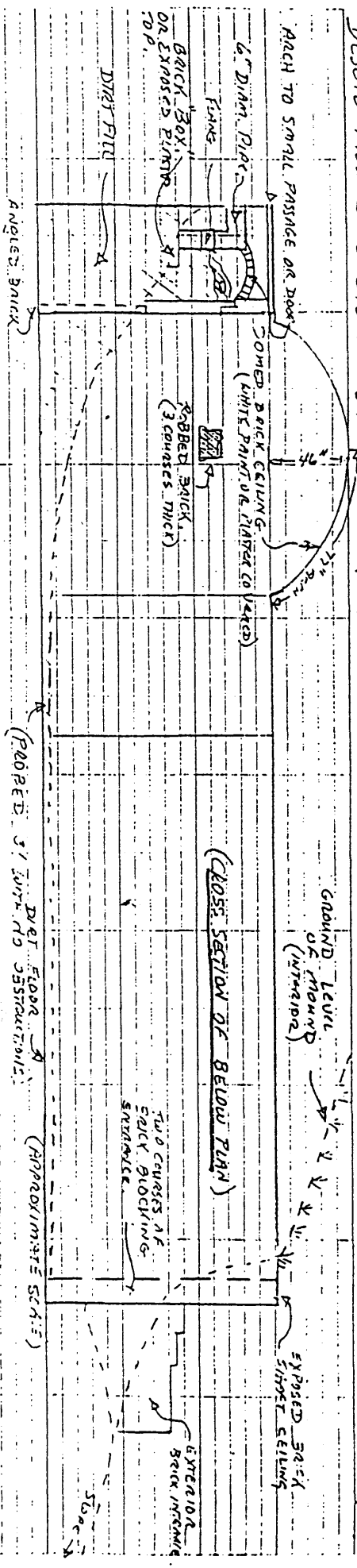
East–northeast area of Chickasaw Heritage Park; taken from Mound B
12 of 14

North–northeast area of Chickasaw Heritage Park; taken from Mound B
13 of 14

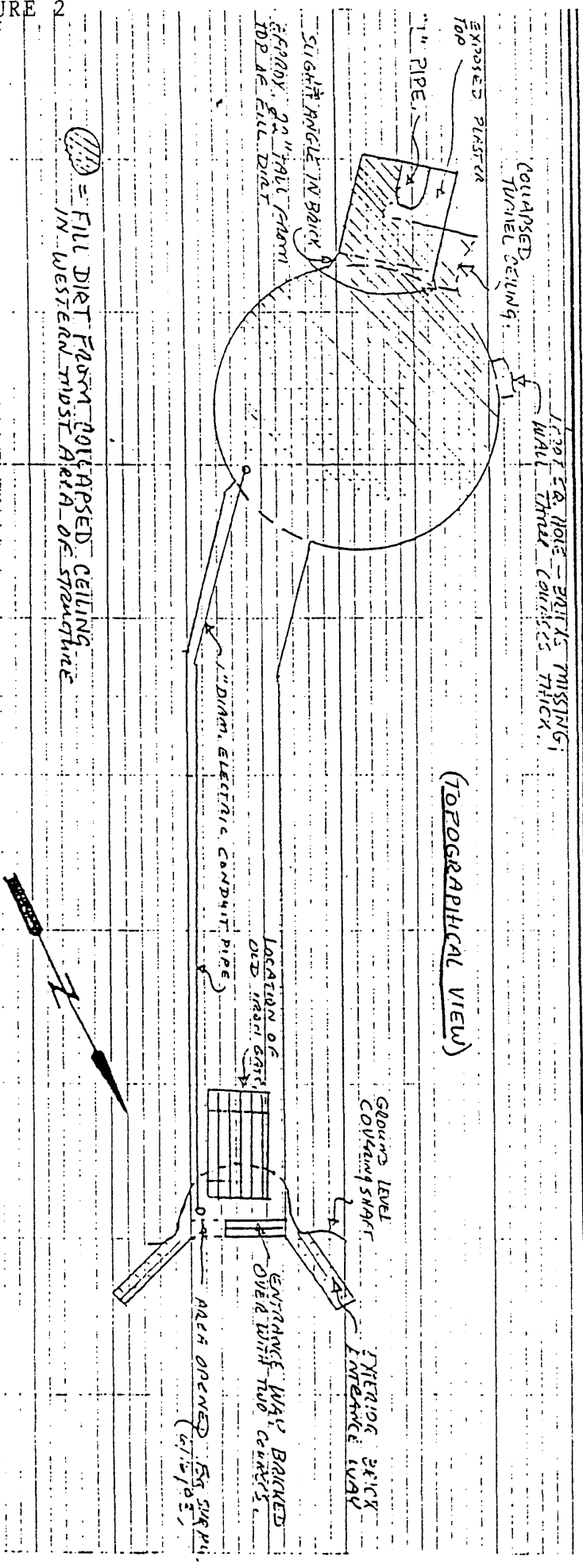
North area of Chickasaw Heritage Park; taken from Mound B
14 of 14

