

LOUISIANA

OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR
Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism

INDIAN MOUNDS OF NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

A Driving Trail Guide

ANCIENT MOUNDS HERITAGE AREA AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMISSION

INDIAN MOUNDS TRAIL GUIDE
PREPARED BY AND AVAILABLE FROM:

LOUISIANA DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
P.O. BOX 44247
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804

(225) 342-8170
ARCHAEOLOGY@CRT.STATE.LA.US
WWW.CRT.STATE.LA.US/ARCHAEOLOGY

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Painting by Martin Pate

Louisiana has a secret to share with you: this state has the oldest earthen mounds in North America, even older than Stonehenge or the Great Pyramids. Our rich and diverse environment has lured people who hunt and fish to these hills, bayous, streams, and lakes for thousands of years. As the beauty of our bounty captured the spirits of the first residents here, they began to build earthen mounds to celebrate their bond to this land. The concept spread throughout the Southeast and the Ohio Valley, producing magnificent mounds; but no other state's mounds surpass the span of time, diversity of style, or degree of preservation found here.

Louisiana has a long history of preserving prehistoric earthworks. It began in 1933 with the public acquisition of Marksville and, later, its development into a State Park, followed by Poverty Point State Park in 1972, and half of Watson Brake in 1998; each site is recognized internationally. The forward-thinking actions of the Louisiana Office of State Parks protect their uniqueness. But they are only three of more than 700 recorded mound sites in Louisiana.

Through the Division of Archaeology, Office of Cultural Development, the Ancient Mounds Heritage Area and Trails Initiative continues Louisiana's commitment to preserving our cultural heritage—with a twist. Privately owned mound sites are knitted together to create four self-guided tours in northeast Louisiana. Visitors can view as many as 39 mound sites that span 5,000 years of history. From this booklet and the roadside marker at each site, you will learn about dome-shaped, conical, and platform mounds, as well as ridges and enclosures, all of which you can see on the Trail.

You will be introduced to earthworks built by various prehistoric cultures. These magnificent earthworks have survived through the conservation efforts of individuals and families who realized that these monuments are rare and endangered expressions of the human spirit. The builders and owners both invite you to visit these vestiges of great and powerful cultures, and to honor them by not trespassing or walking on the mounds. Please restrict your activities to the shoulder of the road near the marker, and help conserve these rare historic resources.

Take the time to explore Louisiana and discover these unparalleled examples of ancient earthen architecture. Join me in informing the world about our unique and awe-inspiring record of human creativity and engineering genius. Welcome to Louisiana's Ancient Mounds Driving Trail.

The state of Louisiana has placed markers at 39 Indian mound sites in northeast Louisiana that form the Mounds Trail. This guidebook gives driving instructions to the markers. The sites are grouped geographically into four segments.

- Trail Segment 1.....page 3
- Trail Segment 2.....page 15
- Trail Segment 3.....page 22
- Trail Segment 4.....page 30

A large, fold-out map showing all of the trail segments is in the back of this guide.

Most of these sites are on private property. They are included in the trail through the goodwill of the current landowners. **No trespassing** is permitted. Please stay on the shoulder of the road.

Three sites are at state parks where you are welcome to walk among the mounds and learn more through interpretive displays. These sites are Poverty Point Earthworks (pages 4–5), Marsden Mounds (page 7), and Marksville Mounds (pages 46–47).

For all sites, please treat the earthworks with the reverence and respect they deserve. They represent more than 5,000 years of architecture by the Indian people and are part of the cultural patrimony of all Americans. Please help conserve these remarkable heritage resources. □

Louisiana R.S. 41 §1605. Archaeological finds on state land

It shall be unlawful for any agency, political subdivision, group, or person to take, alter, damage, destroy, or excavate on state-owned lands as herein described without first obtaining a permit or contract from the secretary.

Louisiana R.S. 41 §1610. Prohibited excavations

No person, not being the owner thereof, shall without the consent of the owner enter or attempt to enter upon the lands of another and intentionally injure, disfigure, remove, excavate, damage, take, dig into, or destroy any sites or artifacts addressed by R.S. 41:1604(1).



Mound Guide Legend

- # Page Number of Public Sites
- # Page Number of Private Sites
- Ancient Mounds Markers
- Lakes / Rivers
- Trail Route



*In Memory of
Thomas Hales Eubanks*

LOCATION	PAGE
<input type="checkbox"/> POVERTY POINT EARTHWORKS	4-5
<input type="checkbox"/> LOWER JACKSON MOUND	6
<input type="checkbox"/> MARSDEN MOUNDS	7
<input type="checkbox"/> INSLEY MOUNDS	8
<input type="checkbox"/> TENDAL MOUND	9
<input type="checkbox"/> SCHICKER MOUND	10
<input type="checkbox"/> FITZHUGH MOUNDS	11
<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSYLVANIA MOUNDS	12
<input type="checkbox"/> JULICE MOUND	13
<input type="checkbox"/> GALLOWAY PLACE MOUND	14

POVERTY POINT EARTHWORKS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.63622 Longitude: -91.405026

Driving Directions:

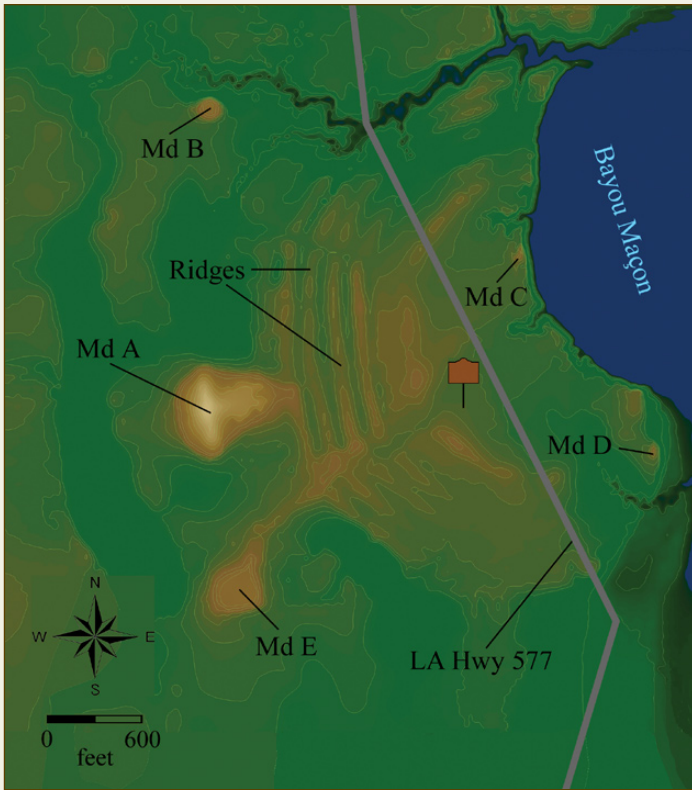
- From La 134, head north on La 577. Go 1.2 miles to marker on left at the Poverty Point State Historic Site.
- From La 17, head east on La 577. Go 5.7 miles to marker on right at the Poverty Point State Historic Site.

Number of Mounds: 6, 6 ridges

Number of Visible Mounds: 5, 6 ridges

Summer Viewing: Excellent

Winter Viewing: Excellent



miles. The ridges served as living surfaces; archaeologists have found postholes, pits, hearths, earth ovens, and domestic debris in and on them. Construction of all the earthen mounds and ridges required about 981,000 cubic yards of dirt. Investigation also has shown that the builders filled in low areas and gullies to create the level 35-acre plaza, but how much dirt was required is unknown.

The signature artifacts from the site are cooking balls called Poverty Point Objects (PPOs). They're about golf-ball size, formed from local soil into a variety of shapes. Excavations revealed that they were used as a substitute for cooking stones: to steam, bake, and possibly boil their food. Atl-atl (spear-thrower) weights and plummet (fishing net weights) are commonly found artifacts that were used in hunting and fishing. Red jasper owl beads represent Poverty Point's lapidary (stone-working) industry. The Poverty Point people had an extensive trade network, as indicated by raw materials from Arkansas and Mississippi, the southern Appalachians, and the Ohio and upper Mississippi River valleys; these materials were likely transported via watercraft.

The people of Poverty Point did not practice agriculture; they were fisher-hunter-gatherers. They did not eat maize (corn), but subsisted mainly on nuts and acorns, aquatic roots (lotus, cattail), fish, deer, small mammals, and turtles. □

At the time Poverty Point was built (about 1500 BC), its earthworks were the largest in the Western Hemisphere. There is a wealth of information available about the site at the Poverty Point State Historic Site museum, which is a good starting point for a tour of the Ancient Mounds Trail. Visitors also may take a tram tour or a self-guided walking tour of the site.

Briefly, Poverty Point is a huge complex of 6 mounds, 6 semi-circular ridges, and a plaza; one of the mounds is owned privately and is not accessible to visitors. The largest mound is about 70 feet tall and more than 700 by 640 feet at its base. Some archaeologists believe it is an effigy mound, built in the shape of a bird. The function of the mounds is unknown, but they were not used for burials. They may have been used ceremonially, although few artifacts have been found in or on them. The outermost ridge is .75 mile in diameter, and all of the ridges laid end-to-end would stretch 7.5



LOWER JACKSON MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.619138 Longitude: -91.410444

Driving Directions:

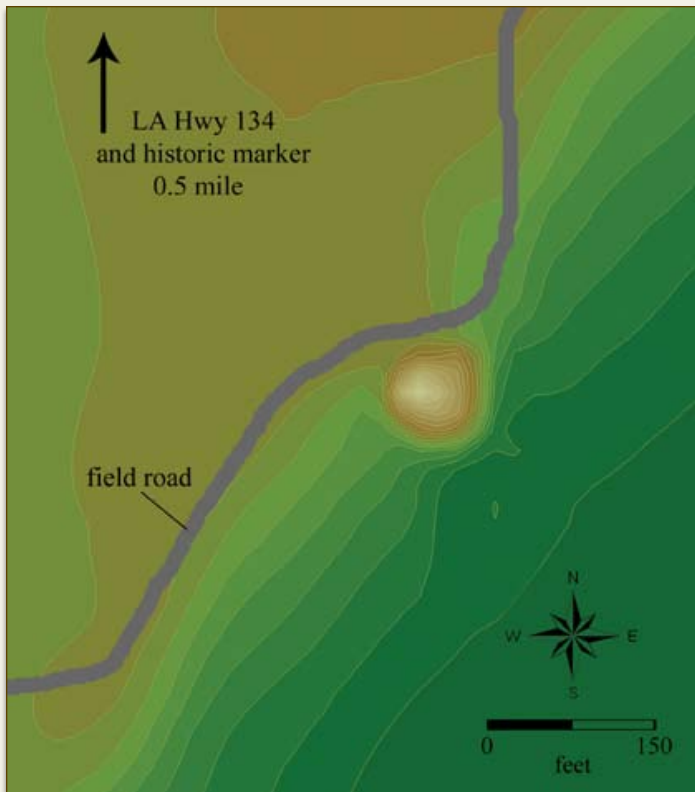
- From La 577 west of bridge, head west on La 134. Go 0.2 mile to Walnut Grove Lane, turn left; marker is on right.
- From La 17, head east on La 134. Go 4.4 miles to Walnut Grove Lane, turn right; marker is on right.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Excellent, but very distant

Winter Viewing: Excellent, but very distant



MARSDEN MOUNDS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.486361 Longitude: -91.491666

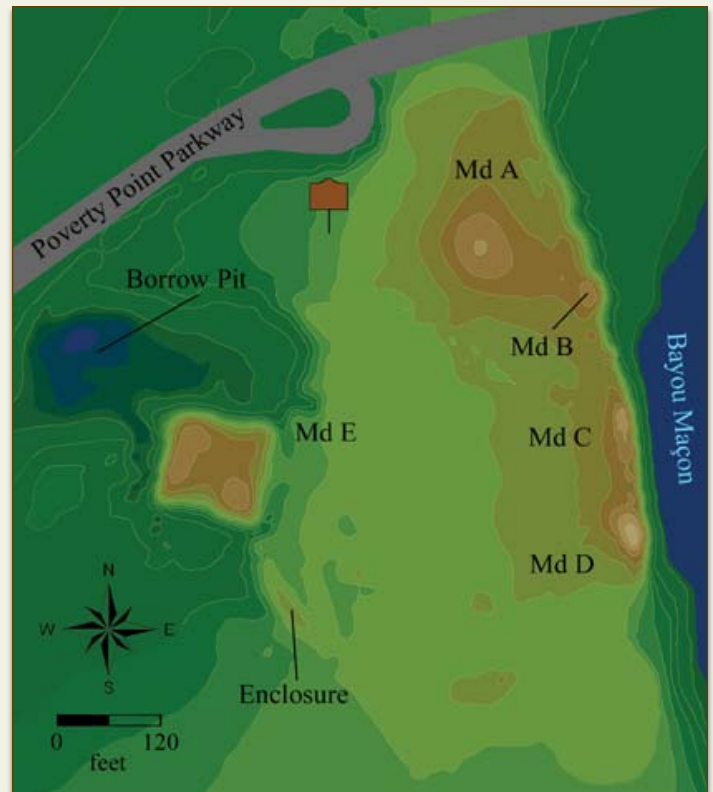
Driving Directions:

- From La 134, head south on La 17. Go 8.8 miles to Poverty Point Parkway at Poverty Point Reservoir State Park; turn left. Go 0.3 mile to pull-off; marker is on right.
- From US 80, head north on La 17. Go 1.7 miles to Poverty Point Parkway at Poverty Point Reservoir State Park; turn right. Go 0.3 mile to pull-off; marker is on right.

Number of Mounds: 5, 1 embankment

Number of Visible Mounds: 5, 1 embankment

Summer Viewing: Excellent **Winter Viewing:** Excellent



Lower Jackson is the best-documented Middle Archaic mound on the Mounds Trail. It's a single conical mound on the edge of the Maçon Ridge about 2 miles south of Poverty Point. Until the 1990s, it was treated as part of that site because Poverty Point-style artifacts were found near the mound and because it is aligned due south of the largest mound at Poverty Point. Coring defined a single stage of mound construction with extensive soil weathering. Charcoal from below the mound dated to 3955–3655 BC, placing the mound in the Middle Archaic period (>3000 BC). Some archaeologists believe that the designers of Poverty Point incorporated Lower Jackson into their grand layout. The mound is about 8 feet tall and almost 130 feet in diameter at the base; portions of it were removed in the 1970s and 1980s, so it's only 70% intact. A small historic cemetery on top helped prevent additional destruction. □

Marsden is a group of five mounds and parts of an earthen embankment. Unlike most of the other sites on the Mounds Trail, it is open to the public and is accessible by foot. Four of the mounds (Md. A–Md. D) are along the east edge of Maçon Ridge, and the embankment apparently connects three of them. The largest mound (Md. E) and another portion of the embankment are in a wooded area about 300 feet to the southwest; it's a 13-foot-tall platform mound, measuring 150 feet square at its base and about 130 feet square at the summit. The other mounds are only 3 to 5 feet tall. Poverty Point period artifacts found under the mounds suggest that people lived here as early as 1500 BC. Charcoal from a hearth under one of the smaller mounds dates to between AD 400 and AD 1200 (Troyville/Coles Creek periods). □

INSLEY MOUNDS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.387527 Longitude: -91.478

Driving Directions:

— From I-20 (exit 153), head south on La 17. Go 4.3 miles to Martin Road; turn left. Go 1.4 miles to Frankie Loftin Road; turn left. Go 0.2 mile to marker on left.

— From La 860, head north on La 17. Go 6.3 miles to Martin Road; turn right. Go 1.4 miles to Frankie Loftin Road; turn left. Go 0.2 mile to marker on left.

