

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Multiple Property Documentation Form

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This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Mississippian Cultural Resources of the Central Basin (A.D. 900 to A.D. 1450)

B. Associated Historic Contexts

Mississippian Cultural Resources of the Central Basin (A.D. 900 to A.D. 1450)

C. Geographical Data



See continuation sheet

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.

Herbert L. Berger  
Signature of certifying official Deputy SPO, Tennessee Historical Commission

1/31/89  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

John J. Knood  
Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

3/20/89  
Date

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## E. Statement of Historic Contexts

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Discuss each historic context listed in Section B.

This nomination relates to all Mississippian period archaeological sites (A.D. 900 to A.D. 1450) which occur in the Central Basin physiographic province of Tennessee.

### Environmental Setting of the Central Basin

The Central Basin was formed by the relatively rapid erosion of the Nashville Dome (an uplifted area of bedrock) during the latter half of the Paleozoic era. This province covers an area approximately 125 miles north-south and 60 miles east-west and is subdivided into inner and outer sections, with the inner section generally smoother and more gently rolling in contrast to the higher and more deeply dissected outer Basin. The average elevation of the inner Basin is about 600 feet above sea level while the average elevation of the outer Basin is roughly 750 feet. Siliceous rocks cap the hills of the outer Basin, which range up to heights of 1300 feet.

Bedrock in the outer Basin is primarily Ordovician limestone, shale, and dolomite. The Mississippian age Fort Payne formation overlying Chattanooga Shale marks the Central Basin/Highland Rim boundary (Wilson 1949:2). The inner Basin is underlain by limestone of the Stones River formation. Surfaces in this part of the Basin generally exhibit thin topsoil with patches of bare platy rock and glades of red cedar. The Central Basin is moderate in karst development as numerous sinkholes and some large caves occur throughout the region.

A major drainage within the northern part of the province is the westward flowing Cumberland River. Two important tributaries of the Cumberland River which drain the inner Basin are the Harpeth and Stones Rivers. The Duck and Elk Rivers, which flow northwest and southwest respectively, represent major waterways in the southern area of the Basin. Stream floodplains in both the inner and outer Basins are generally low-gradient and meandering (Edwards et al. 1974:4).

Soils are for the most part high in silt content and rich in calcium derived from the parent limestone. Thick deposits of alluvium and colluvium occur in the valley floors, with a small percentage of lowland and upland soils exhibiting a loess cover. Saline groundwater discharge in some areas has resulted in the formation of salt licks and springs which were utilized during prehistoric and historic times (Edwards et al. 1974:115).

The study area [REDACTED] originally supported a forest of large trees. Climax communities, including oak, hickory, tulip tree, beech, and chestnut occur in hilly areas. Lower hills and flats support hickory, winged elm, hackberry, and blue ash. Deciduous species within the cedar glades are predominately hickory, oak, and sugar maple (Braun 1950:132).

The Basin climate is variable between different elevations and geographic points. The annual mean temperature is 60 F. Rainfall is uniformly

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**F. Associated Property Types**

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I. Name of Property Type \_\_\_\_\_

II. Description

III. Significance

IV. Registration Requirements

See continuation sheet

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See continuation sheet for additional property types

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distributed across the Basin, averaging 45 to 55 inches per year. Early fall and late winter generally comprise the wettest seasons, with late fall typically the driest.

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, practice of intensive horticulture, and the development of organized chiefdoms comprise significant achievements during the Mississippian period. This tradition began to develop during the middle to latter part of the first millennium and emerged as a distinct lifestyle by A.D. 800 to A.D. 1000 (Hudson 1976; Walthall 1980). By the late 1400's to early 1500's the cultural fluorescence of the preceding centuries began to subside, thus marking the decline of the Mississippian period.

Descriptive labels such as early, middle, or late are often used for convenient identification of cultural stages in a particular region. However, for the Central Basin at least, these labels are generally misleading. Unlike other regions within the state, there are no recognized phases for the Mississippian period in Middle Tennessee. "Early Mississippian" has been used in a temporal sense to identify the initial growth of Mississippian culture in the study area and is generally considered the time span of A.D. 900 to A.D. 1200. The next several hundred year period of A.D. 1200 to A.D. 1450 appears to be the most dynamic in terms of regional use and occupation, as most of the radiocarbon dates from Mississippian sites in the study area cluster around this period (Autry 1985; Benthall 1983; Berryman 1980; Broster 1972; Butler 1981). However, to identify this time span as "middle Mississippian" is misleading since there appears to be no major changes in subsistence or settlement patterns from the earlier part of this period. Minor changes in the material culture have been suggested as temporal indicators of earlier versus later Mississippian, but further research is needed to strengthen this inference. Some archaeologists may prefer the terms "terminal" or "late" for the A.D. 1200 to A.D. 1450 period as there is no evidence for Mississippian groups in the Central Basin after A.D. 1450. Whatever term is used, A.D. 1200 to A.D. 1450 constitutes the period in which fully developed Mississippian groups occupied the study area.

