

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Mississippi</b>
COUNTY: <b>Sharkey</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>OCT 18 1974</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Rolling Fork Mounds**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Montauk Mound**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: **SW of Rolling Fork off U.S. 61**  
~~On west side of U.S. 61 south~~

CITY OR TOWN: **Rolling Fork vicinity** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **Third**

STATE: **Mississippi** CODE: **28** COUNTY: **Sharkey** CODE: **125**

**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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mrs. Charles Deaton**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**5476 Ridgewood Road**

CITY OR TOWN: **Jackson** STATE: **Mississippi** CODE: **28**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Chancery Clerk's Office, Sharkey County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
\_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: **Rolling Fork** STATE: **Mississippi** CODE: **28**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

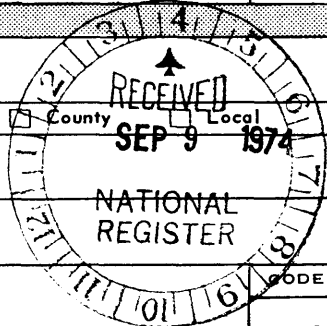
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF SURVEY: \_\_\_\_\_  Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
\_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER:  
\_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE: \_\_\_\_\_



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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

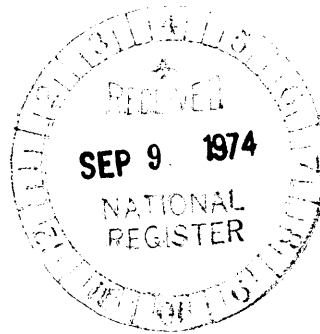
Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Montauk Mound is the largest of three Mississippian-period mounds in the area near the junction of the Rolling Fork and Deer Creek. Its extreme elevation in relation to the surrounding area effected a natural strategic position in the Steele Bayou expedition. Admiral David D. Porter reported that the mound was sixty feet high, but it is not known if this measurement was taken from the level of Deer Creek or from the surrounding fields, because the mound is only about fifteen feet high today. The discrepancy is due in part to natural erosion, but the primary reason for the difference in the 1863 and 1973 measurement is the result of a vast amount of alluvial fill that has been deposited in the fields by past flooding. For a number of years the site has been used to pasture horses and cattle.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **March 14 - 27, 1863**

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The ancient Indian mound, referred to as the Montauk Mound by Captain John McClure of the 55th Ohio Infantry, serves as a monument to the failure of a joint army-navy expedition to reach the Yazoo River by traveling through a series of bayous and creeks. If the expedition had been successful a direct assault on the Confederate fortifications on the Yazoo River above Vicksburg could possibly have forced the surrender of the city four months earlier. With this objective in mind, Major-General Ulysses S. Grant approached Acting Rear-Admiral David D. Porter with his plan. Porter agreed to cooperate in the venture with Grant's favorite subordinate, Major-General William T. Sherman.

Porter steamed into the Yazoo on March 14, 1863, with five city class gunboats, four mortar boats and four tugs. His plan was to move the fleet from its base on the Mississippi River into the Yazoo, then enter Steele's Bayou. From Steele's Bayou, the fleet would navigate the narrow Little Black Bayou into Deer Creek at Hill's Plantation, where it would join Sherman's infantry. The combined force would then proceed up Deer Creek to the Rolling Fork, which flowed into the Sunflower River, then move downstream to re-enter the Yazoo above the fortifications at Snyder's Bluff.

At Hill's Plantation, Porter told Sherman he would need at least two regiments to accompany his fleet. In order to supply the necessary troops Sherman had to order forward more of his division from Eagle Bend to occupy Hill's Plantation. Because the distance to Rolling Fork was substantially more by water than by land, Porter set his fleet into motion ahead of the infantry, believing that both would arrive at the Rolling Fork at approximately the same time.