Number of Mounds: 4 **Number of Visible Mounds:** 3

Summer Viewing: Excellent **Winter Viewing:** Excellent

TENDAL MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.432222 Longitude: -91.368

Driving Directions:

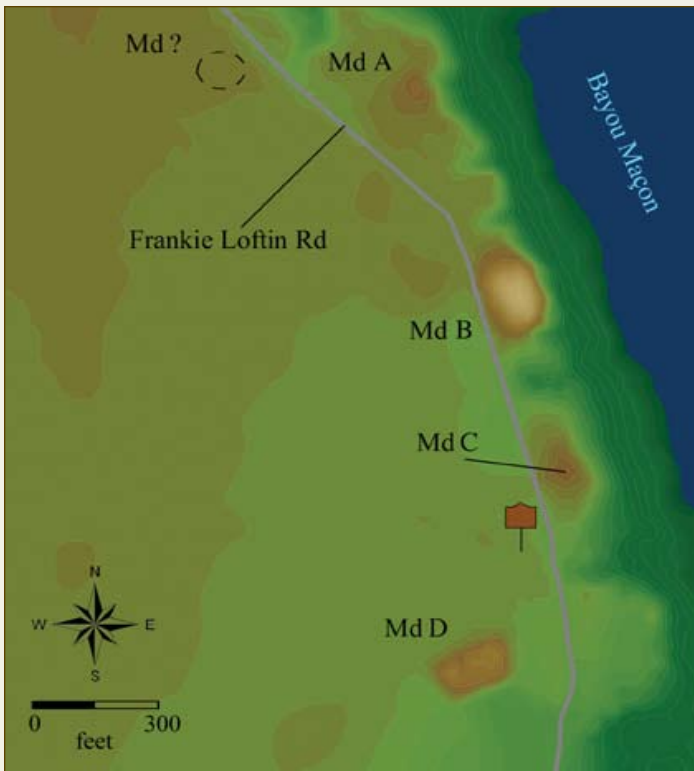
— From La 577, head east on US 80. Go 2.5 miles to marker on left.
— From US 65, head west on US 80. Go 11.8 miles to marker on right.

Number of Mounds: 1

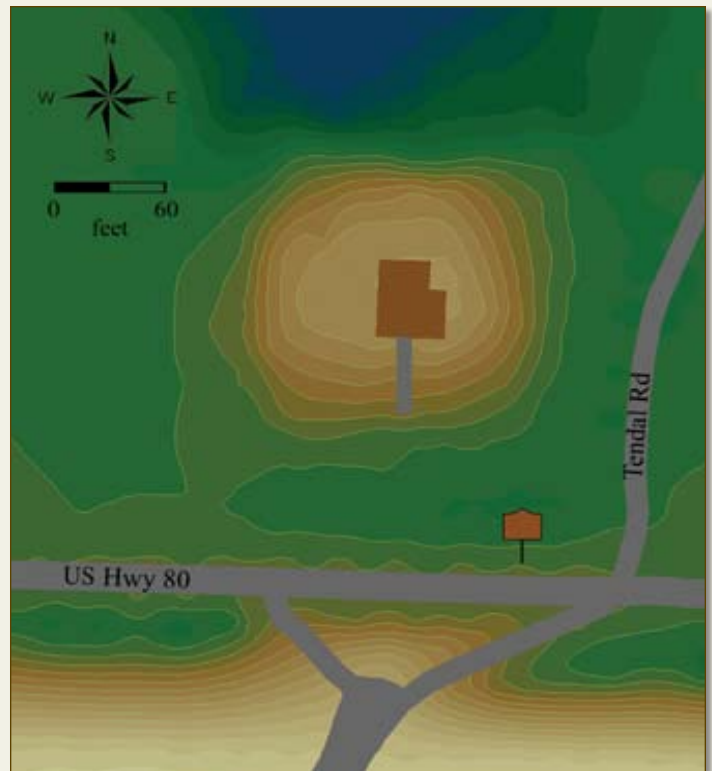
Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Good

Winter Viewing: Good



A must-see. This large and complex site on the edge of Maçon Ridge once may have contained as many as 13 mounds. Two large mounds (Md. B and Md. D) are clearly visible from the marker. Another very low mound (Md. C) is nearby, but it's more difficult to recognize. Three other possible mounds are to the east; seven possible mounds to the west were leveled before their status could be determined. The largest mound (Md. B) appears to be conical and measures about 20 feet tall, although about 5 feet of mound fill has been removed from its top. It's almost 300 by 215 feet at the base. Soil sediments indicate it was built in a single stage. The other large mound (Md. D) was also built in one stage; it's a platform mound, almost 11 feet tall and about 165 by 135 feet at the base. Although the site was occupied as early as the Poverty Point period (1700–1000 BC), radiocarbon dating of charcoal from beneath Md. B and Md. D shows the mounds date to the Coles Creek period (AD 700–1200). □



Tendal Mound is about 45 feet north of US Hwy. 80 on the west side of the Tensas River. It's a rectangular platform mound about 6 feet tall and 165 by 230 feet at the base. Its sides face the cardinal directions. The house atop the mound may be the second to have been built there, and the top of the mound may have been leveled before the structure was built. Local residents say the railroad bed now covers a smaller mound, but no supporting evidence has been found. Only a few artifacts have been collected near the site, which suggests that the surface on which the mound was built has been covered with sediment from flooding. The sparse information makes it difficult to judge the mound's age, but estimates date it to AD 400 or later (late Marksville/early Troyville periods). □

SCHICKER MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.400111 Longitude: -91.19275

Driving Directions:

— From US 80 in Tallulah, head southwest on US 65 (S. Chestnut Street). Go 0.6 mile to Mississippi Street; turn left. Go 0.2 mile to marker on right.

— From I-20 (exit 171), head north on US 65 to Tallulah. Go 0.7 mile to Mississippi Street; turn right. Go 0.2 mile to marker on right.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Good

Winter Viewing: Good



Schicker Mound in Tallulah is probably part of a two-mound complex; the second mound, LaSalle Street Mound, is about 300 feet due west. Both are built on a natural levee deposit of Brushy Bayou, which feeds into the Mississippi River. A house with a large cellar (which is unusual in this part of the South) was built on Schicker in 1926, so the remains of the mound form a shell around the house. Site records show that about 6 feet of fill were removed, exposing both prehistoric and historic burials. Schicker is a platform mound, now about 5 feet tall and almost 115 feet square at its base. Four site surveys found no artifacts that would help to estimate the site's age. That lack of artifacts may indicate that flood deposits have covered the surface the mound was built on. □

FITZHUGH MOUNDS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.320722 Longitude: -91.080361

Driving Directions:

— From I-20 (exit 173), head east on La 602. Go 6.9 miles to marker on right.

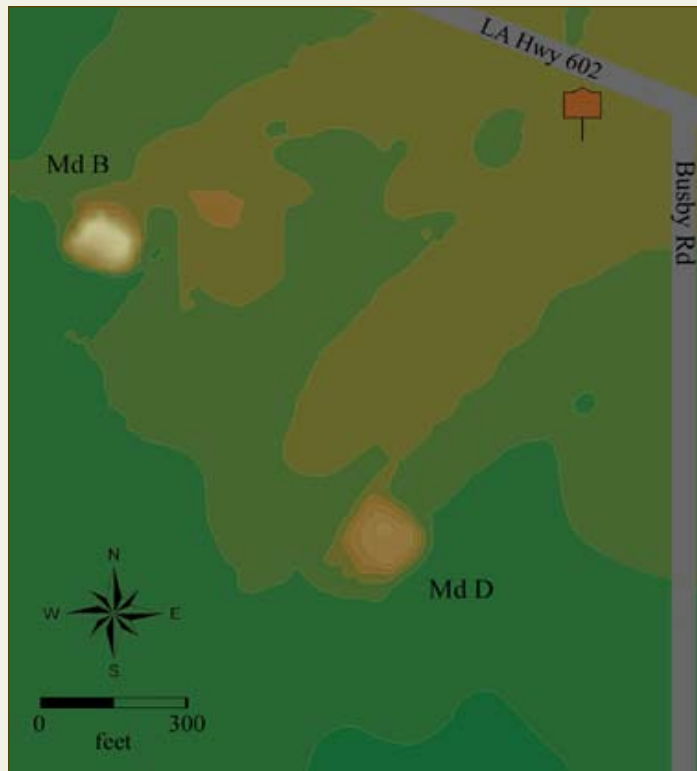
— From I-20 (exit 182), head south-southwest on La 602. Go 4.0 miles to marker on left.

Number of Mounds: 2

Number of Visible Mounds: 2

Summer Viewing: Poor, and distant

Winter Viewing: Good, but distant



Only two mounds remain of what was once an impressive seven-mound complex at Fitzhugh. First described and illustrated in *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley* by Squire and Davis in 1848, it's perhaps the first documented prehistoric mound site in Louisiana. Originally, at least four mounds formed a plaza, and two of them had ramps that led to their summits. The largest mound was almost 30 feet tall. A 3-foot-high causeway 75 feet wide extended west about 2,700 feet from one of the mounds; that mound was later used for fill to build Interstate 20. Only two mounds remain (Md. B and Md. D); the other mounds and causeway have been plowed extensively and are no longer visible. One of the remaining mounds (Md. B) is 10 feet tall; the other (Md. D) is just under 4 feet high and serves as an active historic cemetery. Prehistoric ceramics suggest the mounds date to AD 1200–1541 (Plaquemine/Mississippi period). □

TRANSYLVANIA MOUNDS

JULICE MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.686666 Longitude: -91.201722

Driving Directions:

- From US 65, head west on La 581. Go 1.3 miles to marker on left.
- From La 134, head east on La 881. Go 5.7 miles to La 581; turn right. Go 0.6 mile to marker on right.

Number of Mounds: 6

Number of Visible Mounds: 3

Summer Viewing: Fair

Winter Viewing: Good

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.68875 Longitude: -91.217333

Driving Directions:

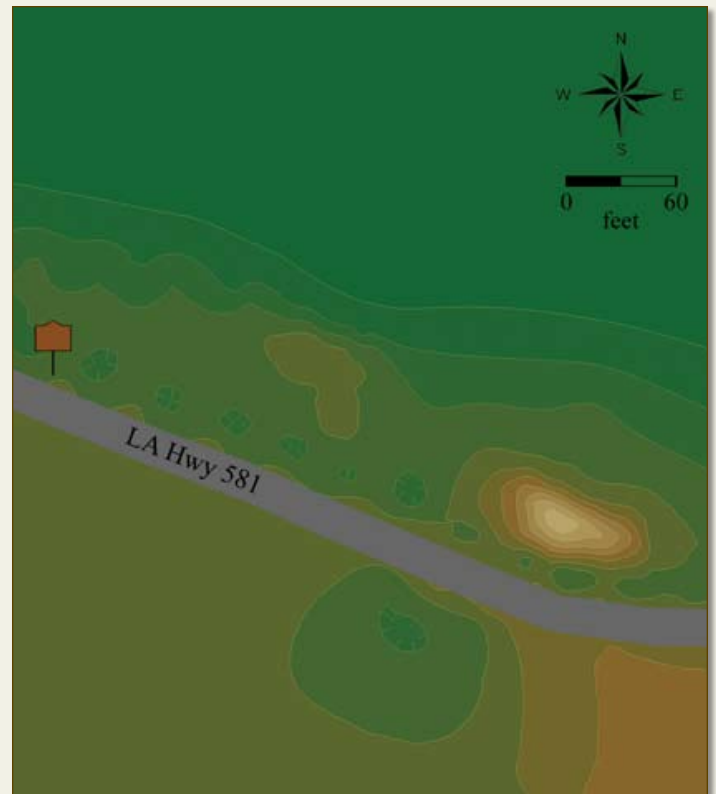
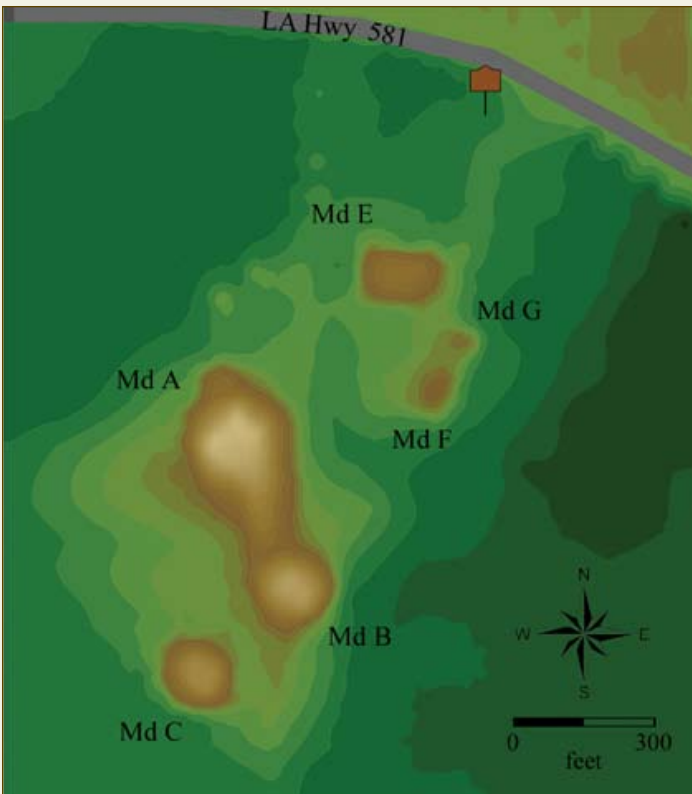
- From US 65, head west on La 581. Go 2.2 miles (past intersection with La 881) to marker on right.
- From La 134, head east on La 881. Go 5.7 miles to La 581; turn left. Go 0.3 mile to marker on right.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Poor

Winter Viewing: Good



Transylvania may have had as many as twelve mounds that formed two plazas, with the largest mound shared by each plaza. Mapping in 2000 identified six remaining mounds. The tallest mound is 34 feet high, with the others that remain at 18 feet, 9 feet, 6½ feet, 3½ feet, and 1½ feet tall. The 6½-foot mound has a barn on top and was modified for the building. Other mounds are no longer visible because their smaller size may have made them more vulnerable to plowing. Testing in the 1960s indicated that occupation began about AD 700–1200 (Coles Creek period), and ceramics recovered from the site date to AD 1200–1541 (Plaquemine/Mississippi period). A radiocarbon sample near one of the mounds dates to between AD 1048 and 1411. □

Julice is a platform mound not far from a channel that feeds into the Mississippi River. A 1954 survey described it as 8 feet tall with a small platform on the summit, and noted that it had been impacted by Hwy. 581. Current measurements show the mound is about 9 feet tall and 130 by 65 feet at its base. It appears that about a third of the mound remains. East of the marker is a historic cemetery, and the headstone of Julice Johnson is on the southwest corner of the mound. More historic graves are clustered about 120 feet east of the mound. A few ceramics found at the mound date occupation to AD 1200–1541 (Mississippi period). Because the mound is less than a mile from Transylvania Mounds, it's possible that Julice is part of that complex. □



GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.991972 Longitude: -91.281222

Driving Directions:

— From US 65, head west on La 585. Go 3.3 miles to marker on right.