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Central Basin (A.D. 900 to A.D. 1450)Diagnostic Mississippian Features and Artifacts

A variety of features and artifacts are associated with sites which readily identify them as Mississippian. One such feature is the truncated, pyramidal platform mound which was used as a substructure 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 was the staging arena for many ceremonial and social events of the community.

Many of the large Mississippian mound centers were fortified by earthen embankments and ditches. These features, easily identified during early archaeological investigations, are barely visible in many places today due to plowing and development. During the late 1860's, the fortification ditch [redacted] was described as five to six feet wide and three to four feet deep [redacted]. The excavated dirt from this ditch (placed on the outside) formed an embankment which helped support a palisade and associated bastions. Although fortifications have been identified for a number of Central Basin Mississippian sites, few excavations of these features have been conducted. One notable exception was the exploration of palisade features [redacted]. These excavations provided valuable information concerning the details of palisade construction. Construction of the [redacted] fortification began by placing posts in excavated post trenches or post holes. Dirt was then placed on both sides of the posts for support creating an embankment (and a ditch). Two lines of palisades with a shallow ditch in between were recorded, of which the inner palisade was larger and more heavily constructed than was the outer palisade.

Typical house patterns of Mississippian groups in the study area are not well known despite the large number of structures alluded to in various archaeological reports. For example, early excavations of Central Basin sites were primarily concerned with the recovery of burials and/or artifacts rather than the time-consuming process of recording structural plans or other features. This lack of attention may be attributed to the viewpoint that circular depressions from sites [redacted] were assumed to be the remnants of circular structures [redacted]. The limited excavations of these "house circles" rarely identified complete structural patterns, but did uncover such features as prepared clay hearths and burials, and a number of artifacts.

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More recent investigations have recorded evidence for a variety of architectural patterns from sites in the Central Basin. For example, limited excavations [redacted] by the Tennessee Division of Archaeology partially uncovered the remains of circular structures [redacted]. Square to rectangular structures have been uncovered in other investigations. For example, a square, wall trench house with an extended entryway was excavated [redacted].

[redacted]. Investigations [redacted] along the Cumberland River also uncovered a rectangular, wall trench house [redacted]. A square to rectangular structure with rounded corners (no wall trenches) was recorded [redacted] during salvage work by the Tennessee Division of Archaeology in 1986. Portions of other structures have been excavated at sites [redacted].

Whether or not these structural variations represent functional differences has yet to be determined.

Another distinct Mississippian trait, predominant in the Central Basin but not limited to this area, is the practice of burying their dead in graves lined with thin sheets of limestone. Often referred to as "stone-box burials", these inhumations may number as many as three thousand in a single cemetery (Thruston 1890). These graves were meticulously prepared by lining the walls of a nearly form-fitting rectangular pit with thin, prepared limestone slabs (Brown 1981). The bodies were usually lain extended on floors of limestone slabs, earth, or sometimes broken pottery vessels. Slabs of limestone were then placed on top of the side stones, completing the "stone-box". Flexed and partially flexed inhumations do occur in a small percentage of stone-box burials. Exotic ceramic, stone, and bone artifacts were often placed with these burials. Ceramic vessels, including those with effigies of humans and small animals, are common grave goods. Worked stone, bone, and shell artifacts have been recovered from these burials as well.

Shell-tempered ceramics are one of the best diagnostic artifacts for Mississippian period sites. Assemblages from this time in the study area contain a wide variety of vessel forms, including jars, bowls, bottles, pans, and plates. These vessels are generally separated into "fine" versus "utilitarian" wares based upon a continuum of paste texture and surface luster. The fine or nonutilitarian wares, [redacted], are characterized by a fine-textured paste

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with smoothed to polished exterior surfaces. On the other hand, utilitarian wares have a coarser textured paste with larger temper particles. These "coarse" wares include the types Mississippi Plain and Salt Pan Fabric Marked (Faulkner 1977; Phillips 1970).

