

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Shelby	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 7 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Chucalissa Indian Village ~~and Museum~~ (Rep. Dan Kuykendall)

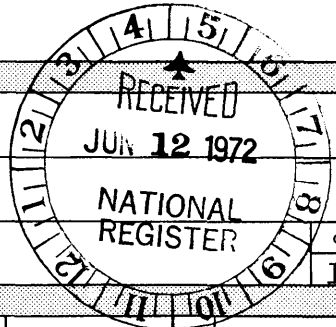
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Prehistoric Indian Town

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mitchell Road (F.O. Fuller State Park)

CITY OR TOWN:
Memphis

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: CODE: 157



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>research</u> <u>Archaeological</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Memphis State University

STREET AND NUMBER:
Southern Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Memphis STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Shelby County Deeds and Chattels

STREET AND NUMBER:
160 North Main

CITY OR TOWN: Memphis STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Shelby

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ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 7 1973

DATE:

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

This prehistoric Indian town and museum is operated by Memphis State University as a research and training facility. The archaeological development includes an excavation site, biological field station, and indoor and outdoor archaeological exhibits are provided.

The central plaza, mounds, and most of the village area are cleared and in lawn. Nine houses have been reconstructed around the plaza from archaeological and ethnohistoric data. Two open excavation areas are roofed over as exhibits, one illustrating stratigraphy and the other late Mississippian burial customs. A museum containing a lecture hall, research facilities, and exhibits summarizing the prehistory of western Tennessee and Chucalissa is adjacent to the site. Staff housing, picnic areas, and paved parking lot are also on the grounds.

The site originally consisted of a village with a central mound and plaza complex, as yet unknown in exact detail. Clearing of forest cover took place during the 19th century and again in 1954-55.



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SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

Founded 900 AD, remained occupied until 1600's.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

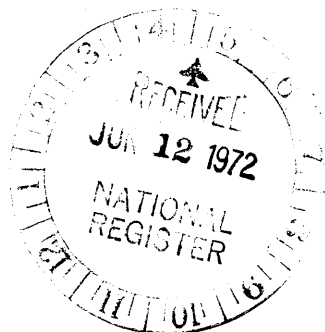
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Chucalissa Indian town was founded around 900 A.D. remaining occupied until the early 1600's. The restored village and museum have become a major tourist attraction being visited by over 65,000 scholars, students, and tourists each year.

Apart from the discoveries of the digs and investigations at the ancient living site, Chucalissa continues as a significant educational contributor to the community. The site and facilities are used for public education, training of students in archaeology, and as a primary archaeological research facility in the midsouth on a year-round basis.

Chucalissa contains evidence of sporadic occupation from the Early Archaic through Late Mississippian periods; the most intensive occupations took place during the Early and Late Mississippian periods. This site is one of the few under public ownership in the Mississippi Valley and one of the least damaged by cultivation and looting. It contains the only known relatively intact record of the development of Mississippian culture in the Memphis area. Dated Mississippian components are of the Walls Phase (ca 1500-1550 A.D.); Boxtown Phase (ca 1400 A.D); and Michell Phase (ca 1200 A.D.). An undated Ensley Phase component is believed to be immediately precedent to the Mitchell component. The site has clear stratigraphy as well as good bone preservation and abundant floral remains for the later components. It thus provides a unique setting for the study of changes in architecture, material culture, community pattern, and social organization during the development of Mississippian culture in the Memphis area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Nash, Charles H. and Rodney Gates, Jr. Landmarks of Tennessee History, Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, 1965. pp. 115-133.

Smith, Gerald P., Anthropological Researcher, Memphis State University.

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
NW	35°	04'	05"	90°	07'	57"	°	'	"
NE	35°	04'	05"	90°	07'	30"	°	'	"
SE	35°	03'	26"	90°	07'	30"	°	'	"
SW	35°	03'	26"	90°	07'	57"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **195**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

NO
UTM
CO

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Mrs. Mary G. Gruenewald, Research Associate**
Office of Vice President for Administration & Planning

ORGANIZATION: **Memphis State University** DATE: **May 11, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Southern Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Memphis** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

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: Michael J. Smith Title: Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission Date: 6-6-72

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

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

Date: 5/7/73 ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register Date: 4 30 73