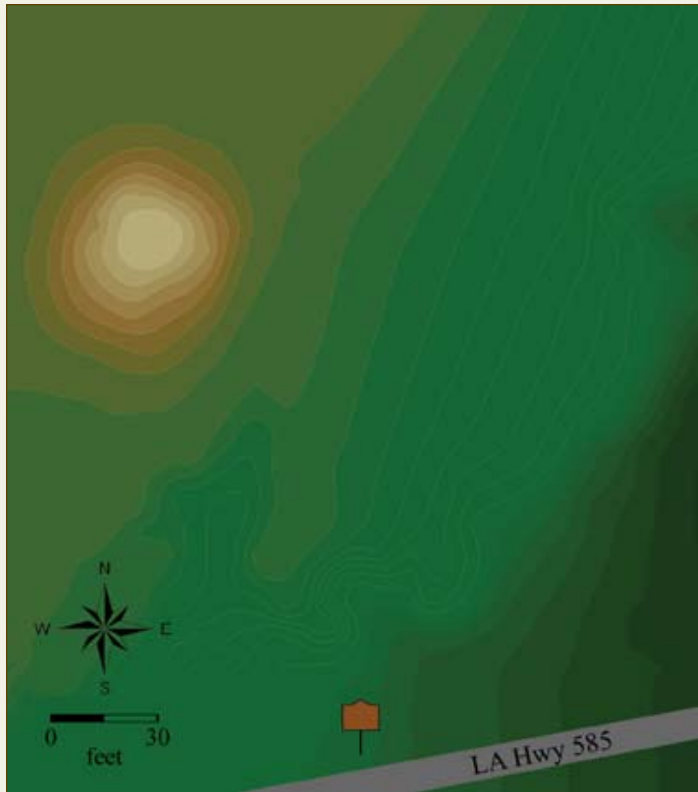
— From La 17, head east on La 585. Go 2.2 miles to marker on left.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Good, but distant

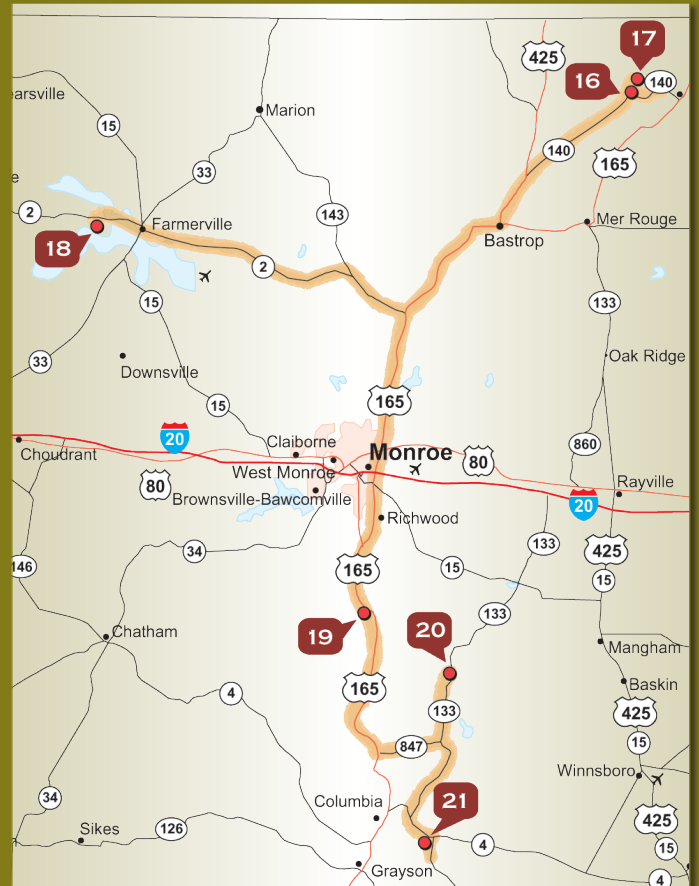
Winter Viewing: Excellent, but distant



Galloway Place Mound, also known as Hodgkins Place Mound, is a small solitary conical mound on the eastern edge of Maçon Ridge. It's 10 feet tall, 80 feet in diameter, and is well preserved. Soil analysis and a radiocarbon date indicate that it may date to 400 BC to AD 20 (Tchefuncte to Marksville periods). Artifacts found nearby include pottery, beads, and projectile points, as well as cooking ball fragments similar to those found at nearby Poverty Point (1700–1000 BC), which may indicate that people were living on the site during that period. □

Mound Guide Legend

- # Page Number of Public Sites
- # Page Number of Private Sites
- Ancient Mounds Markers
- Lakes / Rivers
- Trail Route



LOCATION	PAGE
□ VENABLE MOUND	16
□ CANEY BAYOU MOUND	17
□ SCOTT PLACE MOUNDS	18
□ FILHIOL MOUND	19
□ LANDERNEAU MOUNDS	20
□ WADE LANDING MOUND.....	21

VENABLE MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.901083 Longitude: -91.774833

Driving Directions:

- From US 165, head west on La 140 (Old Bonita Road). Go 6.8 miles to marker on right.
- From US 425, head northeast on La 140. Go 7.8 miles to marker on left, 0.4 mile past Knox Ferry Road.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Good

Winter Viewing: Good

CANEY BAYOU MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.917916 Longitude: -91.771527

Driving Directions:

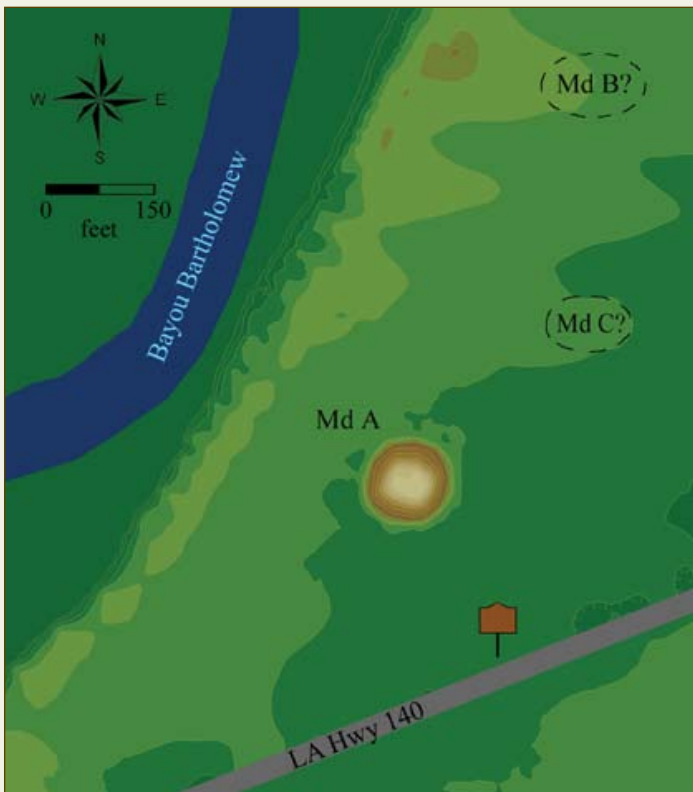
- From US 165, head west on La 140 (Old Bonita Road). Go 7.2 miles to Knox Ferry Road (0.4 mile past Venable Mound); turn right. Go 1.6 miles to marker on left.
- From US 425, head northeast on La 140. Go 7.4 miles to Knox Ferry Road; turn left. Go 1.6 miles to marker on left.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Fair

Winter Viewing: Good



Venable is the only remaining mound of a three-mound group formerly known as McTheney Mounds. It sits on a natural levee deposit on the east bank of Bayou Bartholomew, about 1/3 mile northeast of the edge of the Bastrop Hills. It's a platform mound about 140 feet square and over 22 feet tall. The summit platform is about 50 by 50 feet. Venable Mound has the steepest slope of any mound on the Mounds Trail. Ceramics from the site date to around AD 1200–1541 (Plaquemine/Mississippi period), but excavations reveal that the site was occupied beginning between AD 400 and 700 (Troyville period). Construction of the mound began sometime between AD 700 and 1200 (Coles Creek period) and continued into Plaquemine times. □



Caney Bayou Mound may be one of the oldest mounds in Louisiana. This dome-shaped mound is now about 5½ feet high, and about 130 by 165 feet at the base. It has one construction stage, but originally was taller than it is today. Although Caney Bayou Mound has been significantly disturbed by years of plowing, it's still an important site on the Mounds Trail because of its antiquity. Projectile points and stone tools found near the mound are from the Archaic period, and no pottery has been found at the site. Based on soil weathering and artifacts, Caney Bayou Mound appears to be as old as 3000 BC. By comparison, the first Egyptian pyramids were constructed in approximately 2800 BC. □

SCOTT PLACE MOUNDS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.774222 Longitude: -92.444166

Driving Directions:

- From La 2 and La 15 in Farmerville, head west on La 2 (Bernice Hwy). Go 3.2 miles to Scott's Hideaway Road; turn left. Go 1.8 miles to marker on right.
- From D'Arbonne State Park, take Evergreen Road to La 2; turn right. Go 1.8 miles to Scott's Hideaway Road; turn right. Go 1.8 miles to marker on right.

Number of Mounds: 5

Number of Visible Mounds: 2

Summer Viewing: Fair

Winter Viewing: Good

FILHIOL MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.339555 Longitude: -92.093144

Driving Directions:

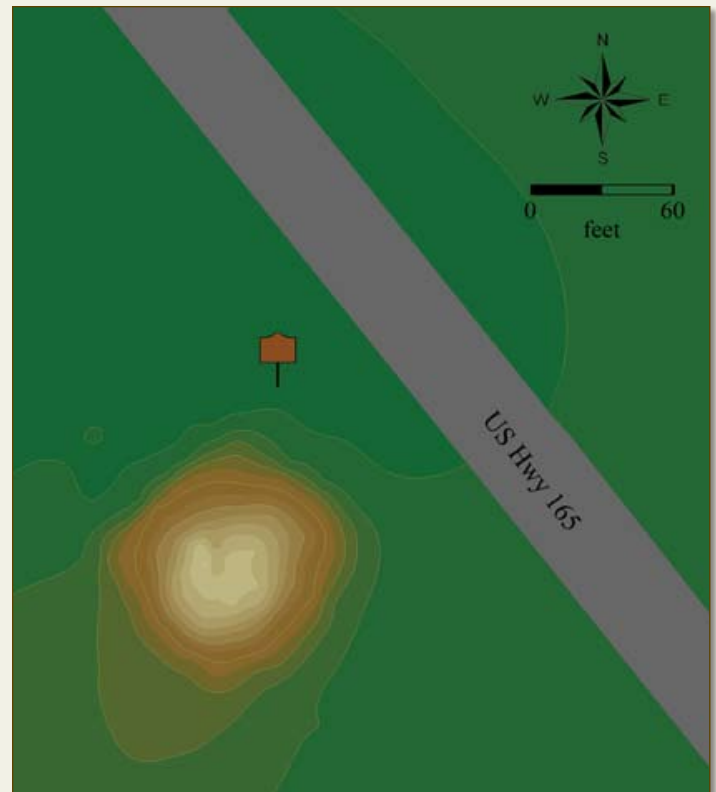
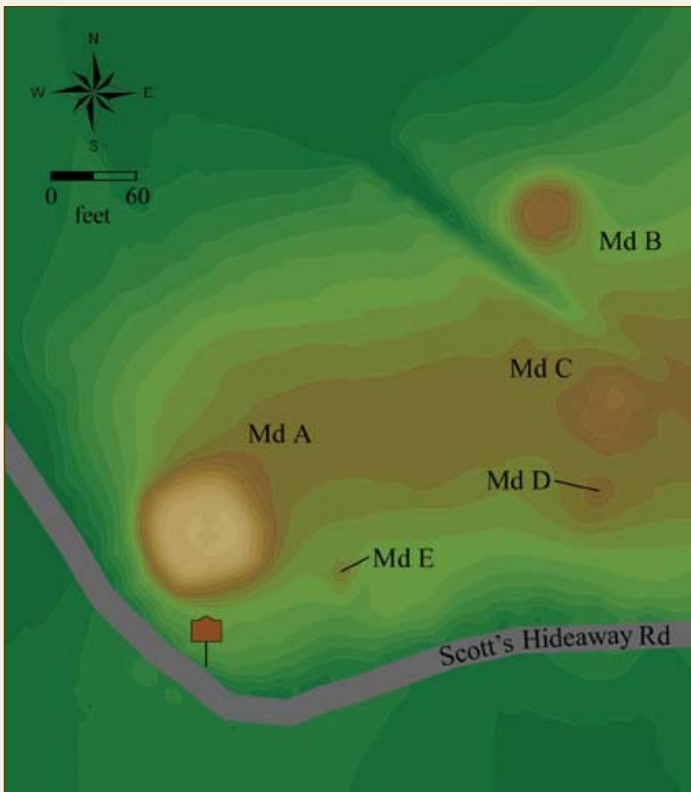
- From I-20 (exit 118), head south on US 165. Go 11.7 miles to marker on right.
- From La 4, head north on US 165. Go 17.7 miles to marker on left.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Poor

Winter Viewing: Good



Scott Place is one of the few mound sites in north-central Louisiana. It's a five-mound complex above the confluence of Corney Bayou and Bayou D'Arbonne (now part of Lake D'Arbonne). The largest mound (Md. A), near the marker, is in good shape, and its corners are easy to see. It's 11 feet tall, with a base about 125 feet square. Its platform measures about 70 by 45 feet. A core sample indicates it was built in one stage. The second largest mound (Md. B) is about 270 feet to the northeast (not visible from the marker), and appears to have been dome-shaped; it's about 6 feet high and 65 feet in diameter, and was also built in one stage. An old wagon trail runs along its base, and two trenches and a pit scar its surface. Charcoal from a hearth beneath this mound dates to AD 1250 (Coles Creek/Plaquemine periods.) Three smaller single-stage mounds (Mds. C–E) are just over 2 feet high and between 65 and 25 feet in diameter. □

Filhiol is a platform mound, 7 feet tall and about 100 by 100 feet at its base. It's on a natural levee deposit on the Ouachita River. The site includes a historic cemetery. While early reports of the site describe a conical mound with a circular base, recent mapping suggests a square base. Parts of the mound may have been leveled in the 1800s for the Watkins family cemetery. Cores show that the mound was probably built in two stages and that there has been extensive disturbance since then. Charcoal from the surface of the first stage dates the mound to AD 700–1200 (Coles Creek period). Frances Anne Filhiol Bres is buried in the mound. She was the granddaughter of Jean Baptiste Filhiol, who in the 1790s was military commander of Poste du Ouachita (Fort Miro, the settlement which became Monroe). □

LANDERNEAU MOUNDS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.273166 Longitude: -91.993833

Driving Directions:

— From La 847, head north on La 133. Go 5.6 miles to marker on left.

— From La 15, head south on La 133. Go 9.8 miles to marker on right.

Number of Mounds: 2

Number of Visible Mounds: 2

Summer Viewing: Excellent

Winter Viewing: Excellent

WADE LANDING MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.075638 Longitude: -92.019861

Driving Directions:

— From La 4, head south on La 559. Go 0.1 mile to marker on right.