Jars are among the more common vessel forms recovered from Mississippian sites in the Central Basin. They are generally characterized as globular, smooth surfaced, shouldered vessels with rounded bottoms and everted rims. Fabric marking does occur on some examples. Strap or lug handles are often present on or near the rim. The neck and shoulders may exhibit incised and punctate designs. Incising is believed to be characteristic of the latter part of the Mississippian occupation.

Bowls have round to flat bottoms with smooth exterior surfaces. One of the most common bowl types associated with Central Basin Mississippian sites are effigy bowls. These well-crafted vessels were made to resemble a number of shapes, including humans, ducks, fish, dogs, turtles, owls, frogs, gourds, and marine sea shells. Another frequently occurring bowl form is a relatively small vessel with a filleted applique strip around the rim.

Bottles from Mississippian sites include effigy forms as well, although these are often of humans. Males and females alike are represented in these assemblages. Interestingly, hunchbacks appear to be a popular bottle effigy. The mouths of these jars are usually found at the back of the head. Other bottle forms include: (1) round to flat bottomed, globular vessels with elongated necks, and (2) subglobular vessels with elongated necks and large, tetrapodal legs for support. Bottles with featureless faces are believed to be from earlier occupations as they are uncommon at later sites. Also, Nashville-negative painted vessels are considered to be indicative of later Mississippian occupations.

Except for the projectile point styles and exotic stone artifacts, chipped stone assemblages from Central Basin 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. It is possible to mistake this point with the earlier (Woodland) Hamilton point (Cambron and Hulse 1975:64), which is also small and triangular but exhibits deeply incurvate blade edges and an incurvate base. Another diagnostic Mississippian artifact is the large chipped stone hoe used in agricultural activities.

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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 are common Mississippian goods as well. Among these items are gorgets of non-local marine shell, beads, and spoons. The gorgets are often incised with motifs depicting important events and symbols.

Previous Archaeological Research of Mississippian Sites in the Central Basin

Middle Tennessee has long been a focus of archaeological interest for amateurs and professionals alike [REDACTED]. One of the earliest discussions of archaeological remains in the Central Basin and surrounding regions was by John Haywood (1823). In this work, which also covered such diverse topics as geography, flora, and fauna, Haywood presented information about Tennessee Indian remains in addition to such interesting antiquarian interpretations of the archaeological record as the existence of pygmies in Tennessee.

Institutional interest in the prehistoric remains of Middle Tennessee began during the mid to late-1800s. Dr. Joseph Jones, by trade a medical doctor, conducted field explorations of such significant mound sites [REDACTED] for the Smithsonian during 1868 and 1869 [REDACTED]). Frederic Putnam of the Peabody Museum (Harvard University) conducted major excavations at several locales in Middle Tennessee, [REDACTED]. Another person of institutional affiliation was William E. Myer of Carthage, Tennessee, who excavated portions of [REDACTED] sites for the Bureau of American Ethnology in 1920 [REDACTED].

Amateur interest also played a key role in archaeological research during the late 19th century. Gates P. Thruston, a former general in the Civil War (Union), moved to the Nashville area and soon developed a deep interest in local Indian prehistory. Thruston excavated numerous mounds and cemeteries across middle Tennessee. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Many of the well-preserved, exotic artifacts recovered from those excavations are currently on display at the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville.

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Virtually all of the previously mentioned work was oriented toward the recovery of artifacts (through burials or mounds) rather than the extensive documentation of architecture, diet, trade, or settlement pattern. There was no emphasis upon controlled, systematic investigation of prehistoric aboriginal lifestyles. Although the investigative and recovery techniques have improved through the years, there has been little organized research of Central Basin Mississippian sites. Many of the projects conducted from 1960 to the present have either been (1) salvage operations designed to recover as much information as possible before the site was destroyed [REDACTED], or (2) amateur excavations [REDACTED].

The Tennessee Division of Archaeology has conducted several salvage projects in recent years in conjunction with road right-of-ways and property developments. For instance, a Mississippian burial mound [REDACTED] was excavated before it was destroyed by community park development [REDACTED]. Another example [REDACTED] was threatened by development in 1986. In an innovative arrangement, the developer hired a private archaeologist (with the assistance of the Tennessee Division of Archaeology) to record and excavate any prehistoric features that would be impacted. In addition, the developer set aside certain lots as undisturbed greenspace to preserve concentrations of burials.

