

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. 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. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Owl's Bend siteother names/site number 23SH10

2. Location

street & number

☒ not for publicationcity, town Eminence☒ vicinitystate Missouri code MOcounty Shannon code 203zip code 65066

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

10

Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

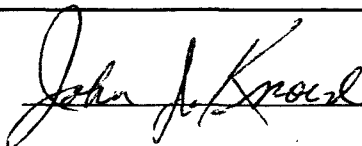
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:) _____5/12/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC--village site (midden)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION--National Park

AGRICULTURE--agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

The Owl's Bend Site. 23SH10.

Shannon County, Missouri. The site represents a single component Emergent Mississippian midden area which has radiocarbon dates ranging from approximately A.D. 500 to A.D. 1050 (Lynott, et al., 1984).

Resource Count

Contributing Resources: There is one contributing resource which is a prehistoric archeological site consisting of an Emergent Mississippian midden.

Noncontributing Resources: There are no noncontributing resources associated with this site.

Environmental Description

The Ozark region is characterized by karst topography, with large dolomite formations, springs, caves, and sink holes. Most of the exposed bedrock is made up of chert, dolomite, and sandstone outcrops providing an abundance of material for stone tool manufacture. The region is dominated by steeply dissected hills and ravines.

(Lynott, et al., 1984).

The vegetation of the area consists mainly of oak-hickory forest with some mixed deciduous-coniferous and pure coniferous forest also present.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☒ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHEOLOGY--PREHISTORIC

Period of Significance

Mississippian (Emergent)

Significant Dates

A.D. 500- A.D. 1050

Cultural Affiliation

Mississippian (Emergent)

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

The Owl's Bend Site, 23SH10, is a significant single component Early (Emergent) Mississippian midden area. Cultural resources at the site can be evaluated for scientific significance under Criterion D of the National Register's Criteria for Evaluation. Radiocarbon dates, and cultural materials from the midden and sub-plowzone features (shell tempered pottery and small stemmed arrow points) indicate an Early Mississippian occupation in the eastern Ozarks by at least A.D. 700. The absence of maize at the site is important to understanding Early Mississippian site subsistence in comparison to others in the Mississippi River Valley where intensive maize cultivation was being practiced by A.D. 1000. Investigation of a single component Emergent Mississippian site such as Owl's Bend can provide the data base for understanding the development and possible spread of the Mississippian cultural manifestation throughout the region. The presence of one burial with the possibility of others can be a potential resource for scientific research on subsistence and socio-economic topics. The available dates, site integrity, quality of the data, and extensive archeological remains from 23SH10 can provide needed information about the little understood Emergent Mississippian period.

Specific Dates

Five radiocarbon dates indicate a time span from 930+/-60 B.P. (Beta-7507) to 1370+/-90 B.P. (Beta-7503) for the site (Lynott, et al., 1984). This places the Owl's Bend occupation during the Early Mississippian period apparently before the development of intensive agriculture in this region.

☒ See continuation sheet

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.3

UTM REFERENCES

A [REDACTED]

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [REDACTED]

B [REDACTED]

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D [REDACTED]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

[REDACTED]

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cathie Masters

ORGANIZATION

Midwest Archeological Center/National Park Service

DATE

8/9/85

STREET & NUMBER

100 Centennial Mall North

TELEPHONE

(402) 471-5392

CITY OR TOWN

Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873

STATE

Nebraska

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES X

NO

NONE

Wayne E. Cross
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National ✓ State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Edmund O'Brien