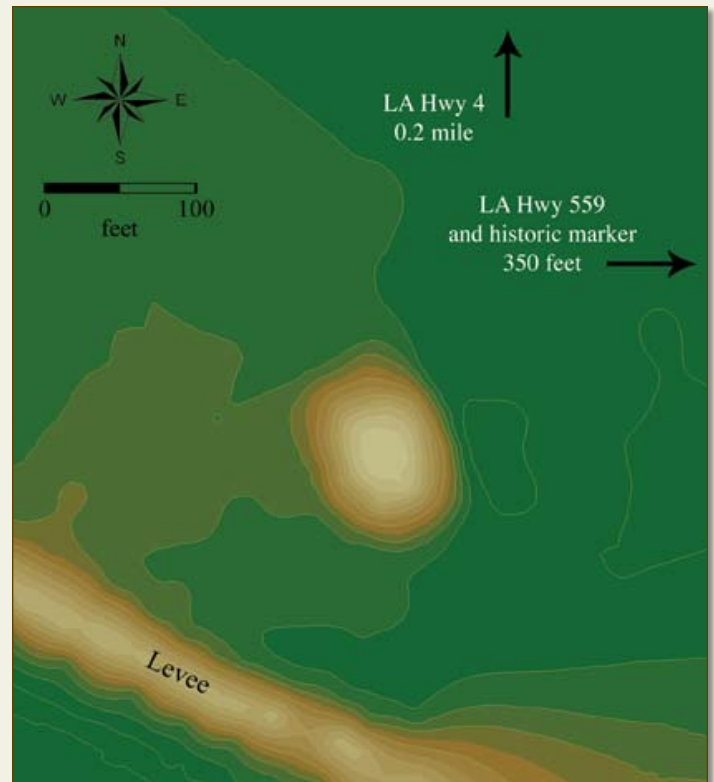
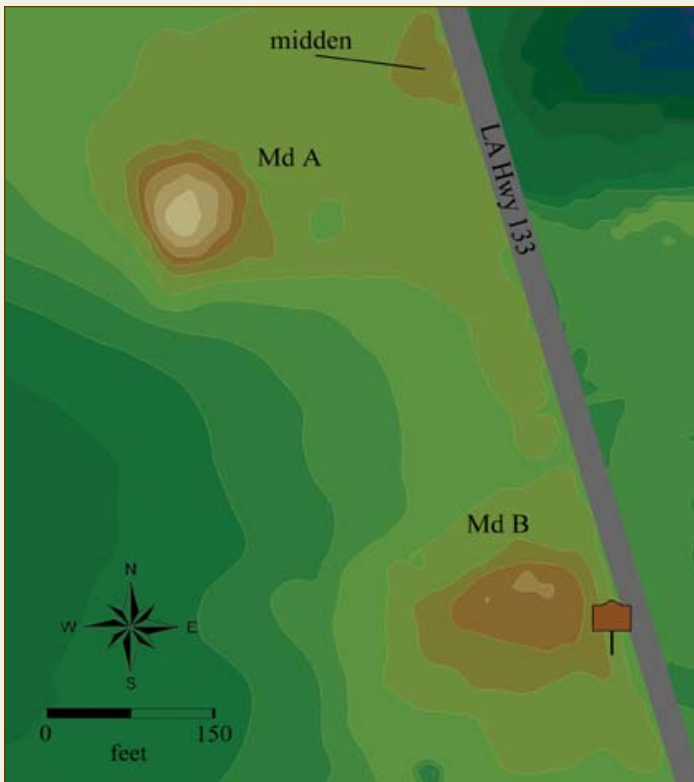
— From the Duty/Enterprise Ferry crossing, head north on La 559. Go 13.4 miles to marker on left.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Excellent

Winter Viewing: Excellent



This site is an excellent example of a small Troyville hamlet/village. Landerneau has two dome-shaped mounds and an associated village midden (accumulated debris), and is about 300 feet west of the Boeuf River. Each mound was built in a single stage. The taller one (Md. A), about 4 feet high and 130 feet in diameter, serves as a historic cemetery. The other mound (Md. B) is 3 feet tall and about 135 feet in diameter. The modern 2-story house on it was built on the site of the original homeplace of the Landerneau family. Highway construction exposed the midden on the east side of the site. A 1998 excavation found pottery, bone, and shell there, and showed that fish was the main food source. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal from the site gives an age of AD 530–590 (Troyville period). Because it's a "single component site" (only one culture lived there), it was easier for archaeologists to accurately determine the food and artifacts the Troyville people used. □

Wade Landing is perhaps one of the most picturesque sites on the Mounds Trail, in its setting with a white mansion, pecan grove, and levee. It's a 9-foot-tall rectangular platform mound that measures about 130 by 165 feet at its base. A historic cemetery has helped prevent looting. Archaeologists cored the mound and found that it was built in two stages; coring also recovered a thin layer of plant fiber on the surface of the first stage, but it was not radiocarbon dated. Local folklore says a second smaller mound was destroyed or covered by construction of a levee southwest of the mound, but that has not been verified. The age of the mound is not known, although analysis of the soil core suggests that it was probably built AD 700–1200, during the Coles Creek period. A few ceramic artifacts found near the mound support this interpretation. □



Mound Guide Legend

- # Page Number of Public Sites
- # Page Number of Private Sites
- Ancient Mounds Markers
- Lakes / Rivers
- Trail Route



LOCATION

PAGE

<input type="checkbox"/> GHOST SITE MOUNDS	23
<input type="checkbox"/> SHACKLEFORD CHURCH MOUNDS	24
<input type="checkbox"/> BALMORAL MOUNDS	25
<input type="checkbox"/> FLOWERY MOUND	26
<input type="checkbox"/> MAYFLOWER MOUND	27
<input type="checkbox"/> SUNDOWN MOUNDS	28
<input type="checkbox"/> MOUND PLANTATION	29

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.092916 Longitude: -91.450472

Driving Directions:

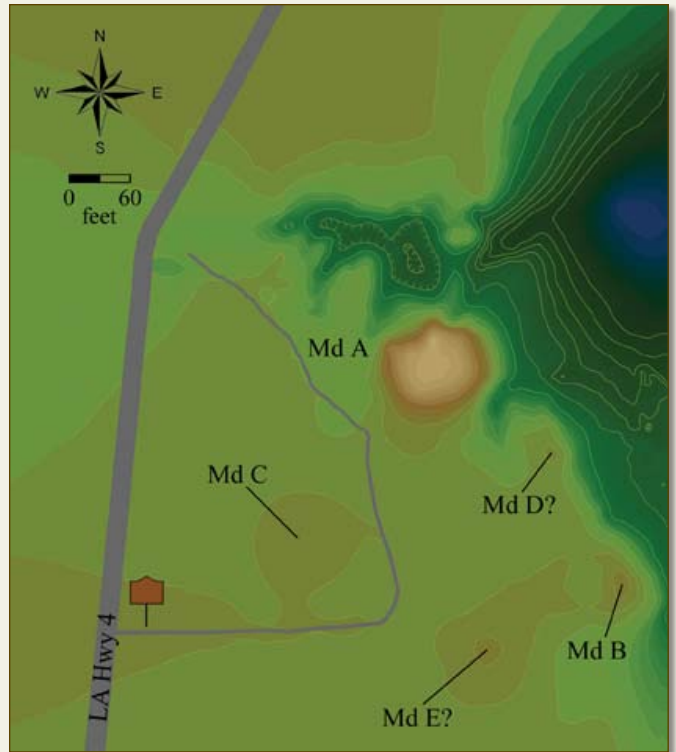
- From La 128, head east on La 4. Go 0.4 mile to marker on right.
- From La 575, head west on La 4. Go 12.1 miles to marker on left.

Number of Mounds: 3-5

Number of Visible Mounds: 1-2

Summer Viewing: Poor

Winter Viewing: Fair



The Ghost Site consists of three (possibly five) mounds along a bayou that flows into the Tensas River. The largest mound (Md. A) is about 11 feet tall and 118 by 92 feet at the base. It's a platform mound that was used for a historic cemetery. A portion was removed in 1990 to build a dam across the bayou. Since then, considerable erosion has expanded the exposed face. Small dome-shaped mounds (Md. B, Md. C), less than 2 feet tall and about 60 by 90 feet at the base, make up the rest of the site. Part of Md. B was also removed for dam fill, while Md. C is intact. It's not known whether two other rises (D and E) are mounds. Limited testing found ceramics, bone, shell, and charcoal underneath two of the mounds (Md. A, Md. B); based on decorative style, that pottery probably dates to AD 700–1200 (early to middle Coles Creek). Pottery dating to AD 1200 to 1541 (late Coles Creek to Plaquemine) was found in three of the mounds. □

SHACKLEFORD CHURCH MOUNDS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.151722 Longitude: -91.300972

Driving Directions:

- From La 4, head north on La 575. Go 6.6 miles to marker on left.
- From US 65, head west on La 575. Go 6.2 miles to marker on right.

Number of Mounds: 4

Number of Visible Mounds: 2

Summer Viewing: Fair

Winter Viewing: Good

BALMORAL MOUNDS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 32.131944 Longitude: -91.240638

Driving Directions:

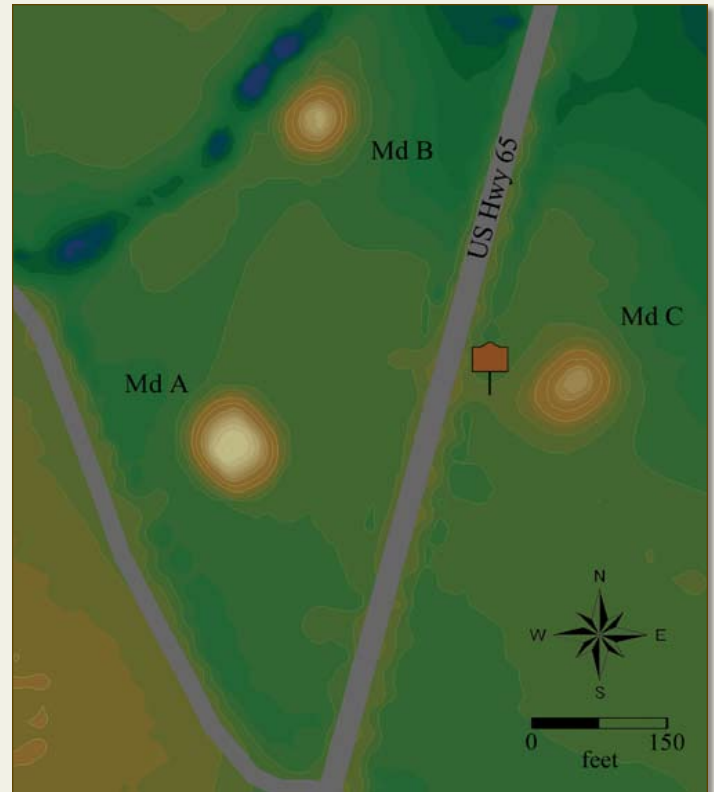
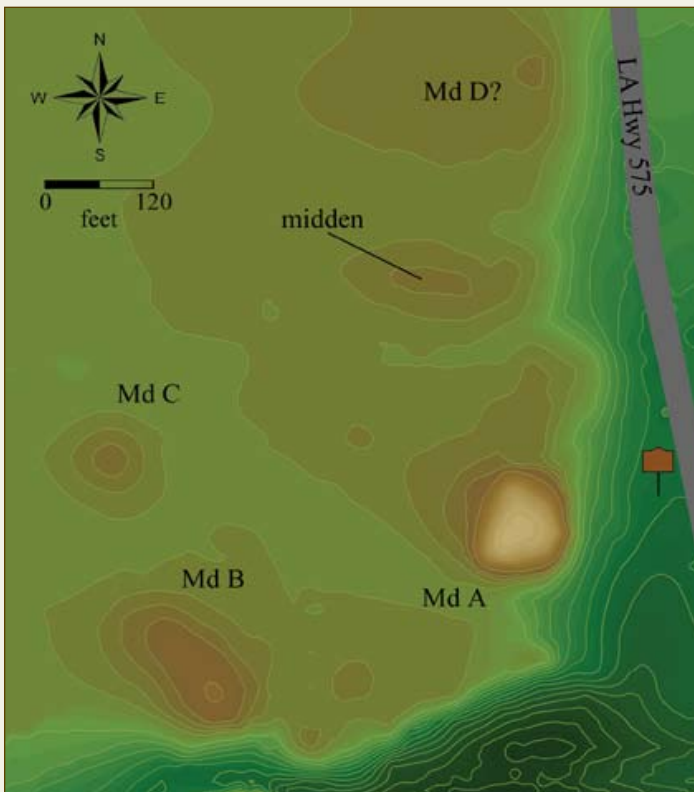
- From La 575 at Somerset, head south on US 65. Go 3.0 miles to marker on left.
- From La 4, head north on US 65. Go 4.3 miles to marker on right.

Number of Mounds: 3

Number of Visible Mounds: 3

Summer Viewing: Excellent

Winter Viewing: Excellent



Shackleford contains four mounds and a village midden (refuse site) near where Cypress Bayou flows into Shackleford Lake. Two mounds (Mds. A and D?) and the midden are on the edge of the bayou, another (Md. B) is on the bluff about 20 feet above the lake, and the fourth (Md. C) is about 400 feet west of Mound A. Although a 1935 sketch map illustrated two mounds connected by a causeway, no evidence of a causeway exists today. The largest mound (Md. A) is about 13 feet high, almost 145 by 130 feet at the base, and 45 feet square at the summit. Testing identified seven building stages atop a prepared sand base. The second largest (Md. B, not visible) is 4 feet tall and 225 by 75 feet at the base. The other mounds are small and hard to see. Four radiocarbon samples date the site to about AD 800 (Coles Creek period). □

A must-see. This is the most visible mound group on the entire Trail. The three mounds of Balmoral form an equilateral triangle on the east and west sides of US 65, on the south side of Bayou de Rousset. A 1963 investigation found that the site was intensively occupied before mound construction. Decorated ceramics and a radiocarbon sample suggest Balmoral dates to AD 700–1200 (Coles Creek period). In 2003, mapping and coring showed that Mound A is an 11-foot-tall platform mound that measures almost 150 by 165 feet at its base. Dome-shaped Mound B is 9 feet tall and about 100 by 130 feet at the base. Mound C, also dome-shaped, is 8 feet tall and about 130 by 150 feet at its base. Cores from Mounds A and C suggest they were built in single stages at about the same time. Although Mound B has not been investigated, artifacts found nearby make it likely that it's the same age. □

FLOWERY MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.940805 Longitude: -91.271277

Driving Directions:

— From US 65, head east on La 128 (slightly north of where La 128 going west intersects US 65). Go 0.6 mile to marker on left.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Good

Winter Viewing: Good

MAYFLOWER MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.968 Longitude: -91.394027

Driving Directions:

— From La 128, head south on La 573. Go 3.8 miles to La 892; continue straight on La 892. Go 0.1 mile to marker on right.

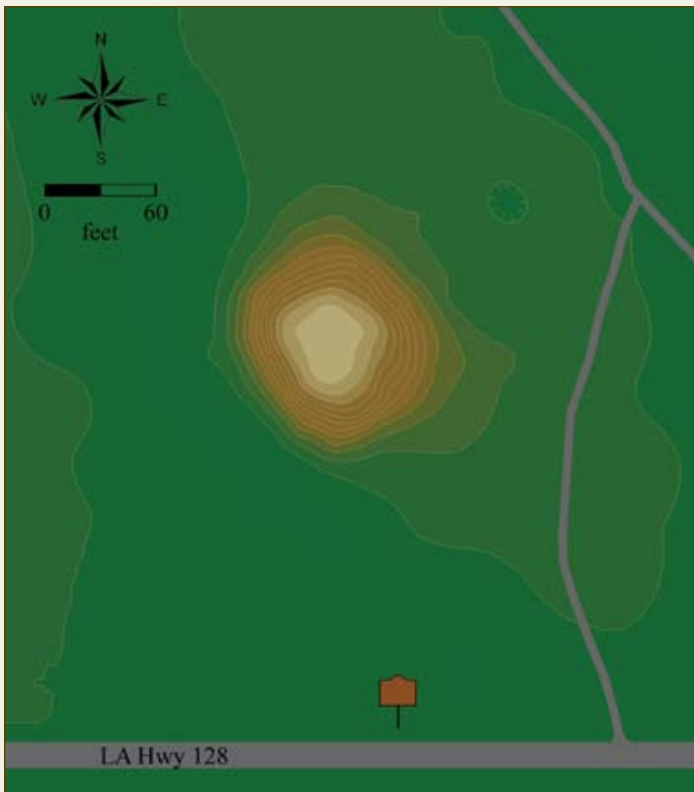
— From La 3252, head north on La 892. Go 1.1 miles to marker on left.