The University of Tennessee conducted excavations [REDACTED] during 1977 and 1978 [REDACTED] to mitigate the impacts of urban expansion. This work followed limited test excavations of the site by the Tennessee Division of Archaeology in 1975 and 1976 (Rapp 1976). From the University excavations, nearly four hundred burials were recorded within two cemeteries in addition to the identification of over fifty houses in a village area. Approximately 250 meters of a palisade line was also uncovered and recorded.

Several reconnaissance level surveys have provided glimpses into Mississippian use of the Central Basin. A survey of the Cumberland River along the western border of the Central Basin recorded evidence of Mississippian villages, hamlets, and farmsteads, but observed no evidence of the large mound complexes which occur along tributaries of the Cumberland River in other portions of the Central Basin [REDACTED]. Several surveys and tests of areas along the Duck River were conducted during the 1970's and 1980's for the Columbia Dam and Normandy Dam projects

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(Dickson 1976; Faulkner and McCollough 1973, 1974, 1977, 1978, 1982a, 1982b; Gordon 1973; Johnson 1977; McCollough and Faulkner 1976, 1978). Although outside the Central Basin, the Normandy Dam investigations denoted Mississippian occupations within the headwaters of the Duck River drainage. In contrast, a survey of the Duck River drainage downstream from Normandy Dam (from the dam to Shelbyville in Bedford County) recorded no evidence for Mississippian sites (Gordon 1973). Similar to this study, a survey of the proposed Columbia Dam reservoir in Maury and Marshall counties recorded little to no evidence for Mississippian occupations (Dickson 1976). Surveys along the Elk River (on the southern border of the Central Basin) in 1973 and 1986 by the Tennessee Division of Archaeology also yielded no evidence for Mississippian sites (Hasty 1973; Steve Spears n.d.). The results of these surveys provide reference points for future settlement pattern investigations to build upon, such as the studies by Johnson (1977) and Jolley (1983b).

Research Questions and Objectives for Central Basin Mississippian Period Sites:

To date, a total of 135 sites with evidence for Mississippian occupations have been recorded within the Central Basin. Many of the impressive collections of artifacts available for study today were recovered by early investigators of Middle Tennessee prehistory. For example, the Thruston collection from the Noel Cemetery is on permanent display at the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville. Unfortunately, most of the early work performed in this area was done with little effort to record the detailed information used in modern archaeological analyses. Although great amounts of cultural material have been uncovered from the Central Basin, basic information on structure plans and function, site function, subsistence, stratigraphy, and intrasite settlement and use patterns has been either minimally presented or totally ignored. Therefore, basic questions still remain about the lifestyles and activities of Mississippian groups inhabiting the study area. The following research questions and objectives have been formulated with this fact in mind.

- (1) What were the settlement patterns of Mississippian groups in the Central Basin? Do these patterns vary between the major watersheds [redacted] [redacted]?
- (2) What was the subsistence base of Mississippian populations in the Central Basin? Did these groups rely mainly on large game animals (such as deer), or were small animals extensively utilized? How reliant were these

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groups on agricultural crops as compared to gathered plant foods (such as nuts and berries)?

(3) What was the political and social framework among the Central Basin Mississippian communities? What was the level of interaction between the major mound centers and the surrounding sites? What was the extent of these mound center's influence?

(4) What was the relationship between the mound sites and the associated cemeteries? Were these just elite cemeteries, or were common people interred there as well?

(5) How do the physical attributes of Mississippian burial remains from Central Basin sites compare with burials from Mississippian sites across the state? Are there any variations in mortuary practices within the study area?

(6) Are there any material differences from the earlier to later portions of the Mississippian period? More work is needed on developing a ceramic chronology for Mississippian period occupations, discerning temporal as well as spatial and functional differences. Analysis of lithic tool kits, and additional lithic technology studies may also identify such differences.

(7) Are there any criteria, other than artifactual, which can be used to distinguish change within the Mississippian period (house patterns, for example), or from other time periods? Systematic and controlled excavations of all site types are needed to recover such basic, but important information.

(8) What was the population of Mississippian groups in the Central Basin? Why was this population significantly larger than the preceding Woodland groups? How did this population change during the Mississippian period? Were some parts of the Central Basin occupied more intensively than others?