The fleet made faster time up Deer Creek than expected until it was within seven miles of the fork. Here Porter was informed by local Negroes that Confederates were obstructing the creek with trees. The tug Thistle and the gunboat Corondelet moved forward to clear the trees and prevent further obstruction of the passage. It proved to be a difficult and dangerous task because Confederate sharpshooters, hidden in the woods, harassed the workers at every opportunity. However, progress was made until the fleet was within eight hundred yards of the fork. With only two trees remaining to be removed, Porter halted for the night near an Indian mound and awaited the arrival of the infantry. A battery from the gunboats

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Washington: 1880-1901), Series I, Vol. XXIV, Part I.

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies (Washington: 1906), Series I, Vol. XXIV,

W  
J  
H

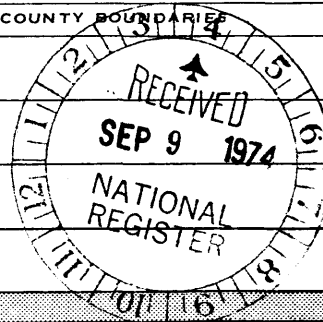
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		32 ° 53 . 47 "	90 ° 52 . 44 "	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **9**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Mississippi	28	Sharkey	125
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **William C. Wright, Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Mississippi Department of Archives and History** DATE: **August 19, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **P.O. Box 571**

CITY OR TOWN: **Jackson** STATE: **Mississippi** CODE: **28**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

National  State  Local

Name Elbert R. Hilliard

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date September 5, 1974

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

A. R. [Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/16/74

ATTEST:  
Ronald M. Greenberg  
Keeper of The National Register  
Date 10/17/74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Mississippi	
COUNTY	Sharkey	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		OCT 18 1974

(Number all entries)

8.

was positioned at the mound, and pickets were posted around the perimeter of the field.

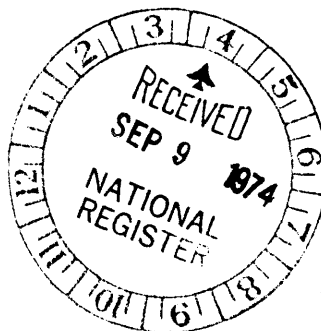
Admiral Porter soon realized a predicament when smoke was reported moving along the Sunflower River, because the activity indicated steamers bringing Confederate infantry to contest the Union advance. To compound Porter's problems, he learned that the enemy was again felling trees in the rear of the fleet. Thus, he gave orders to prepare the fleet for destruction in case capture became imminent.