Number of Mounds: 1

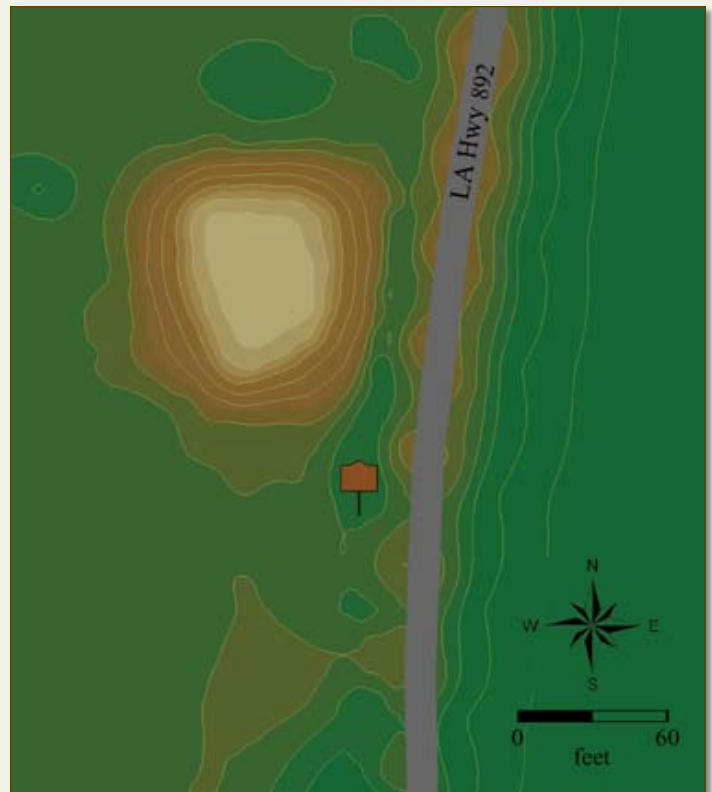
Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Fair

Winter Viewing: Good



Flowery Mound is a small but very well preserved platform mound on Andrews Bayou, an old channel of the Mississippi River. It's about 10 feet tall, 165 by 130 feet at its base, and about 50 by 50 feet at the summit. Two cores retrieved from the mound show it was built in a single stage. Clear boundaries between the different colors of dirt used to build the mound are easy to distinguish, indicating that the mound is relatively young and that little "weathering" (soil boundaries becoming more diffuse over time) has occurred. The mound was built on a midden (refuse deposited during previous occupancy), which contained much charcoal; the charcoal dates to AD 996–1162. That, along with decorated pottery found nearby as well as the unweathered mound fill, suggests the site was occupied AD 1200–1541 (Mississippi/Plaquemine period). □



Mayflower is a single mound about ¼ mile north of the confluence of Big Choctaw and Van Buren bayous. It's just over 10 feet tall, and about 130 by 130 feet at its base; the platform is about 60 by 65 feet. The mound is in excellent condition except that its southeast corner was clipped by highway construction. It's heavily wooded, so it wasn't possible to core it to examine soil weathering or obtain charcoal samples for dating. An adjacent field yielded 29 pottery fragments; based on that sample, the mound is believed to date to AD 700–1200 (Coles Creek period). Local people describe a second mound west of Mayflower that was plowed away years ago, but no evidence has surfaced to verify its existence. □

SUNDOWN MOUNDS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.93468 Longitude: -91.4193

Driving Directions:

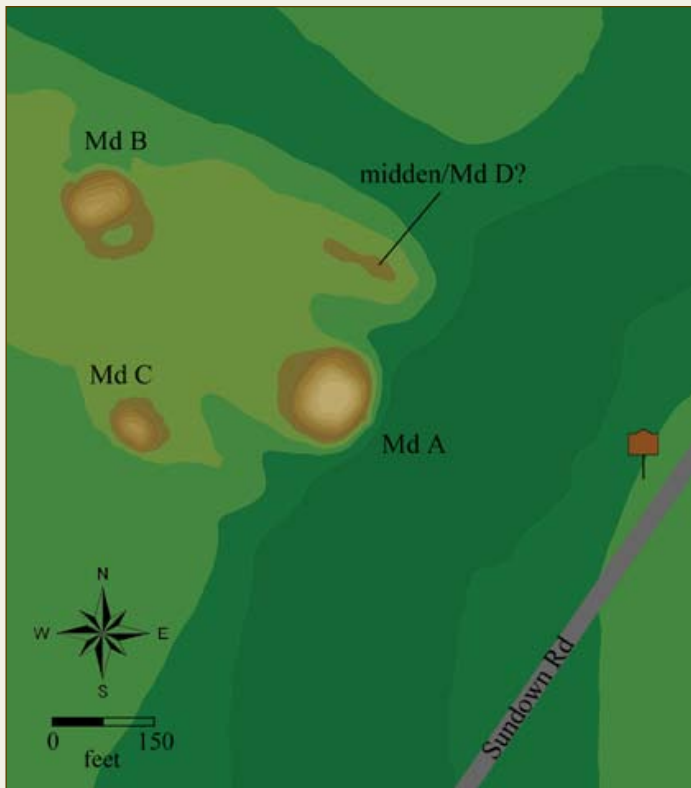
— From La 128, head south on La 573. Go 3.8 miles to La 892; continue straight on La 892. Go 1.2 miles to La 3252 (not on state map); turn right. Go 2.2 miles to marker on right.

Number of Mounds: 4?

Number of Visible Mounds: 2

Summer Viewing: Fair

Winter Viewing: Good



Sundown may be the oldest Coles Creek mound group on the Mounds Trail. Its three confirmed mounds form a triangle on the west side of Little Choctaw Bayou. The largest, closest to and visible from the marker, is a platform mound (Md. A) 11 feet high; its base measures about 190 by 180 feet, with a summit platform 60 feet square. A second large platform mound (Md. B) is about 400 feet to the northwest; it's 8 feet tall, and measures 130 by 100 feet at its base, with its platform about 65 by 33 feet. The third mound, behind the largest, is a 7-foot tall, dome-shaped mound about 100 by 80 feet at the base. About 150 feet north of the largest mound is what may be either a mound or a village midden (refuse pile). The site was occupied before and during mound building, and dates to AD 700–1200 (Coles Creek period). □

MOUND PLANTATION

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.934083 Longitude: -91.290805

Driving Directions:

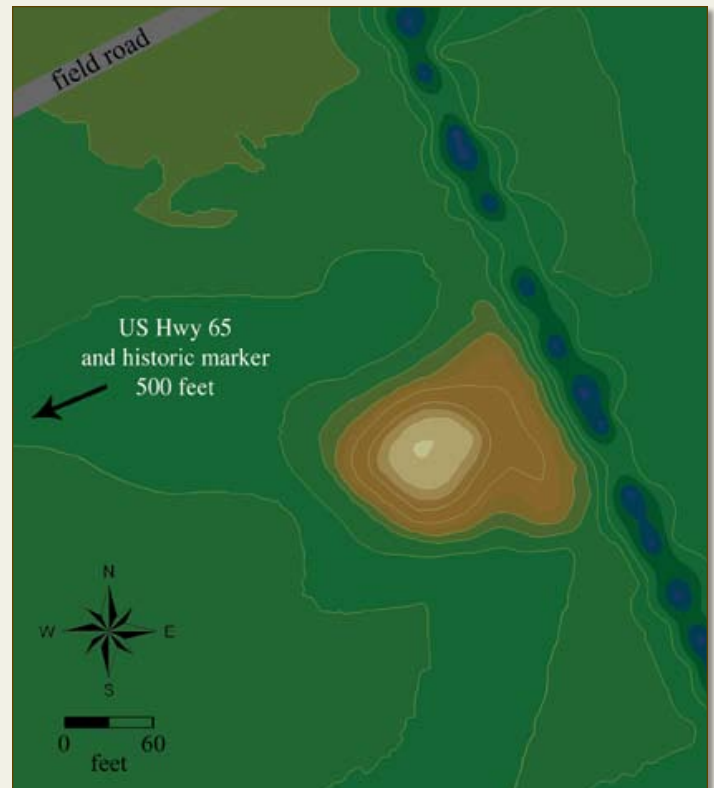
— From La 128, head south on US 65. Go 0.6 mile to marker on left. — From La 573 near Waterproof, head north on US 65. Go 9.0 miles to marker on right.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Fair

Winter Viewing: Good

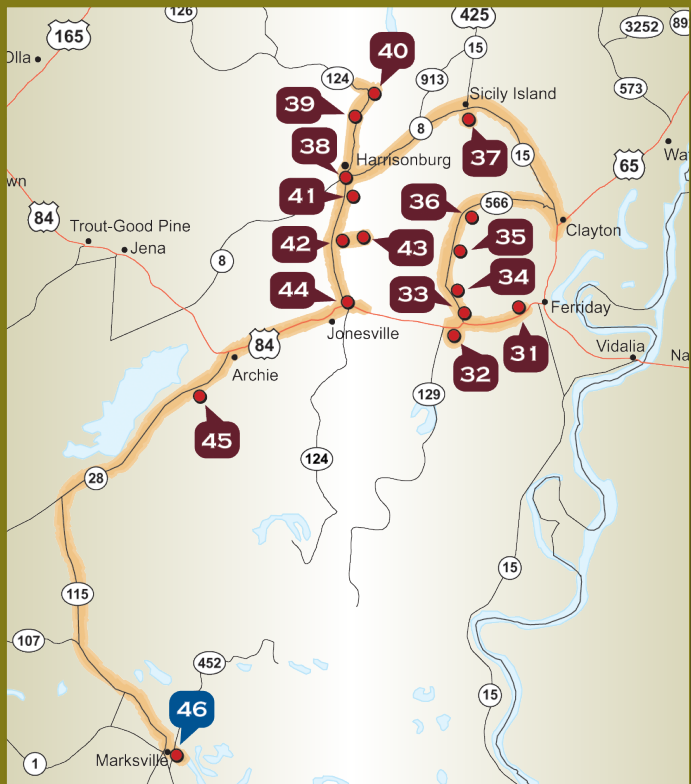


Mound Plantation is a single platform mound just over half a mile from an old channel of the Tensas River. An irrigation ditch runs along its northeast side, and rice paddies surround it; this suggests its original setting has been destroyed. The mound is about 10 feet tall and measures about 135 by 125 feet. The platform at the summit is 60 feet square. Its eastern flank has been covered by fill from the ditch. Early accounts of the site say a second mound was north of the existing one, but no physical evidence for it has been found. A small number of pottery pieces suggest it was occupied sometime between AD 700 and 1200 (Coles Creek period). □

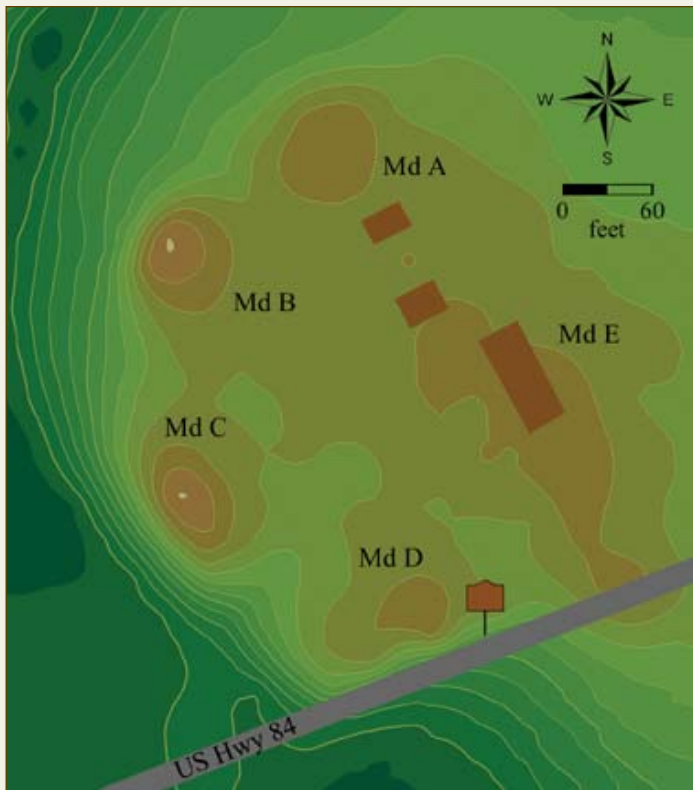


Mound Guide Legend

- # Page Number of Public Sites
- # Page Number of Private Sites
- Ancient Mounds Markers
- Lakes / Rivers
- Trail Route



GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.626469 Longitude: -91.576452
Driving Directions:
 — From US 65/US 425 in Ferriday, head west on US 84. Go 1.3 miles to marker on right.
 — From La 566, head east on US 84. Go 5.6 miles to marker on left.
Number of Mounds: 5
Number of Visible Mounds: 5
Summer Viewing: Excellent
Winter Viewing: Excellent



LOCATION	PAGE
<input type="checkbox"/> DEPRATO MOUNDS	31
<input type="checkbox"/> FROGMORE MOUND	32
<input type="checkbox"/> ELKHORN PLANTATION MOUND	33
<input type="checkbox"/> CHURUPA PLANTATION MOUND	34
<input type="checkbox"/> CYPRESS GROVE MOUND	35
<input type="checkbox"/> LAMARQUE LANDING MOUND	36
<input type="checkbox"/> PECK MOUNDS	37
<input type="checkbox"/> HARRISONBURG MOUNDS	38
<input type="checkbox"/> ALEXANDER MOUND	39
<input type="checkbox"/> BOOTHE LANDING MOUND	40
<input type="checkbox"/> MCGUFFEE MOUNDS	41
<input type="checkbox"/> TEW LAKE MOUNDS	42
<input type="checkbox"/> ROUTON MOUNDS	43
<input type="checkbox"/> TROYVILLE EARTHWORKS	44

DePrato, a complex of five dome-shaped mounds, encompasses about four acres just east of where Black Bayou and Bayou Cocodrie meet. The site, formerly called Ferriday Mounds, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Because the site has flooded repeatedly, about 3 feet of sediment covers the base of the mounds and the plaza between them, so the mounds appear smaller than their actual height of 5 to 6 feet. The largest mound (Md. C) is 82 by 66 feet at the base, and the others average 65 feet square. Radiocarbon testing and decorated pottery date the mounds to about AD 600 (Troyville/Coles Creek periods). Excavations found human remains in three of the mounds. One of the mounds (Md. D) was mostly removed for highway construction, and a house is built on another (Md. E). □

FROGMORE MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.604555 Longitude: -91.671055

Driving Directions:

- From US 65/US 425 in Ferriday, head west on US 84. Go 7.4 miles to marker on left, 0.4 mile past La 566.
- From La 124 (Main Street) in Jonesville, head east on US 84. Go 9.1 miles to marker on right.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Excellent

Winter Viewing: Excellent

ELKHORN PLANTATION MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.622777 Longitude: -91.668013

Driving Directions:

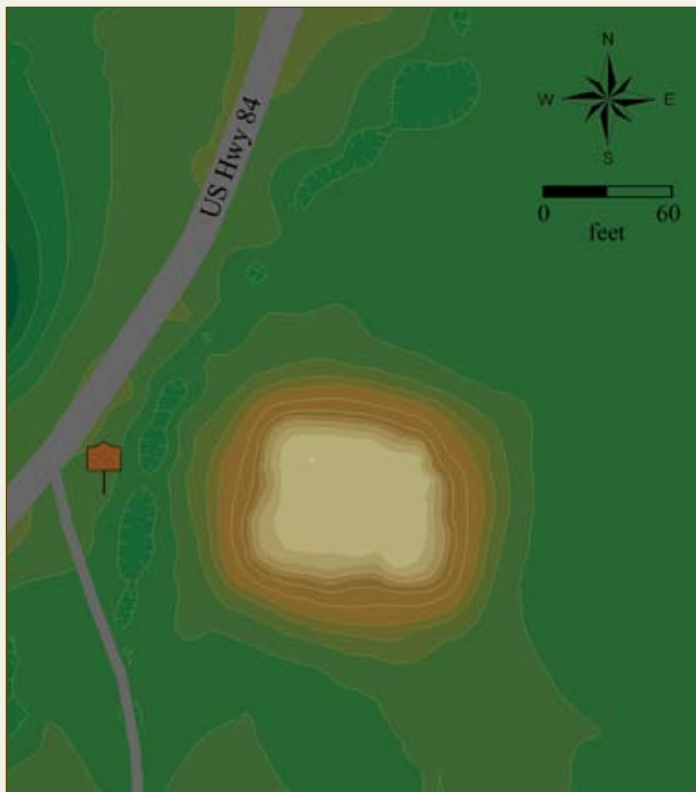
- From US 84, head north on La 566. Go 0.9 mile to marker on right.
- From US 425/La 15, head west on La 566. Go 15.1 miles to marker on left.