FIGURE 2

DESOTO MOUND SUBTERRANEAN BRICK STRUCTURE.



(TOPOGRAPHICAL VIEW)

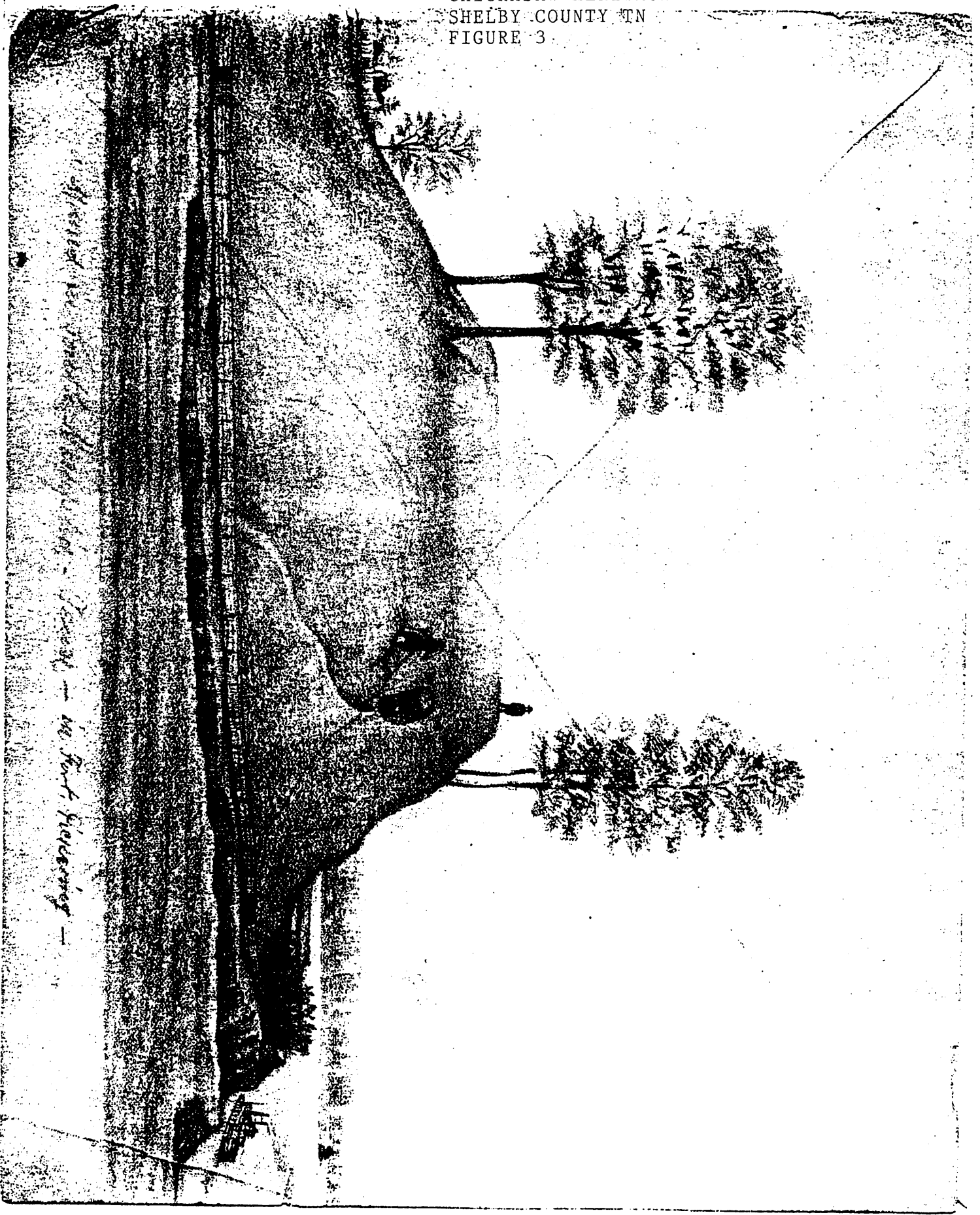


(X) = FILL DIRT FROM COLLAPSED CEILING IN WESTERN MOST AREA OF STRUCTURE