TITLE

Chief Historian

DATE

Sept. 15, 1987

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

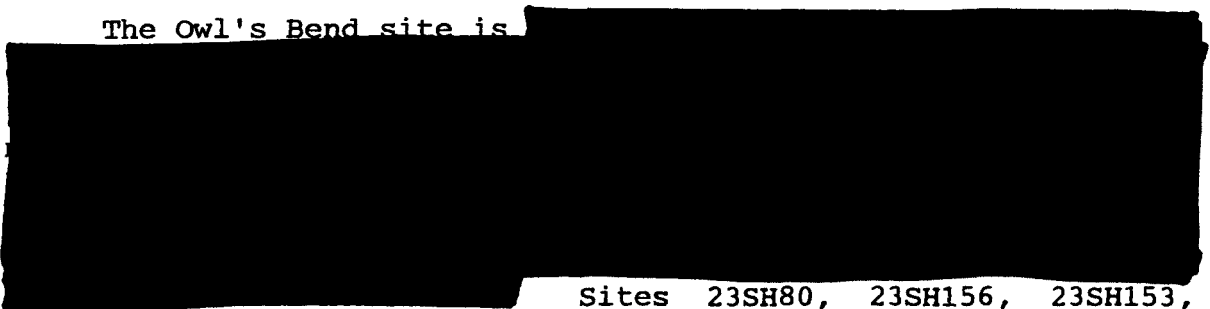
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The climate of the eastern Ozarks is continental with hot summers and mild winters. Average daily high temperatures are about 85 degrees in the summer and 40 degrees in the winter (Sauer 1920). Most storms come from the northwest, particularly in winter. The Ozarks area is frequently subject to cyclones and anticyclones moving southeast across the Central Plains from the Rocky Mountains (Sauer 1920). Annual precipitation is about 43-44 inches (NPS n.d.) and falls mainly as rain in spring and early summer. Fall is usually dry, with sleet being common during the winter months. The area enjoys 190-200 frost free days in an average year.

Physical Description

The Owl's Bend site is



Sites 23SH80, 23SH156, 23SH153, 23SH154, 23SH155, 23SH152, and 23SH105/76 have not been evaluated.

Recordation

The site was surveyed by Ray Williams for the National Park Service in 1967. A collection owned by Mr. Wilbur McAfee and obtained from this site was located and studied at this time. Mr. Russel Lesh was the owner of the land where 23SH10 is located. Recommendations were made as a result of this survey that the site be tested. More archeological survey work and test excavations were carried out at Owl's Bend from May to July of 1972 by the University of Missouri-Columbia. Four excavation units were tested and extensive surface collections were made during this time. A large amount of lithic material was obtained and it was recommended that no development be done in the area without extensive testing.

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In 1983, further excavations were done in cooperation with a contract awarded to Southwest Missouri State University by the National Park Service to investigate research questions in the park. The site was selected for testing because the preliminary survey (Price, et al., 1983) indicated it contained materials that spanned the Woodland and Mississippian periods. The preliminary survey of the area recovered shell-tempered ceramics and small, stemmed arrowpoints in association with the midden deposit. These artifacts were characteristic of Mississippian culture. A testing strategy was developed to investigate this potentially important midden portion of the terrace (Figure 1). Testing consisted of removing the plow zone and exposing the undisturbed midden horizon. The midden was then excavated in arbitrary 10-cm levels. The exceptionally dark color of the midden stratum inhibited recognition of features, but the contrast between the midden and the underlying subsoil facilitated feature recognition once the midden stratum was removed.

Additional testing to expose more features was undertaken. A north-south test trench was excavated across the midden by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Field School exposing nine features under the midden layer. These features all yielded rich cultural materials including one burial. The test trench measured approximately one meter by 28 meters and consisted of 23.75 one meter test units (Figure 2).

The nine features exposed in the 1983 excavations all contained quantities of animal bone, macrobotanical remains, ceramics, and chipped stone artifacts. Three contained large amounts of fire cracked rock. Because of the orientation of the trench, only Feature 1 was completely excavated.

The most common artifactual material at the site was fire cracked rock (mostly rhyolite). It occurs in abundance in the area where the midden stain can be detected, in the plow zone, the midden stratum, and the pits. Densities are much lower below the midden substratum.

Ceramics recovered from 23SH10 are mainly shell tempered, but some limestone and grit tempered fragments do occur. Rim profiles are generally vertical, varying from slightly inverted to slightly everted. Vessels (including bowls and jars) are flat bottomed and small to medium in size. Handles and other appendages are absent. Most shell tempered sherds are plain, but some have tool impressions. Simple stamp designs vary from fine

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uniform ridges and lines to coarse irregular impressions (Lynott, et al., 1984). The cord marked fragments appear to be grit or limestone tempered and may be related to the Maramec Springs complex of the Ozark Highland. A few painted or slipped sherds are also present.

Projectile points are small and often retouched on only one face. They are plano convex in cross section. All specimens are stemmed. Many are crudely made with little variation. Preforms, perforators, bifaces, and retouched pieces are common. Small oval or leaf shaped bifaces also occur frequently. Large cores and bifaces are rare. Lithic analysis indicates that the Owl's Bend Site (23SH10) was not for preliminary tool manufacture, but was the location of the final stages of tool shaping and maintenance.