Number of Mounds: 1

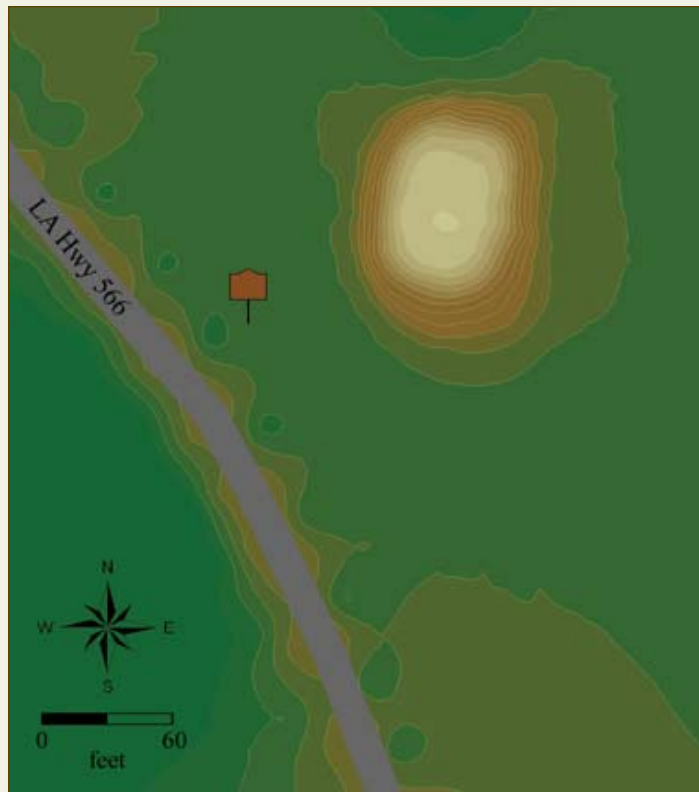
Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Excellent

Winter Viewing: Excellent



Frogmore Mound, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a pristine platform mound with an associated village site. It's 14 feet tall, measures about 160 by 190 feet at its base, and is about 60 by 70 feet on the summit. The mound and the village midden (trash heap) cover an area about 400 by 200 feet, some of which has been covered by flood sediments. Excavations show the mound was built in two stages, a short length of time apart. It was built over a walled, probably ceremonial, structure about 20 to 30 feet in diameter, which was burned and covered with dirt before mound construction. Charcoal from underneath the mound dates to AD 1020–1260, and ceramics from the midden also indicate occupation late in the Coles Creek period. □



Elkhorn is a well preserved and very visible platform mound built on a natural levee deposit of an old channel of the Mississippi River. It's rectangular, 10 feet tall, and about 150 by 100 feet at the base; the platform is about 45 by 30 feet at its summit. Cores from the mound indicate it was built in two stages. The first stage included a possible hearth with carbon and burnt clay. Charcoal from the hearth was radiocarbon dated to AD 415–565 (late Marksville to early Coles Creek period). When the second stage was added is unclear, but pottery suggests that it may have been between AD 700 and 1200 (late Coles Creek period). □

CHURUPA PLANTATION MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.638291 Longitude: -91.675461

Driving Directions:

- From US 84, head north on La 566. Go 2.0 miles to marker on right.
- From US 425/La 15, head west on La 566. Go 14.0 miles to marker on left.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Fair

Winter Viewing: Good

CYPRESS GROVE MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.682358 Longitude: -91.675591

Driving Directions:

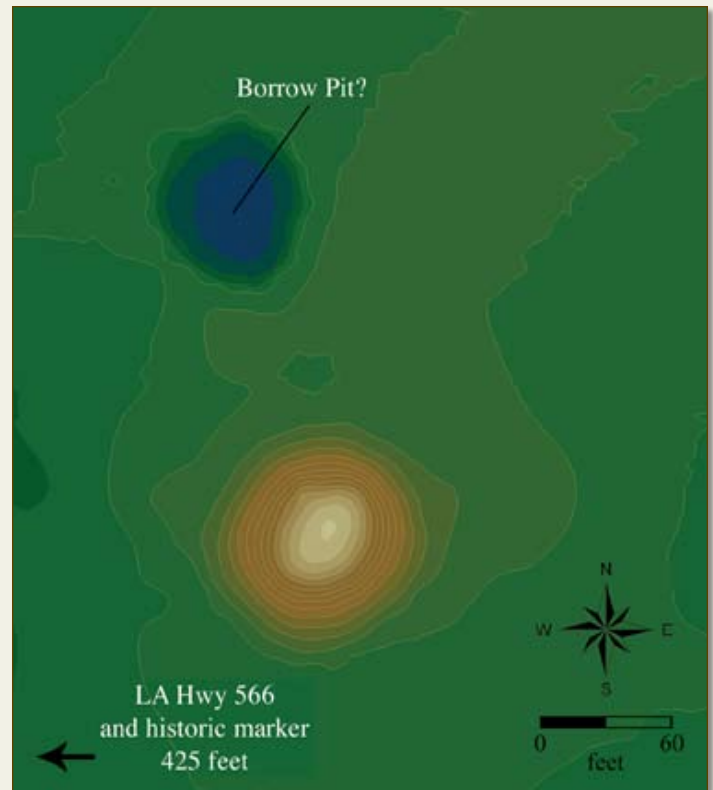
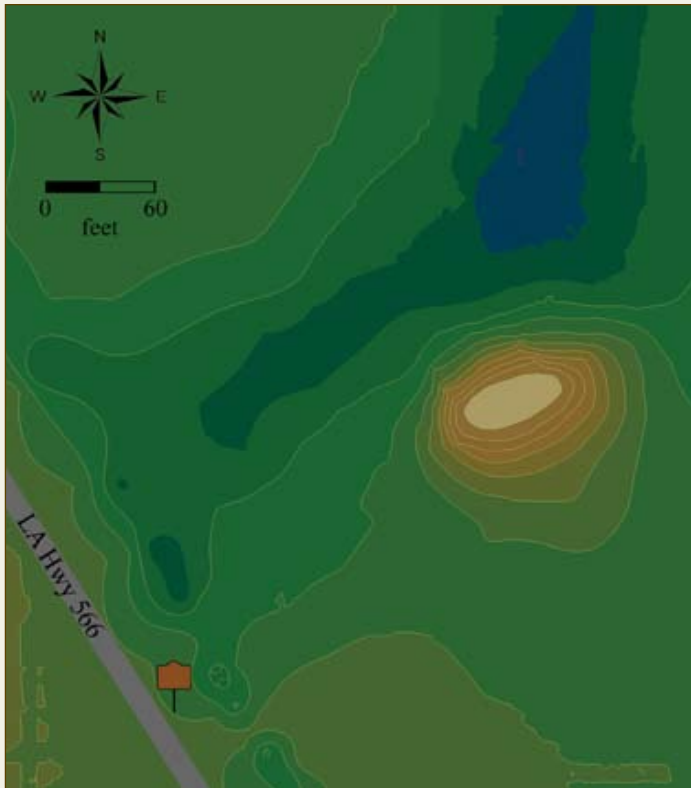
- From US 84, head north on La 566. Go 5.1 miles to marker on right.
- From US 425/La 15, head west on La 566. Go 10.8 miles to marker on left.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Good

Winter Viewing: Good



Churupa is a single mound built about AD 1000 on a natural levee deposit of an old tributary of the Mississippi River. It's now about 7 feet tall, and 150 by 125 feet at the base. In 1935, the mound was described as conical, 10 feet high, and 90 feet in diameter, so plowing may have altered its shape. A fenced cemetery and headstones on the mound date to the historic period. Soil coring indicates that the mound was built in a single stage on the remains of an earlier village that had been occupied long before construction of the mound began. Charcoal from underneath the mound dates to AD 541–659 (Troyville period); the mound itself may date to AD 700–1200 (Coles Creek period). □

Cypress Grove is one of the best-preserved conical mounds in northeast Louisiana. It's near a lake that used to be part of the Tensas River. The mound measures about 10 feet high and 115 feet in diameter at its base. A small pond about 60 feet north of the mound may be a borrow pit where soil was removed for mound construction. Two cores from the mound show that it was built in one stage over a thick midden (accumulated debris from previous occupants). Radiocarbon dating of organic material from beneath the mound suggests that the mound was built about AD 750, during the late Troyville or early Coles Creek periods. Few artifacts have been recovered from the site and its immediate surroundings, which is unusual. It is said that there are two historic burials in the mound. □

LAMARQUE LANDING MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.726047 Longitude: -91.647188

Driving Directions:

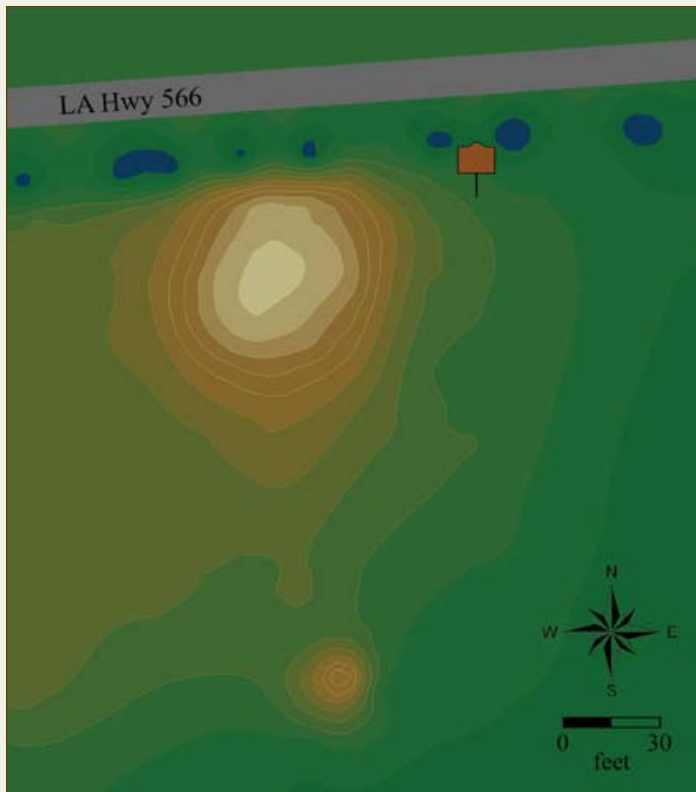
- From US 84, head north on La 566. Go 9.0 miles to marker on right.
- From US 425/La 15, head west on La 566. Go 6.9 miles to marker on left.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Fair

Winter Viewing: Good



The single conical mound at Lamarque sits on a natural levee of the Tensas River. It's one of six such solitary mound sites (five with markers) along the river, and is about 6 feet tall and 115 feet in diameter. Highway construction in 1956 cut through the mound and exposed three stages of mound construction. The mound is about 75% intact today. Pottery pieces exposed by plowing near the mound date to about AD 1000 (Coles Creek/Plaquemine periods). Some of those artifacts were at a depth of 3 feet, leading archaeologists to believe there is a buried living surface near the mound. A small historic cemetery is on the west side of the site. □

PECK MOUNDS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.825272 Longitude: -91.651125

Driving Directions:

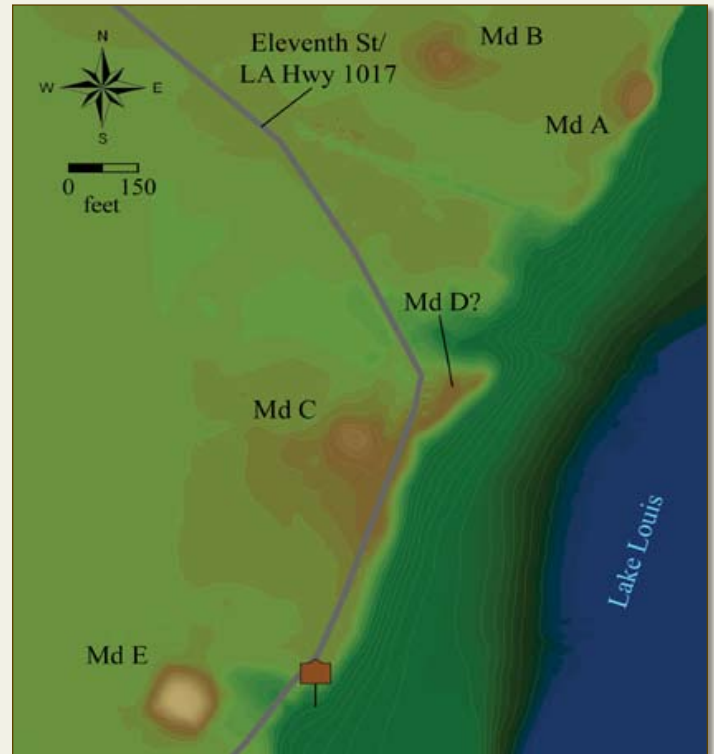
- From US 425/La 15 in Sicily Island, head west on La 8. Go 0.4 mile to La 1017/Eleventh Street; turn left. Go 1.6 miles to markers on left.
- From La 913, head east on La 8. Go 3.4 miles to La 1017; turn right. Go 1.6 miles to markers on left.

Number of Mounds: 4

Number of Visible Mounds: 4

Summer Viewing: Good

Winter Viewing: Excellent



Peck Mounds was a five-mound complex on the edge of Maçon Ridge overlooking Lake Louis, in the Ferry Place National Register District; one mound is no longer visible. The largest mound (Md. E) is an 18-foot tall platform mound, 165 by 180 feet at the base and about 65 by 55 feet at the summit; its flank is visible south of the marker. The three other remaining mounds are dome-shaped, averaging 4 feet tall and about 100 to 130 feet in diameter. About 150 feet north of the marker, in front of the old Peck homeplace, is one of the smaller mounds (Md. C); two others (Mds. A and B) are on either side of the modern brick house north of the marker, and one of these dome-shaped mounds (Md. A) is also the family cemetery. Each of the smaller mounds was built in a single stage on top of refuse heaps. Charcoal from under Md. C dates to AD 650–860 (late Troyville/early Coles Creek periods). Nearby is the Peck Village site, where archaeologist James A. Ford conducted a landmark study in 1933. Based on prehistoric pottery from that site, he established a chronology still used today. □

HARRISONBURG MOUNDS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.768416 Longitude: -91.826

Driving Directions:

— In Harrisonburg, from the north on La 124 or east on La 8, head west on La 8/La 124/N Bushley Street. Go 0.3 mile to marker on left at Taliaferro Street.

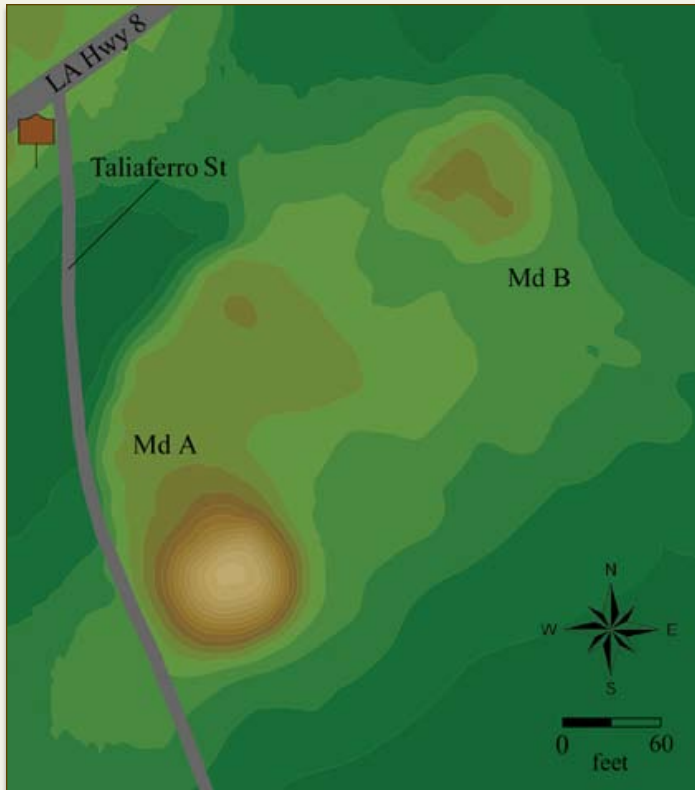
— From the south on La 124 or west on La 8, head east on La 8/La 124/N Bushley Street. Go 0.1 mile to marker on right at Taliaferro Street.