I DO NOT BELIEVE THIS TO BE A CIVIL WAR PERIOD POWDER MAGAZINE AS PER "LOCAL LEGEND"

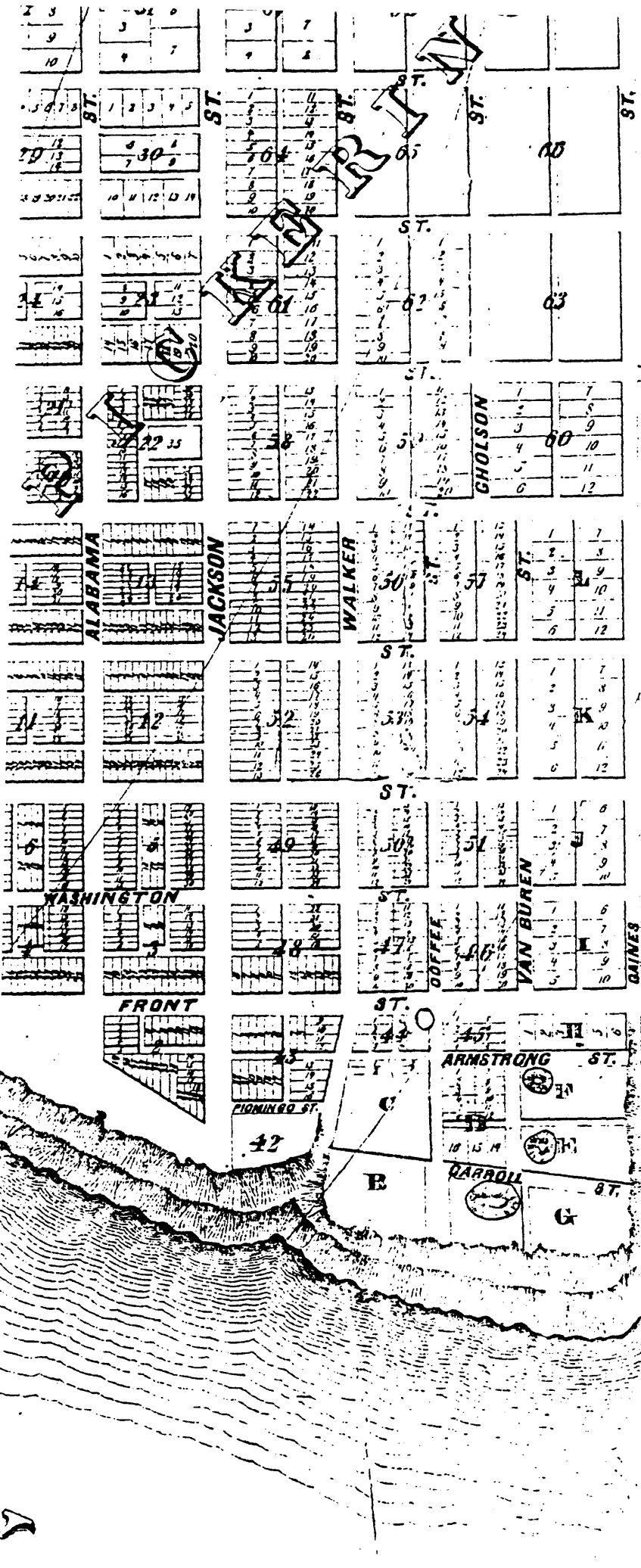
IT FOLLOWS NO PERIOD MILITARY ENGINEERING TECHNIQUES KNOWN TO THIS WRITER.
E.M. PROBERT 7/8/53