(9) What factors may account for the apparent disappearance of Mississippian groups in the Central Basin circa A.D. 1450?

(10) What is the distribution of non-local artifacts and raw materials, such as Dover chert and marine shells, throughout the study area? Is there any evidence for trade routes and/or exchange with groups from other regions of Tennessee?

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(11) Do the variable architectural patterns recorded for Central Basin Mississippian structures reflect functional differences? More information about architectural plans and internal use patterns is needed before this question can be properly addressed.

Related research questions for each property type are further discussed in Section F.

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Section F. Associated Property Types:

Previous investigations within the Central Basin have recorded a variety of Mississippian occupations. Sites from this period have been categorized into five property types (Broster 1988) based upon associated features (mounds, earthworks, structures, burials, etc.), types of artifacts recovered and their distribution, geographical location, proximity to resources, site size, and to some extent artifact density. These property types are:

- (1) mound complexes
- (2) farming villages
- (3) hamlets
- (4) farmsteads
- (5) seasonal procurement (temporary) camps

I. Name of Property Type: Mound Complexes.

II. Description:

Mound complexes consist of multi-mound centers which were the focus of regional ceremonial and civic matters. In addition, these sites were probably the permanent residence of the ruling elites. These large sites are comprised of walled fortifications, well-planned residence mounds and plazas, and associated village and cemetery areas. 

III. Significance:

Mound complexes have received the most attention by professional and amateur archaeologists alike. This is primarily due to the ease in which these sites are identified, their tendency to be in cultivated lands or areas favorable for construction and development, and the looting of exotic artifacts by relic collectors. Much of our information from these sites is derived from 19th and early 20th century archaeological accounts (Haywood 1823; Jones 1876; Myer 1928; Putnam 1878; Thruston 1890).

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This property type can provide important information pertaining to all of the research questions and topics presented in Section E. Mound complexes are currently being destroyed at an alarming rate throughout the Central Basin by industrial growth, residential expansion, and agricultural activities. Due to the variety of research topics this property type can address, as well as their rapid rate of destruction, all undisturbed and partially disturbed mound complexes should be considered eligible for listing.

#### IV. Registration Requirements:

- (a) National Register criterion: D
- (b) area of significance: prehistoric archaeology
- (c) data requirements: Table 1 presents the research questions pertaining to the significance of this property type and the data required to address these questions.

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I. Name of Property Type: Farming Villages

II. Description:

Farming villages are identified by a large number of wattle and daub residential structures, associated midden deposits, and family and community cemeteries. These sites usually occur along major streams and adjacent tributaries and springs, and were probably under regional influence of the mound centers. Larger villages probably had house mounds (no longer visible due to such modern impacts as plowing, etc.) that were associated with the village heads.

[REDACTED]

III. Significance:

Farming villages, like mound complexes, have received considerable attention from professional and amateur archaeologists. Such attention is due to the ease in which these sites are identified, their tendency to be in cultivated lands or areas favorable for construction and development, and the looting of exotic artifacts by relic collectors. Much of our information from these sites is derived from 19th and early 20th century archaeological accounts (Haywood 1823; Jones 1876; Myer 1928; Putnam 1878; Thruston 1890).

This property type can provide important information pertaining to all but #4 of the research questions and topics presented in Section E. Farming villages are also being destroyed throughout much of the Central Basin by industrial growth, residential expansion, and agricultural activities. Due to the variety of research topics this property type can address, as well as their rapid rate of destruction, all undisturbed and partially disturbed farming villages should be considered eligible for listing.

IV. Registration Requirements:

- (a) National Register criteria: D
- (b) area of significance: prehistoric archaeology
- (c) data requirements: Table 2 presents the research questions pertaining to the significance of this property type and the data required to address these questions.

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I. Name of Property Type: Hamlets

II. Description:

Unlike farming villages which are comprised of a relatively large number of families, hamlets denote a smaller number of inhabitants identified by three to five wattle and daub structures. Cemeteries are not associated with this site type.

[REDACTED]

III. Significance:

This property type can provide important information pertaining to all but #4 and #5 of the research questions and topics presented in Section E. This particular property type is rapidly disappearing due to such forces as industrial growth, residential expansion, and agricultural activities. Due to the variety of research topics this property type can address, as well as their rapid rate of destruction, all undisturbed and minimally disturbed hamlets should be considered eligible for listing.