Number of Mounds: 2

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Poor

Winter Viewing: Good



Harrisonburg comprises two mounds not far from the Ouachita River, in the modern community of Harrisonburg. The larger mound (Md. A) is conical, about 10 feet tall and 115 feet at its base, with a small family cemetery atop it. Coring shows it was built in a single stage. No material adequate for radiocarbon dating was recovered, but soil weathering and the presence of a few ceramics indicate it was probably built about AD 200 (Marksville period). The second mound (Md. B) wasn't identified until the 1990s. It's about 200 feet northeast of the larger mound and measures about 3 feet tall and 115 by 100 feet at the base. Coring shows it was also built in a single stage. Soil weathering suggests that it was built earlier than the other mound, and may date to before 500 BC (Late Archaic period). □

ALEXANDER MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.823138 Longitude: -91.8155

Driving Directions:

— In Harrisonburg, from North Bushley Street, head toward the Duty/Enterprise Ferry on La 124 West. Go 3.9 miles to marker on left.

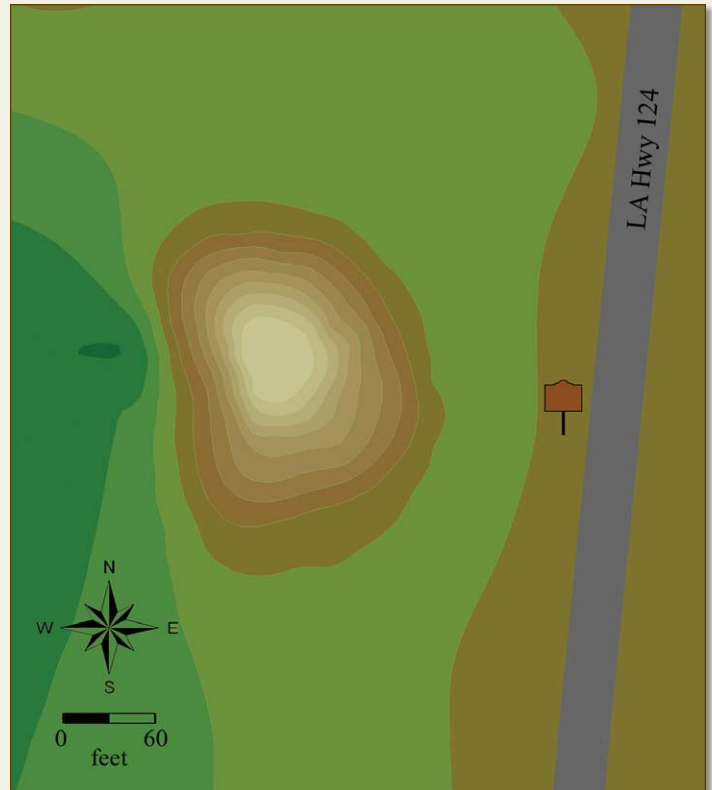
— From La 559 at the Duty/Enterprise Ferry, head south on La 124. Go 12.5 miles to marker on right.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Poor

Winter Viewing: Fair



Alexander Mound is a conical mound almost 60 feet west of La 124; it measures about 10½ feet high and 98 by 130 feet at its base. Overall, the mound is in excellent condition. Coring has shown the mound was constructed in two stages, with Stage 2 built soon after Stage 1. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal from beneath the mound suggests that mound building began between 39 BC and AD 209 (Marksville period). Artifacts found nearby are also of this age. Archaeologists believe that Alexander Mound may be a southern extension of a six-mound complex called J.W. King Place. Plowing has reduced those mounds, north of Alexander Mound, and they are hard to see. □

BOOTHE LANDING MOUND

MCGUFFEE MOUNDS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.866333 Longitude: -91.792861

Driving Directions:

- In Harrisonburg, from North Busbley Street, head toward the Duty/Enterprise Ferry on La 124 West. Go 7.5 miles to Little Boy Lane; turn right. Go 0.2 mile to marker on left.
- From La 559 at the Duty/Enterprise Ferry, head south on La 124. Go 8.9 miles to Little Boy Lane; turn left. Go 0.2 mile to marker on left.

Number of Mounds: 1

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Poor

Winter Viewing: Good

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.753027 Longitude: -91.829916

Directions:

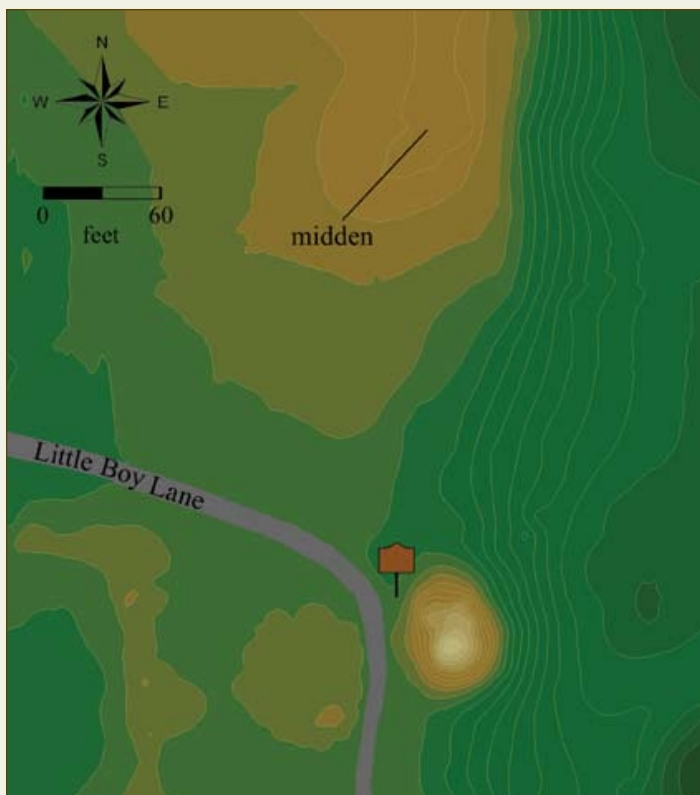
- From La 8 in Harrisonburg, head south on La 124. Go 1.0 mile to marker on left.
- From US 84 in Jonesville, head north on La 124. Go 8.7 miles to marker on right.

Number of Mounds: 7?, 1 embankment

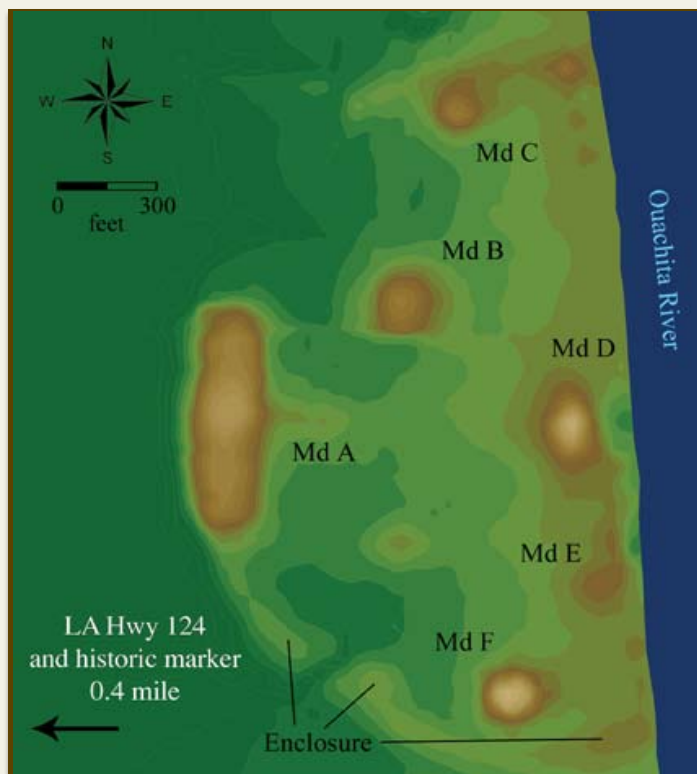
Number of Visible Mounds: 3, 1 embankment

Summer Viewing: Good, but distant

Winter Viewing: Good, but distant



Boothe Landing is thought to be the only Tchefuncte-age (500–100 BC) mound on the Trail. It is a single, well-preserved mound on the west side of the Ouachita River. Conical in form, it's 10 feet tall and about 80 by 60 feet at its base. A 1908 excavation of the mound found human remains, stone points, and other stone artifacts. A village midden, or refuse heap, is about 230 feet north of the mound, and is likely associated with it. The midden is Tchefuncte in age, based on pottery pieces found there. It also has mussel shell and stone artifacts. Archaeologists think that the mound is likely the same age as the midden, but further study may show that the mound is slightly older. □



Although it's distant from the marker, McGuffee Mounds is one of the most spectacular sites on the Mounds Trail. McGuffee has at least six, probably seven, mounds on the west bank of the Ouachita River, as well as the longest intact earthen embankment of any site on the Trail. The largest mound (Md. A), with a house and trees, is 13 feet tall and about 810 by 210 feet; until the 1950s, a smaller mound stood at its center, reminiscent of the "Great Mound" at Troyville. Two dome-shaped 13-foot-tall mounds (Md. D and Md. F) lie farther east. Confederate artillery was placed on one of them during the Civil War. Another much smaller mound (Md. E) is between them. Two other mounds (Md. B and Md. C) to the north (not visible from the marker) are about 6 feet tall, one reduced by plowing. The possible 7th mound is between Mds. A and F. An embankment runs in a northwest arc from the Ouachita River into Md. A, and then continues northeast back to the river. A causeway (not visible from the marker) extends 120 feet due east from Md. A. Charcoal dates the site from 100 BC to AD 700 (Marksville/Troyville periods). □

TEW LAKE MOUNDS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.7095 Longitude: -91.822388

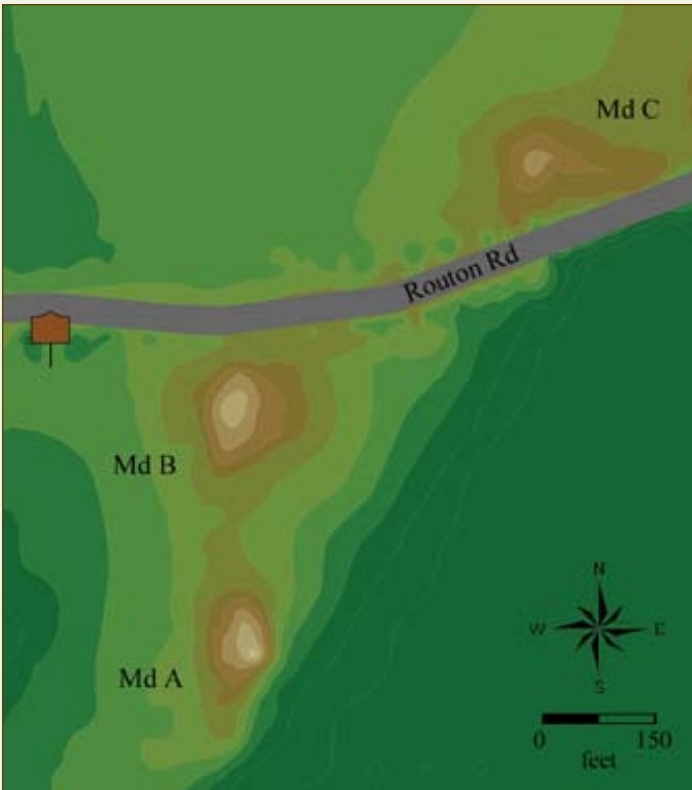
Driving Directions:

— From La 8 in Harrisonburg, head south on La 124. Go 4.0 miles to Routon Road; turn left. Go 0.3 mile to marker on right.

— From US 84 in Jonesville, head north on La 124. Go 5.7 miles to Routon Road; turn right. Go 0.3 mile to marker on right.

Number of Mounds: 3 Number of Visible Mounds: 3

Summer Viewing: Excellent Winter Viewing: Excellent



Tew Lake comprises three dome-shaped mounds on Wallace Ridge near an oxbow of the Ouachita River. The two mounds (Mds. A and B) south of the road are about 4 feet tall and 110 feet on their long axis. The third mound (Md. C), north of the road, has been reduced by plowing to about 2½ feet tall. Weathering of the soil in all three, along with an abundance of Archaic artifacts (projectile points and stone beads) and the absence of ceramics, indicate that the mounds date to about 3000 BC (Archaic period). □

ROUTON MOUNDS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.703888 Longitude: -91.805777

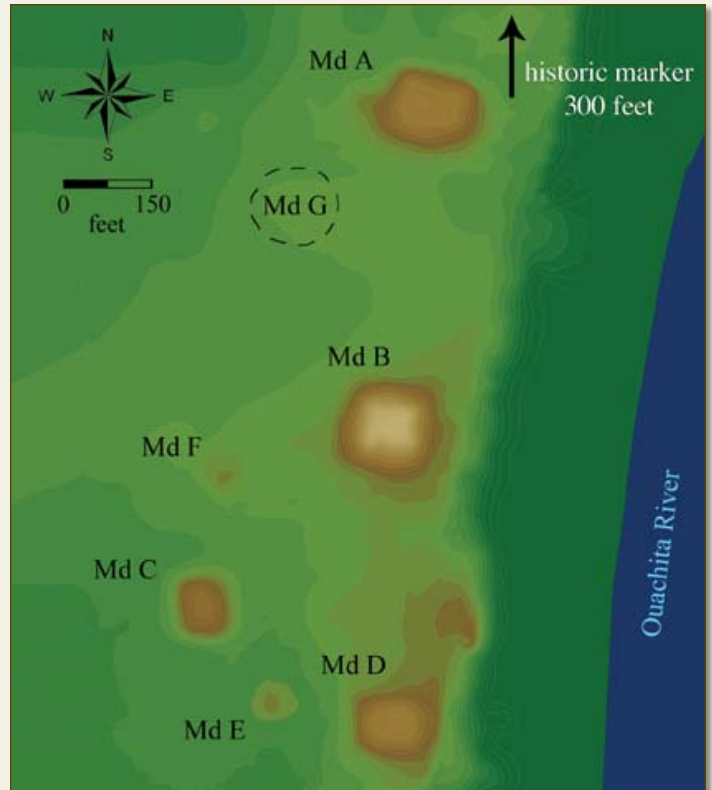
Driving Directions:

— From La 8 in Harrisonburg, head south on La 124. Go 4.0 miles to Routon Road; turn left. Go 1.4 miles to Estate Drive; turn right. Go 0.4 mile to stop sign and marker.

— From US 84 in Jonesville, head north on La 124. Go 5.7 miles to Routon Road; turn right. Go 1.4 miles to Estate Drive; turn right. Go 0.4 mile to stop sign and marker.