F.P. 8/16/10



Massive masonry structure - Fort Mifflin -

CHICKASAW HERITAGE PARK
 SHELBY COUNTY TN
 FIGURE 4



HORNLAKE

Willoughby Williams

John Trig

1252

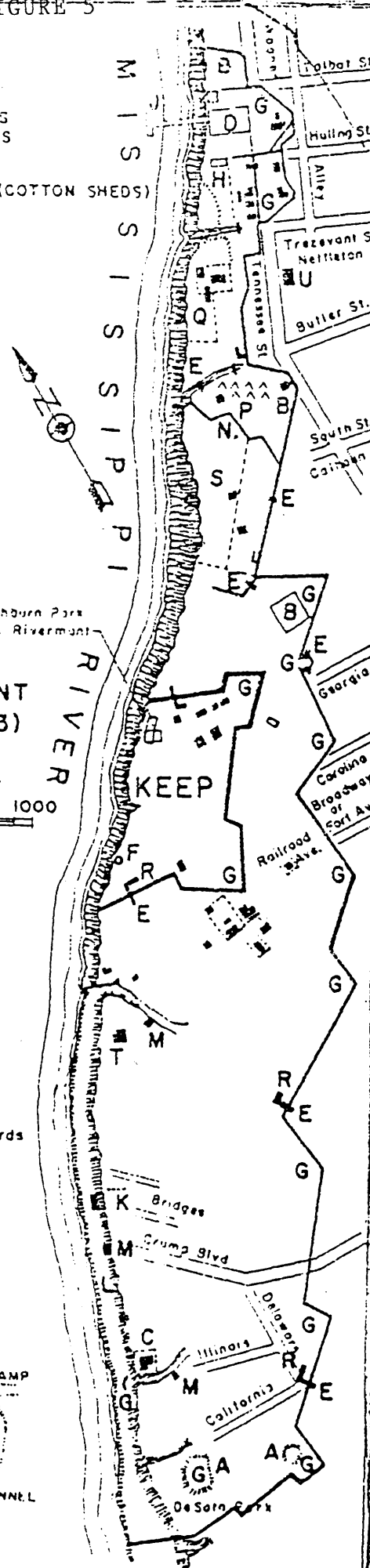
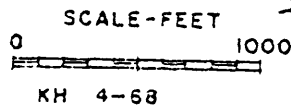
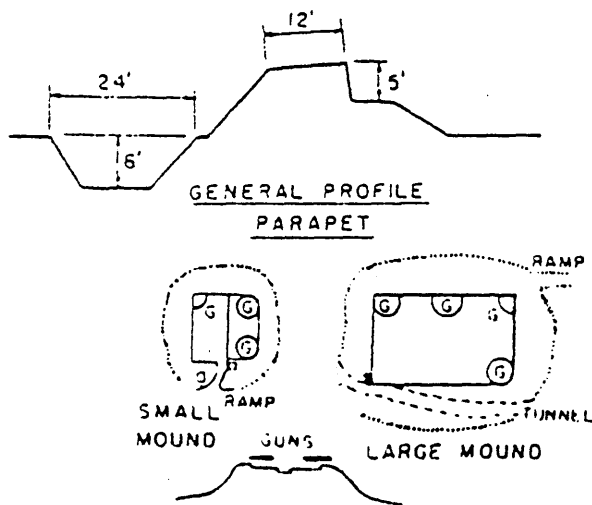
LEGEND

- A. INDIAN MOUND
- B. BATTERY POSITION
IDENTIFIED ON ORIGINAL DRAWINGS AS
FULL BATTERIES OF SEVERAL GUNS
- C. ORDNANCE OFFICE
- D. ORDNANCE DEPOT & SHOP (COTTON SHEDS)
- E. BRIDGE $\frac{1}{2}$ (TYPICAL)
- F. FLAG STAFF
- G. GUN EMPLACEMENTS
IDENTIFIED ON ORIGINAL DRAWINGS AS
MISC. GUNS OF VARIOUS SIZES
- H. CORRAL
- J. COTTON SLIDE
- K. WATER WORKS
- L. LEVEE ROAD
- M. MAGAZINE
- N. NEW LINE
INTERIOR EARTHWORKS
ADDED AROUND 1854
- P. CAMP-3rd BATTERY, USCAH
U.S. COLORED ARTILLERY, HEAVY
- Q. QUARTERMASTER
- R. RAMP $\frac{1}{2}$ (TYPICAL)
- S. QM CORRAL & WORKSHOP
- T. HEADQUARTERS COMMANDANT
- U. GRANT-SHERMAN HDQS. (1863)

FORT PICKERING
TENNESSEE
CIRCA 1865

Redrawn from original maps for
 Memphis Sesquicentennial Trail.