Groundstone artifacts include hammerstones, axes, and celts. Axes and celts are made from a non-native green granite while river cobbles were used as hammerstones. One slab of mortar was found on the surface and it is unclear if it is in association with the midden.

Large samples of faunal and macrobotanical remains were collected. The most prevalent species among the faunal remains is white tailed deer with some bird, reptile, and amphibian specimens. Paleoethnobotanical analysis of floral remains indicates the presence of wild taxa and some cultigens. Cultigens present in large enough quantities to suggest cultivation were: little barley, goosefoot, sumpweed, and maygrass. Maize could not be positively identified, although two kernels may be represented. Charred hickory, hazelnut, black walnut, and acorn remains are also present (Voight 1985).

Although a few human bone fragments were recovered from the excavated pits, only one intact human burial was excavated. The burial was in the northern part of the trench. The individual was in a loosely flexed position with the head pointing toward the northwest. A possible mortuary offering was a tortoise shell found near the individual's shoulder. Fill in the burial pit included fire cracked rock, ceramics, animal bone, and lithic debris. The individual is believed to be female.

Area Excavated

The area of 23SH10 is 10,800 square meters. A total of 32

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1 x 1 meter test units were excavated, amounting to less than one percent of the site area.

Disturbances

The site was cultivated for more than 70 years when the land was privately owned. For the last few years the site was publicly owned and was annually cultivated as part of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways program of open field management. It has now been removed from cultivation to protect it from cultivation and unauthorized artifact collecting. The site is now in grass and natural vegetation. Although the site has been disturbed by cultivation, the midden and various features are undisturbed beneath the plow zone.

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Research Topics and Related Data Categories

1. Subsistence. Stable carbon isotope analyses of bone collagen on human skeletal remains from this area indicate maize agriculture did not fully develop until 1000 A.D. When it did fully develop, the assimilation of maize into the diet was rapid accounting for 35% to 72% of the diet between 1000 and 1600 A.D. (Boutton, et al., 1984). The Owl's Bend site is significant in that it adds to the documentation of the existence of Early Mississippian culture. Little is known about Emergent Mississippian groups who were present in small villages in southeast Missouri before intensive maize agriculture developed. Sites like 23SH10 can help to expand the knowledge and understanding of the transition made by Mississippian groups to different subsistence strategies which eventually led to intensive maize cultivation.

Paleoethnobotanical analysis suggests a year round use of the site. This is indicated by the presence and recovery of taxa whose seeds and fruit mature at different times of the year (Voight 1985). It is therefore assumed that 23SH10 was probably a village rather than a temporary settlement; and it is probable that dwellings may be present at the site. The site is notably significant in its relative lack of maize among the identified plant materials collected. Other Early Mississippian sites in Missouri which date to this period show the increasing importance of maize cultivation. Ethnobotanical studies can provide important information about diet, local vegetation, and climate for this period of prehistory.

2. Settlement Patterns and intersite relationships. The Owl's Bend site can also aid in the interpretation of the development of the Mississippian culture within the Ozarks region and the relationship of these groups to those in the Mississippi River Valley. Comparison of this site with others in the region dating to the same time period has generated some interesting questions. When compared with Naylor and Hayti phase sites in southeast Missouri and Big Lake Phase sites in northeast Arkansas, there are some ceramic differences. These sites are characterized by shell tempered, oxidized or red filmed vessels with recurved rims. The Owl's Bend ceramics represent vessels with flat bottoms and mostly vertical rims (Lynott, et al., 1984). This appears to indicate two different shell tempered ceramic industries in the region. Further study of these Emergent Mississippian sites may clarify this development.

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3. Site integrity. The Owl's Bend midden represents an intact, discrete occupation by Emergent Mississippian peoples. The single component nature of the site makes it extremely valuable for the analysis and subsequent interpretation of the Emergent Mississippian subsistence and settlement patterning. This is especially true because sites of this type are rare in the region.

4. Paleopathological analysis. Paleopathological examination and analysis of the skeletal remains from the burial could give insights about health, longevity, burial practices, subsistence activities, environmental stress, and malnutrition. Strontium tests and stable carbon isotope studies on human bone give percentages of meat and vegetable components in the diet and the type of vegetable food staple consumed. Examination of Harris Lines in the long bones, dental hypoplasia, caries, and various disease conditions can be important in determining stresses placed on the human body by the environment and provide information on how successfully adapted the individual was to a particular area.