Number of Mounds: 7 Number of Visible Mounds: 3–4

Summer Viewing: Fair Winter Viewing: Good



Routon is the largest Coles Creek mound group on the Mounds Trail, and it is exceptionally well preserved. Although only a small portion of the site is visible, a visit in the fall/winter is rewarding. It's about 500 feet west of the Ouachita River and includes seven mounds: four rectangular platform mounds and three smaller dome-shaped ones. Coring of the platform mound closest to the marker (Md. A) found two, perhaps three, stages of construction. Looking south, over the west side of Md. A, is the largest mound (Md. B); it is 23 feet high and about 230 feet square at its base; at its summit, it's about 65 by 50 feet. Md. B and two of the platform mounds (Mds. C and D, not visible) form an equilateral triangle, with dome-shaped mounds at the midpoints of two sides of the triangle. Some of the mounds are single-stage; others are at least two-stage. Charcoal samples date the site to between AD 1050 and 1150 (Coles Creek period). □

TROYVILLE EARTHWORKS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.626694 Longitude: -91.8165

Driving Directions:

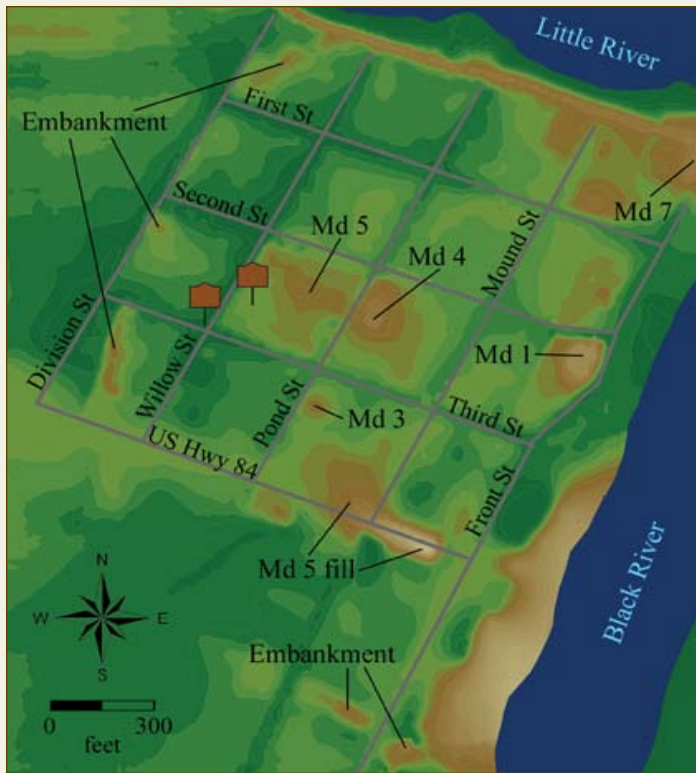
— In Jonesville, from US 84 (Fourth Street), head north on Willow Street. View one marker at corner of Willow and Third Street, on left; second marker at corner of Willow and Second Street, on right.

Number of Mounds: 5, 1 embankment

Number of Visible Mounds: 5, 1 embankment

Summer Viewing: Fair

Winter Viewing: Fair



Before it was destroyed for bridge approach fill in 1931, Troyville was one of the most impressive mound groups in North America. The site is at the confluence of the Ouachita, Tensas, and Little Rivers; it contained nine mounds and a perimeter embankment. William Dunbar (of the Hunter-Dunbar expedition sent out by Thomas Jefferson) described the site in its pristine state in 1804. A “Great Mound” (Md. 5), at 82 feet high, was the tallest mound in Louisiana and one of the largest in North America. Eight smaller platform mounds were about 12 feet tall and 150 by 60 feet at the base. The embankment was 10 feet high and 100 feet across. The Great Mound had been reduced to a height of 50 feet by Civil War times, and Smithsonian archaeologist Winslow Walker excavated it in 1931 and 1932. He uncovered woven cane matting, palmetto fronds, and wooden planks within the mound: evidence of the complex engineering used to build this AD 700 mound. Its modest remains are on Willow Street and Second Street. Another mound is visible near Front Street and Second Street, while the embankment can be seen at Willard Street and Front Street. Troyville is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. □

CROOKS MOUND

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.526722 Longitude: -92.017083

Driving Directions:

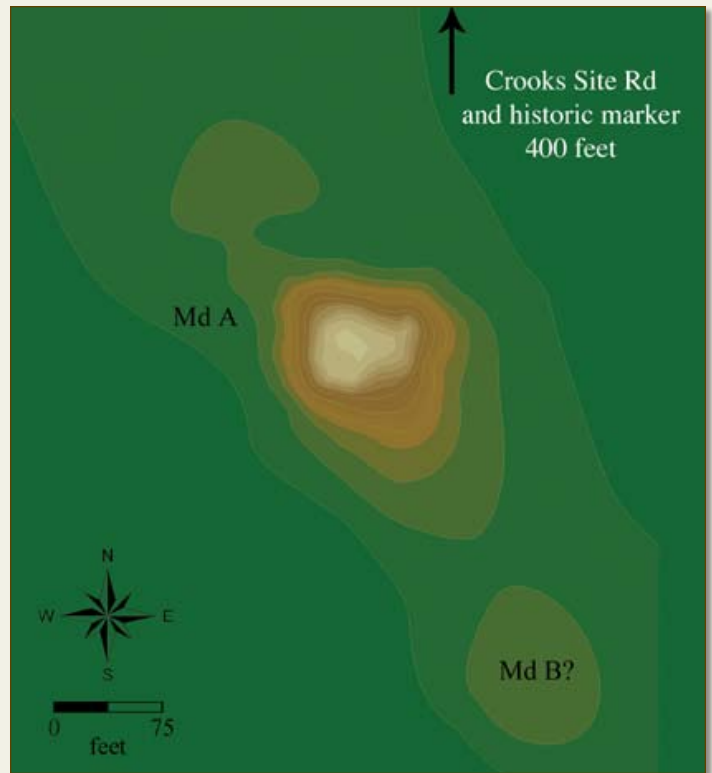
— From US 84 near Archie, head southwest on La 28. Go 4.2 miles to Crooks Site Road; turn left. Go 0.2 mile to marker on right.
— From La 115, head northeast on La 28. Go 10.9 miles to Crooks Site Road; turn right. Go 0.2 mile to marker on right.

Number of Mounds: 2

Number of Visible Mounds: 1

Summer Viewing: Fair

Winter Viewing: Fair



The two mounds at the Crooks Site no longer exist. The mound to the right of the marker is a reconstruction of the larger mound, Mound A. The site was completely excavated in 1938–1939 under the direction of James A. Ford. The mounds were 1200 feet southeast of French Fork Bayou and 450 feet southwest of Cypress Bayou. Mound A was a conical mound that stood 21 feet high and 84 feet in diameter. Mound B, 2 feet high and 50 feet in diameter, was 110 feet southwest of Mound A. Excavations revealed that Mound A had been built in three stages; Mound B was a single-stage structure. The mounds held 1,175 burials: 1,159 from Mound A, and 13 from Mound B (3 unknown). Pottery accompanied some burials; the weight of mound fill apparently crushed the vessels. The mounds were used for burials around 100 BC to AD 400 (Marksville period). No evidence for domestic structures exists on or near the mounds; apparently they were strictly for mortuary purposes. □

MARKSVILLE MOUNDS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.1251417 Longitude: -92.0500333

Driving Directions:

— From La 1 in Marksville, head north on La 452 (Preston Street). Go 0.7 mile to Martin Luther King Drive; turn right. Go 0.8 mile to Marksville State Historic Site entrance. Marker is on left.

Number of Mounds: 7, 2 embankments

Number of Visible Mounds: 6, 1 embankment

Summer Viewing: Excellent

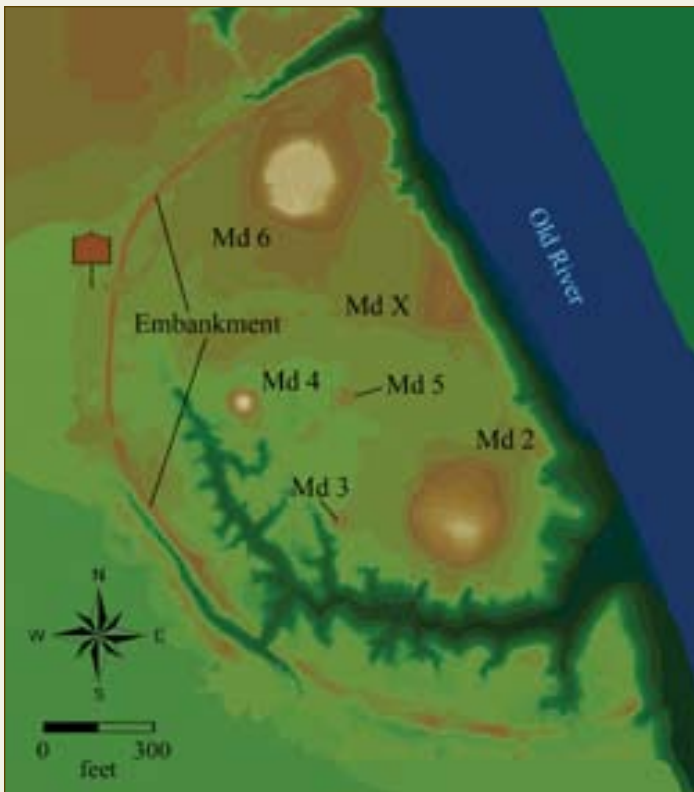
Winter Viewing: Excellent



36 men, women, and children were buried. These individuals may represent the families or clans who designed the site and conducted the ceremonies here. The three small mounds, 3, 5, and X, have an unknown purpose. Mounds 3 and 5 are 50 feet in diameter and 3 feet high; each was built of white earth that probably had a symbolic significance to the builders. Mound X has been severely altered by modern activities, and its original shape and size are unknown.

The Marksville site is an example of the Hopewell culture that arose in the Midwestern U.S. beginning about 50 BC. Although the site was built and used by people whose ancestors had lived in Louisiana for thousands of years, they chose to participate in this new culture, along with communities from Florida to Wisconsin, New York to Kansas. The Hopewell culture can be identified from the types of earthworks built, decorations on pottery vessels, and way of burying the dead.

Marksville was a ceremonial center where people from nearby villages gathered for important social and religious events. The movements of the sun, moon, and stars determined the timing of these ceremonies. From Mound 5, lines of sight to other mounds marked the rise and set on the horizon of the sun, moon, and important stars in the Milky Way. One important ceremony was the burial of honored members of the community. The painting above by Martin Pate illustrates a burial ceremony at Mound 4. □



The Marksville site originally consisted of at least two earthen embankments enclosing seven earthen mounds. Much of the site has been obscured by agriculture and the development of the town of Marksville, but the Marksville State Historic Site includes the largest embankment and six mounds. The park is open year-round with a museum and walking trail.

Construction of these earthworks began around the year 0 AD and the site was used for nearly 400 years. At the park, the C-shaped embankment is 3,300 feet long, up to 10 feet high, and encloses 40 acres. Mound 6 at the north end of the plaza is 300 feet in diameter and 12 feet high. Built in a single act of construction, it may have served as a stage for events that everyone in the plaza could watch. Mound 2 at the southern end of the plaza is 310 by 280 feet in size and 12 feet high; its function is unknown. Mound 4 was a cemetery 100 feet in diameter and 30 feet high, where at least



Suggested Readings on Indian Mounds and Louisiana Indians

Gibson, Jon L.
1996 *Ancient Earthworks of the Ouachita Valley in Louisiana*. Southeast Archeological Center. Technical Reports, No. 5, Tallahassee, Florida.

Gibson, Jon L.
2000 *The Ancient Mounds of Poverty Point: Place of Rings*. University Press of Florida.

Kniffen, Fred B., Hiram F. Gregory, and George A. Stokes
1987 *The Historic Indian Tribes of Louisiana From 1542 to the Present*. Louisiana State University Press.

Milner, George R.
2005 *The Moundbuilders: Ancient Peoples of Eastern North America*. Thames and Hudson.

Moore, Clarence
2004 *The Louisiana and Arkansas Expeditions of Clarence Bloomfield Moore (Classics in Southeastern Archaeology)*. University of Alabama Press (originally published in 1913 by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia).

Morgan, William N.
1999 *Precolumbian Architecture in Eastern North America*. University Press of Florida.

Neuman, Robert W.
1984 *An Introduction to Louisiana Archaeology*. Louisiana State University Press.

Squier, E.G. and E.H. Davis
1848 *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley*. Smithsonian Institution. (Reprint editions available).

Swanton, John R.
1911 *Indian Tribes of the Lower Mississippi Valley and Adjacent Coast of the Gulf of Mexico*. Dover Publications, Inc.

Walker, Winslow M.
1936 *The Troyville Mounds, Catahoula Parish, Louisiana*. Smithsonian Institution. Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin, 113.

Webb, Clarence H.
1982 *The Poverty Point Culture*. Second Edition, Revised ed. *Geoscience and Man* 17. School of Geoscience, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

Thomas Hales Eubanks was state archaeologist, director of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, and chair of the Ancient Mounds Advisory Commission. From the mid-1990s until his death in 2006, Dr. Eubanks led the state's efforts to form a public/private partnership to identify, map, study, interpret, and preserve ancient Indian mound and earthwork sites in northeast and central Louisiana. This guide is dedicated to his memory.

The Ancient Mounds Heritage Area and Trails Initiative was the inspiration of Louisiana Senator Francis Thompson, from Delhi, who wanted the world to know that our state has ancient monuments as wondrous and remarkable as Stonehenge. In 1997, HCR 147 established the Ancient Mounds Heritage Area and Trails Advisory Commission to develop the ancient mounds heritage area and trail as a cultural, recreational, and educational attraction to enhance the development of tourism in the state. Through Sen. Thompson's vision, the Ancient Mounds Trail was initiated.

Establishing the Mounds Trail required years of archaeological fieldwork. Northeast Regional Archaeologist Joe Saunders, based at the University of Louisiana—Monroe, led this effort. With the assistance of Reca Jones, Thurman Allen, John Norris, M.D., Susan Hollis, John Hogg, Norm Davis, and others, Dr. Saunders recorded, cored, dated, mapped, and described the sites now on the Mounds Trail. His research provided content for the markers, and he wrote the text for the trail guide. Reca Bamburg Jones, Regional Archaeology Program assistant and Mounds Trail liaison, worked tirelessly to contact landowners whose sites might be eligible for inclusion on the trail.

The trail is possible only because of all of the landowners and land managers who have protected the mound sites described in this guide, and who now are sharing them with the public by allowing them to be included in this trail. Thank you.

Many other individuals worked to make this project a reality. Josetta LeBoeuf was responsible for the historic markers, for initiating the trail guide, and for finalizing the site maps in the guide. Nancy Hawkins oversaw the trail project and production of the trail guide. Robert Collins, Chip McGimsey, Diana Greenlee, Dennis Jones, T.R. Kidder, Shirley Lang, Meta Pike, Philip Rivet, and Rachel Watson provided invaluable expertise. Carlos Perez and GEC, Inc., contributed location checks and the interim trail map that led travelers to the markers until the trail guide was completed.

Sunny Meriwether edited the text of the trail guide, and Carl Accardo designed the guide.

Artist Martin Pate [www.pateart.com] painted the image on the cover, the view of Poverty Point on page 5, and the Marksville scene on page 47. The cover artwork is used with permission of the Southeast Archeological Center, National Park Service, and the Poverty Point image is courtesy of the Louisiana Office of State Parks. The watermark drawing of Poverty Point is by Jon L. Gibson.

Partners with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, Office of Cultural Development, are the Office of State Parks, which has supported the project from its inception, the Office of Tourism, and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, which funded the markers and trail guide as a FHWA Transportation Enhancement Project. □



INDIAN MOUNDS OF NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

A Driving Trail Guide

Mound Guide Legend

- Ancient Mounds Markers
- Lakes / Rivers
- Page Number of Public Sites
- Page Number of Private Sites
- Trail Route
- Connecting Route



Mound	Page	Mound	Page	Mound	Page
Poverty Point Earthworks	4	Filhiol Mound	19	Churupa Plantation Mound	34
Lower Jackson Mound	6	Landerneau Mounds	20	Cypress Grove Mound	35
Marsden Mounds	7	Wade Landing Mound	21	Lamarque Landing Mound	36
Inslay Mounds	8	Ghost Site Mounds	23	Peck Mounds	37
Tendal Mound	9	Shackleford Church Mounds	24	Harrisonburg Mounds	38
Schicker Mound	10	Balmoral Mounds	25	Alexander Mound	39
Fitzhugh Mounds	11	Flowers Mound	26	Boothe Landing Mound	40
Transylvania Mounds	12	Mayflower Mound	27	McGuffee Mounds	41
Julice Mound	13	Sundown Mounds	28	Tew Lake Mounds	42
Galloway Place Mound	14	Mound Plantation	29	Routon Mounds	43
Venable Mound	16	DePrato Mounds	31	Troyville Earthworks	44
Caney Bayou Mound	17	Frogmore Mound	32	Crooks Mound	45
Scott Place Mounds	18	Elkhorn Plantation Mound	33	Marksville Mounds	46