IV. Registration Requirements:

- (a) National Register criterion: D
- (b) area of significance: prehistoric archaeology
- (c) data requirements: Table 3 presents the research questions pertaining to the significance of this property type and the data required to address these questions.

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I. Name of Property Type: Farmsteads

II. Description:

Farmsteads, defined by one or two wattle and daub structures and few associated features, are thought to be isolated farms occupied by a single family.

 cemeteries do not occur with these sites.

III. Significance:

This property type can provide important information pertaining to all but #4 and #5 of the research questions and topics presented in Section E. Like the property types previously described, farmsteads are being disturbed by industrial growth, residential expansion, and agricultural activities. Due to the variety of research topics this property type can address, as well as their rapid rate of destruction, all undisturbed and minimally disturbed farmsteads should be considered eligible for listing.

IV. Registration Requirements:

- (a) National Register criterion: D
- (b) area of significance: prehistoric archaeology
- (c) data requirements: Table 4 presents the research questions pertaining to the significance of this property type and the data required to address these questions.

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I. Name of Property Type: Seasonal Procurement Camps

II. Description:

Seasonal procurement camps are represented by such short-term occupations as hunting camps and lithic workshops. These temporary sites lack permanent structures, but yield such cultural remains as lithic tools and debris, ceramics, and possibly isolated trash pits or hearths. Cemeteries are not associated with these locales. Numerous sites of this type have been recorded within the Central Basin.

III. Significance:

Cultural deposits from this property type can aid in the refinement of Mississippian site function, aboriginal adaptations to the study area, artifact typologies and tool kits, and the distribution of non-local artifacts and/or raw materials. All undisturbed seasonal procurement camps should be considered eligible for listing.

IV. Registration Requirements:

- (a) National Register criterion: D
- (b) area of significance: prehistoric archaeology
- (c) data requirements: Table 5 presents the research questions pertaining to the significance of this property type and the data required to address these questions.

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Key for data requirements (to be used with Tables 1-5)

1. The site must contain features, artifacts, or other data that can be used to temporally identify the site as Mississippian.
2. The site must contain features or other cultural materials that can be used to infer the activities of the site residents.
3. The site must contain faunal, floral, or shell remains that may potentially be used to establish subsistence patterns, processing methods, and/or season of site occupation.
4. The site must contain the remains of one or more individuals in a sufficient state of preservation to determine sex, age category, and/or pathologies.
5. The site must exhibit evidence of wattle and daub structures or other features that can be inferred to represent areas of domestic residence.
6. The site must retain undisturbed (or partially disturbed) spatial relationships among features and artifacts, or demonstrate that reconstruction of these relationships is possible.
7. The site must contain exotic raw materials or artifacts whose source can be postulated to be outside the Central Basin.

Tables 1 through 5 set a minimal level that a property must achieve to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A property should satisfy the data requirements of at least one research question. It is possible that the other conditions listed (as well as others not listed) can be used to refine or supplement these requirements. Information used to determine property eligibility should be obtained from some type of professional investigation with subsurface testing.

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Table 1. Registration Requirements for Mound Complexes

Research Questions	Data Requirements						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1) Settlement Patterns	X	X	-	-	-	X	-
2) Subsistence Patterns	X	-	X	-	-	X	-
3) Political/Social Framework	X	X	-	-	-	X	-
4) Mound-Cemetery Relationships	X	-	-	X	-	-	-
5) Mortuary Practices/Physical Studies	X	-	-	X	-	-	-
6) Artifactual Change	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
7) Mississippian Traits	X	X	X	-	X	X	-
8) Population Studies	X	X	X	-	X	X	-
9) Post A.D. 1450 Decline of Mississippian Groups in Central Basin	X	X	X	-	-	X	-
10) Trade/Raw Materials	X	X	-	-	-	-	X
11) Architecture	X	X	-	-	X	-	-

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Table 2. Registration Requirements for Farming Villages.

Research Questions	Data Requirements						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1) Settlement Patterns	X	X	-	-	-	X	-
2) Subsistence Patterns	X	-	X	-	-	X	-
3) Political/Social Framework	X	X	-	-	-	X	-
4) Mound-Cemetery Relationships	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5) Mortuary Practices/Physical Studies	X	-	-	X	-	-	-
6) Artifactual Change	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
7) Mississippian Traits	X	X	X	-	X	X	-
8) Population Studies	X	X	X	-	X	X	-
9) Post A.D. 1450 Decline of Mississippian Groups in Central Basin	X	X	X	-	-	X	-
10) Trade/Raw Materials	X	X	-	-	-	-	X
11) Architecture	X	X	-	-	X	-	-

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Table 3. Registration Requirements for Hamlets.