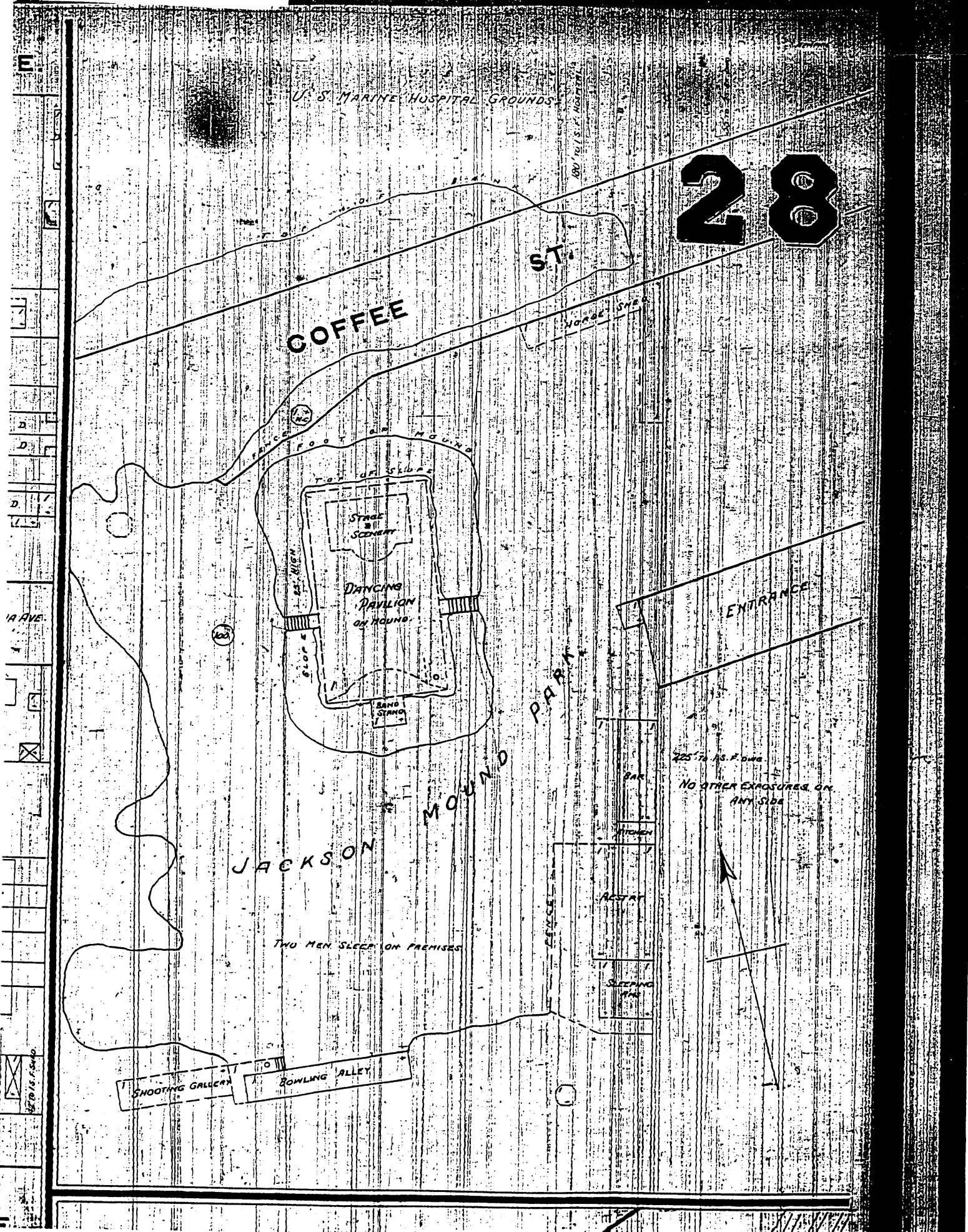
REFERENCE: Tracing in National Archives
 and Plate CXIV, "Atlas of the Official Records
 of the Union and Confederate Armies"



Present streets and landmarks shown in Red

FIGURE 6

28



U.S. MARINE HOSPITAL GROUNDS

COFFEE ST.