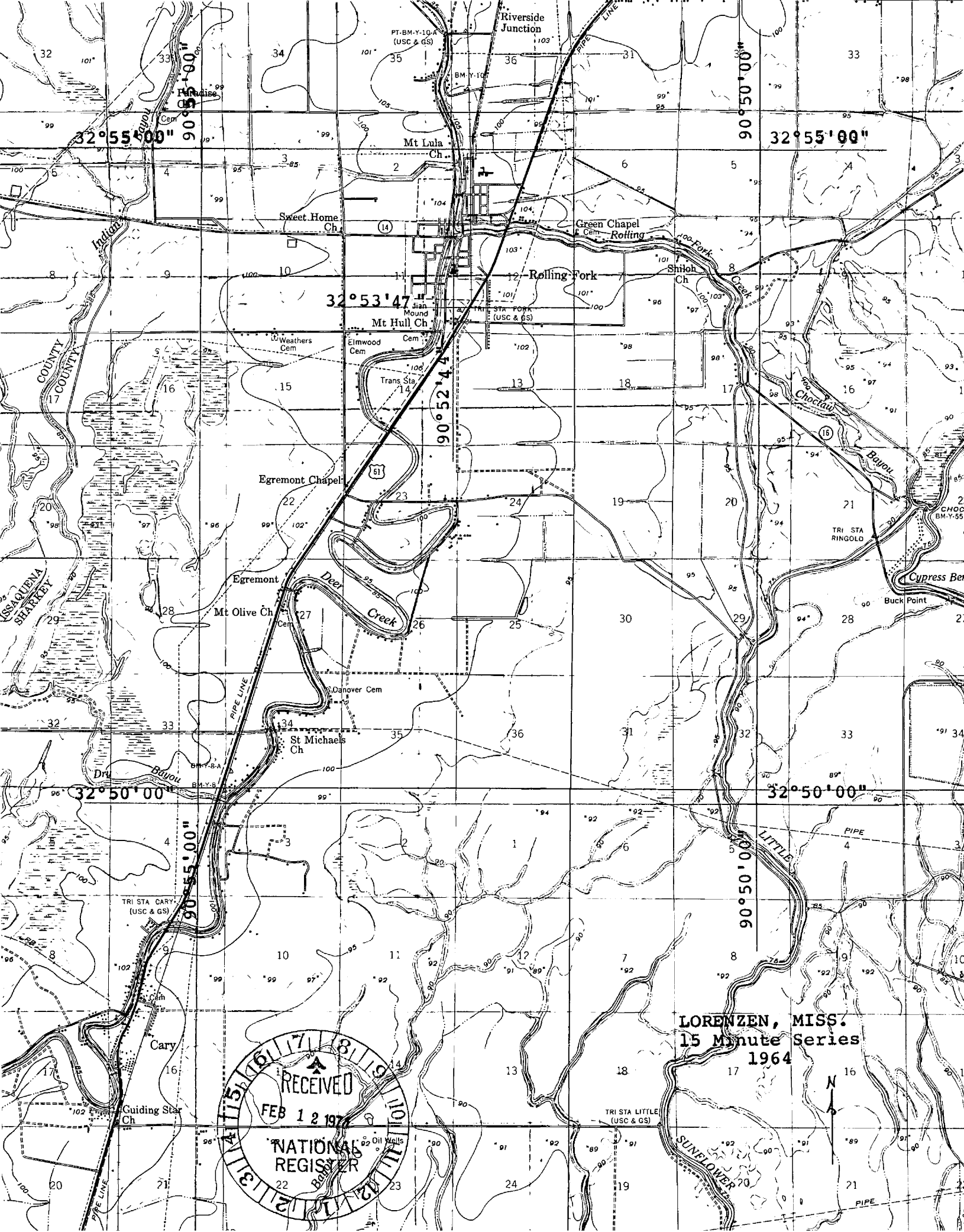
About sunset, the Confederates under Brigadier-General Winfield S. Featherston drove in the Federal pickets and forced the withdrawal of the battery from the mound. A section of Confederate artillery immediately occupied the mound, and during the night exchanged shots with the fleet until its limbers were nearly depleted and the fleet began to retreat.

The sound of firing brought the Federal infantry at a rapid march, and their timely appearance saved the fleet from certain capture or self-destruction. The Confederates, who numbered no more than eight-hundred, were content to limit their activity to brief skirmishes with the Federal infantry and to harass the fleet with sharpshooters who fired at anyone careless enough to expose himself on deck or in a gun port.

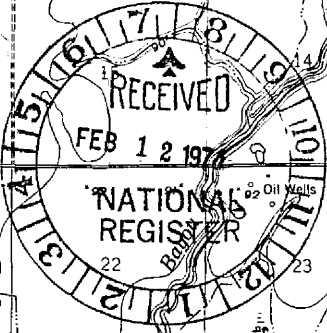
The Union fleet finally arrived back at Hill's Plantation on March 24, 1863, and abandoned all attempts to circumnavigate the Confederate fortifications on the Yazoo. General Grant now had little choice but to move his men below Vicksburg along the Louisiana side. On the night of April 16, Porter ran his fleet past the Vicksburg batteries.

The obstinate stand made by the Confederates at Montauk Mound, and the near capture of his fleet caused Porter to remark in his report: "I never knew how helpless a thing an ironclad could be when unsupported by troops."





LORENZEN, MISS.  
15 Minute Series  
1964



32°55'00"

32°55'00"

32°53'47"

90°52'47"

32°50'00"

32°50'00"

90°55'00"

90°50'00"

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Sharkey	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 18 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Rolling Fork Mounds  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Montauk Mounds

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
South side of Rolling Fork, Miss. near U. S. Highway 61

CITY OR TOWN:  
Rolling Fork

STATE: Mississippi	CODE 28	COUNTY: Sharkey	CODE 125
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**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE:  
U. S. G. S. Lorenzen Quadrangle

SCALE: 1:62500

DATE: 1964

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