Research Questions	Data Requirements						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1) Settlement Patterns	X	X	-	-	-	X	-
2) Subsistence Patterns	X	-	X	-	-	X	-
3) Political/Social Framework	X	X	-	-	-	X	-
4) Mound-Cemetery Relationships	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5) Mortuary Practices/Physical Studies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6) Artifactual Change	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
7) Mississippian Traits	X	X	X	-	X	X	-
8) Population Studies	X	X	X	-	X	X	-
9) Post A.D. 1450 Decline of Mississippian Groups in Central Basin	X	X	-	-	-	X	-
10) Trade/Raw Materials	X	X	-	-	-	-	X
11) Architecture	X	X	-	-	X	-	-

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Table 4. Registration Requirements for Farmsteads.

Research Questions	Data Requirements						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1) Settlement Patterns	X	X	-	-	-	X	-
2) Subsistence Patterns	X	-	X	-	-	X	-
3) Political/Social Framework	X	X	-	-	-	X	-
4) Mound-Cemetery Relationships	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5) Mortuary Practices/Physical Studies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6) Artifactual Change	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
7) Mississippian Traits	X	X	X	-	X	X	-
8) Population Studies	X	X	X	-	X	X	-
9) Post A.D. 1450 Decline of Mississippian Groups in Central Basin	X	X	-	-	-	X	-
10) Trade/Raw Materials	X	X	-	-	-	-	X
11) Architecture	X	X	-	-	X	-	-

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Table 5. Registration Requirements for Seasonal Procurement Camps.

Research Questions	Data Requirements						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1) Settlement Patterns	X	X	-	-	-	X	-
2) Subsistence Patterns	X	-	X	-	-	X	-
3) Political/Social Framework	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4) Mound-Cemetery Relationships	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5) Mortuary Practices/Physical Studies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6) Artifactual Change	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
7) Mississippian Traits	X	X	-	-	-	X	-
8) Population Studies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9) Post A.D. 1450 Decline of Mississippian Groups in Central Basin	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
10) Trade/Raw Materials	X	X	-	-	-	-	X
11) Architecture	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Section G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

The context of this nomination comprises the geographic boundaries of the Central Basin physiographic province and the temporal boundaries (A.D. 900 to A.D. 1450) of the Mississippian cultural period.

Information concerning Mississippian period occupation of the Central Basin was obtained through a number of sources. Early accounts of large Mississippian mound centers and villages ( [redacted] ) provide important data on features and artifacts often not available for study today due to large scale destruction and looting of these easily identified sites. Unfortunately, these early studies were primarily concerned with the mapping of mounds and associated earthworks, and the excavation of burials to recover exotic artifacts. There was little effort to record the detailed information utilized in modern archaeological analysis.

A number of excavations by professional and amateur organizations have yielded additional information about Central Basin Mississippian sites ( [redacted] ). These investigations were generally salvage in nature, as modern investigative techniques were used to record as much information as possible about the site and its residents prior to destruction. Information about architecture, diet, trade, and intrasite settlement patterns were documented in greater detail than the previously mentioned studies.

Although much of the information currently available comes from site-specific investigations, several surveys within the Central Basin have provided glimpses of Mississippian group settlement patterns. Surveys ( [redacted] ) have documented numerous Mississippian sites. In contrast, surveys along the Duck and Elk Rivers ( [redacted] ) have yielded virtually no indications of Mississippian occupation. These results provide reference points for future settlement pattern investigations to build upon (Johnson 1977; Jolley 1983b).

From the sample of Mississippian sites recorded within the Central Basin, five functional property types were defined upon the basis of associated features (mounds, earthworks, structures, burials, etc.), types of

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artifacts recovered and their distribution, geographical location, proximity to resources, site size, and to some extent artifact density. Integrity standards for these property types were based upon a number of factors, including: (1) National Register standards for assessing site integrity; (2) the ability of the property type to provide information concerning one or more of the research questions (topics) outlined in Sections E and F ; and (3) using past research to assess the relative condition and scarcity of existing property types.

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