COFFEE

HORSE LANE

SPACE FOOT AIR MOUND

TOP OF STAIRS

STAGE & SCENERY

DANCING PAVILION ON MOUND

BAND STAND

ENTRANCE

MOUND PARK

JACKSON MOUND

225 TO 115 F. DWG.

NO OTHER EXPOSURES ON ANY SIDE

TWO MEN SLEEP ON PREMISES

BAR

KITCHEN

RESTROOM

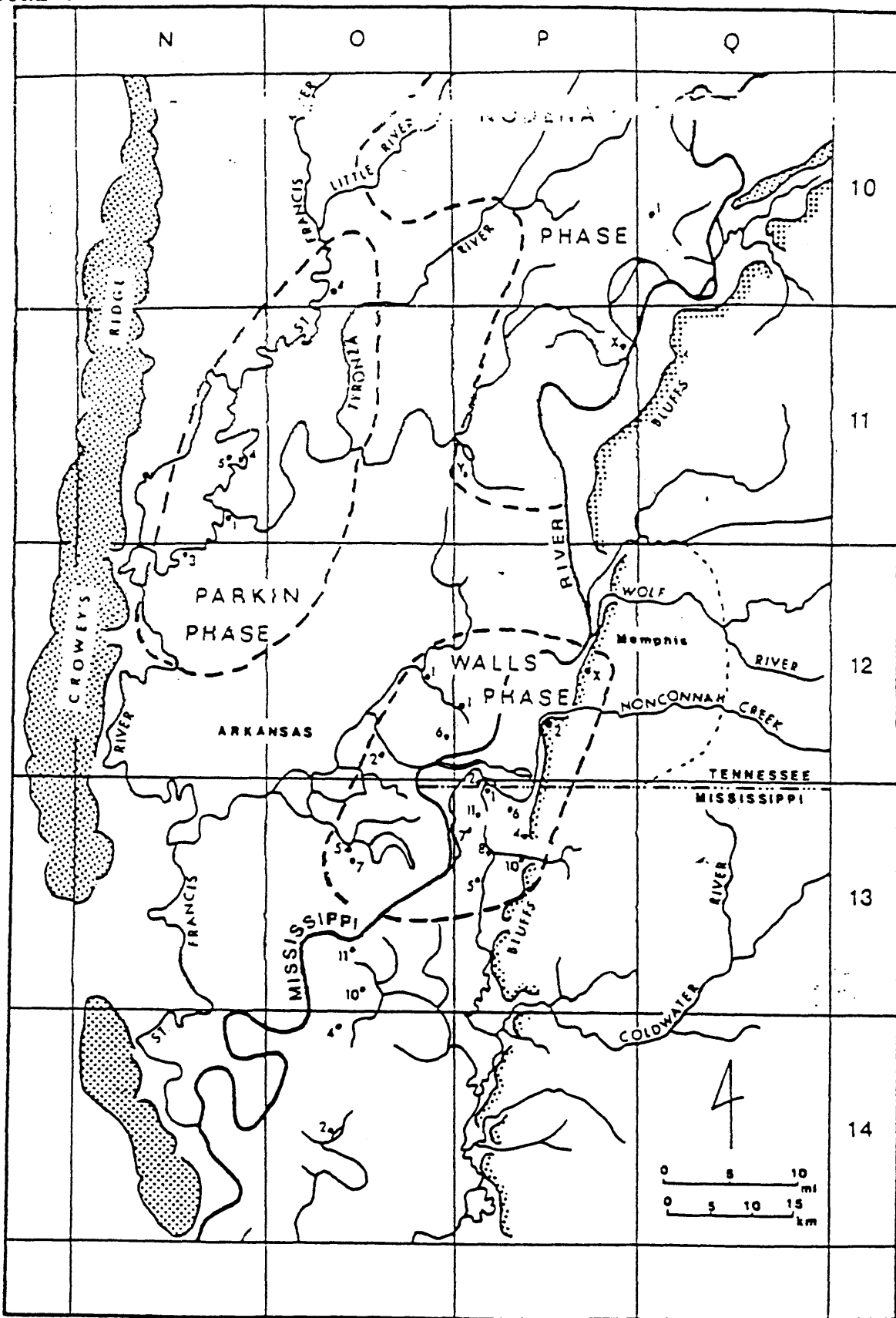
SLEEPING PORCH

SHOOTING GALLERY

BOWLING ALLEY

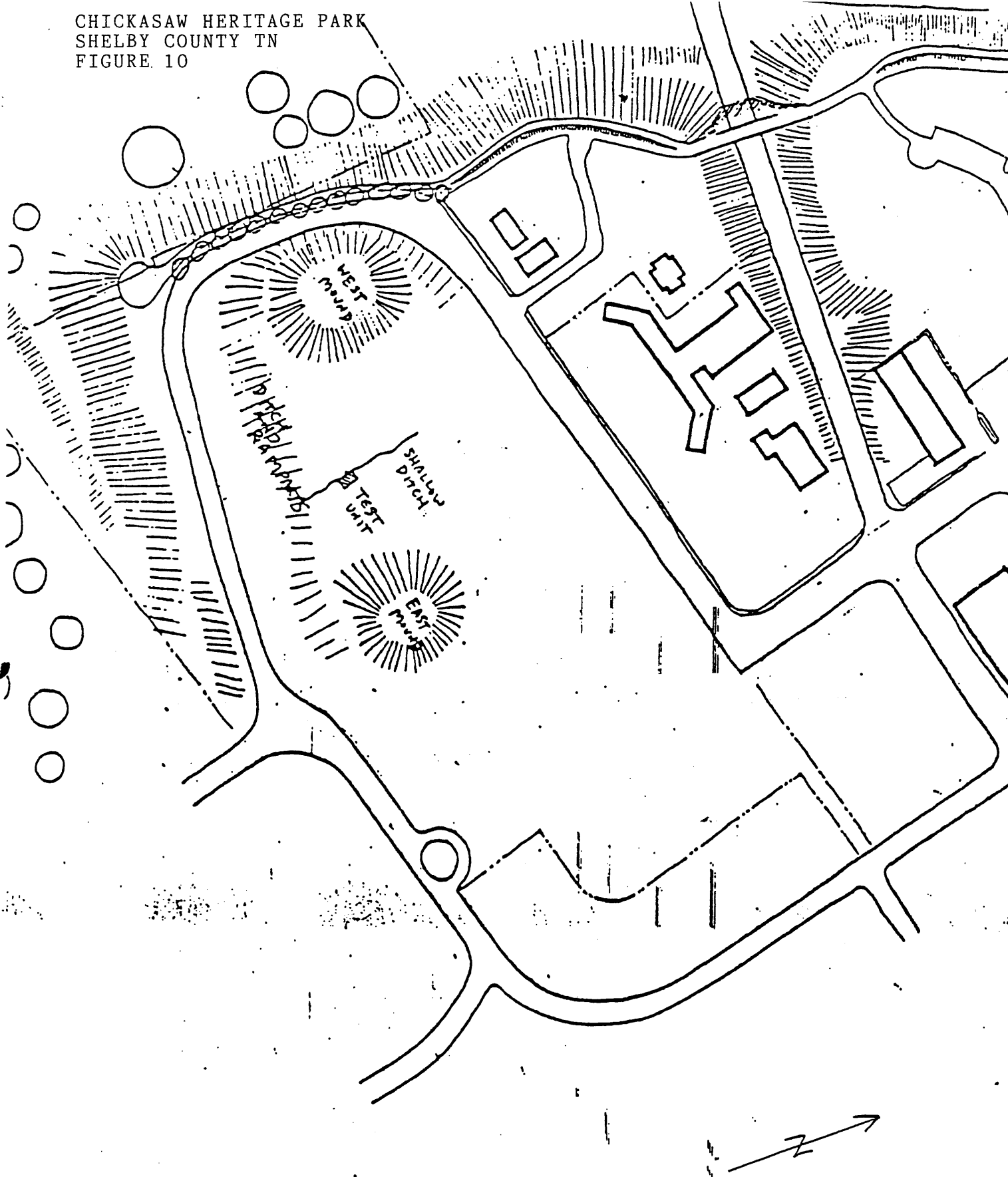
1/4 AVE.

320 1/2 1/4 AVE.



Selected Sites and Phases, Central Mississippi Valley.

CHICKASAW HERITAGE PARK
SHELBY COUNTY TN
FIGURE 10



CHICKASAW HERITAGE PARK
SHELBY COUNTY TN
FIGURE 11

