

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia <i>USE TO COPY</i>	
COUNTY: Kanawha	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
South Charleston Mound

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Criel or Creel Mound

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
U. S. Route 60, in triangle formed by Oakes, MacCorkle, and 7th Ave.

CITY OR TOWN:
South Charleston

STATE: West Virginia CODE: 47 COUNTY: Kanawha CODE: 039

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of South Charleston

STREET AND NUMBER:
319 Fourth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
South Charleston

STATE:
West Virginia

CODE:
47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Kanawha County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
400 Quarrier Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE:
West Virginia

CODE:
47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Mound Explorations of the Bureau of Ethnology

DATE OF SURVEY: 1883-1885 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Smithsonian Institution

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Criel Mound, located in a municipal park in downtown South Charleston, was 40 feet high and 525 feet in circumference, the base being almost a perfect circle.

Some time prior to 1883, when The Smithsonian Institution began excavation, the top of the mound was leveled to accommodate a small bandstand on a 40-foot diameter flat top. At the time Colonel Morris began excavations, the mound had thus been reduced to 33 feet in height. A. R. Sines, one of the excavators, in 1961 recalled that the mound was probably eight to ten feet higher than the present approximately 25 feet. He said that the original shape of the mound is thought to have been conical, while the present mound retains the flattening created by the original band stand, no longer extant. Another band stand lined with stone, accompanied by a small basketball court outside the circumference of the mound, was cut into the west side of the mound, as indicated in Figure 3, but without doing any known damage to the mound's contents.

The environment of the mound is suitable -- a well-kept triangular park of about two acres immediately south of U. S. Route 60 in the downtown business section of South Charleston.

The mound many years ago was covered with trees, which were denuded by a tremendous explosion at a nearby chemical plant. At one time a ditch was dug across a small portion of the mound's base to accommodate a utility, at which time some sherds of limestone-tempered pottery were found. Archeologists believe that the mound may eventually yield more treasures of a past civilization.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The South Charleston Mound, originally known as the Criel Mound, is the second largest in the State.

Most modern archeologists who have studied the material taken from this mound believe it represents some mingling of Adena and Hopewell traits and therefore stands as a monument to both of these cultures so important in the Ohio River drainage.

The mound was the tallest in an elaborate system of earthworks originally occupying a large portion of the bottom lands on both sides of the Kanawha River in what is now the area of Charleston and South Charleston. The Smithsonian Institution thought the complex important enough to justify investigations extending over the period of 1883 to 1885, with special attention to the Criel Mound, into which a large central shaft was opened clear to the bottom of the mound under the supervision of P. W. Morris of the Smithsonian Institution, and former superintendent of Yellowstone National Park.

The findings were described by Cyrus Thomas in the 5th and 12th annual reports of the Bureau of American Ethnology, published in 1887 and 1894. The results of the excavation are thus summarized by McMichaels and Mairs in their 1969 publication on Kanawha River Archeology:

"... Norris (Morris) sunk a shaft into this mound and found, at 3 feet down, the remains of a skeleton. At 4 feet, two skeletons were encountered, with 2 celts, 2 stone hoes, 1 lance head, and 2 disks nearby. These are probably Late Prehistoric intrusive burials.

"Nothing more was encountered until near the base, where apparently a large log tomb was found containing 11 skeletons. One central burial was covered by bark and had some folded sheet copper near its head, 6 shell beads and 1 lance head. Ten bodies surrounded this central one. Each of the four to the east had one 'fine lancehead', while the one to the northeast had one 'fishdart, three arrowheads, and decayed mussel shells'. The 5 skeletons to the west had nothing with them. A possible clay vault was found, which Thomas compares to some in North Carolina. What sounds like a number of paired postmolds were also found.

"In the U. S. National Museum at present there are a few fragmentary skeletal remains, a folded copper object with adhering leather or cloth, one
cont'd.

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries) 8. Significance, South Charleston Mound

small copper fragment with adhering bone, 10 Olivella shell beads, and 19 heavy circular disk shell beads made from the central whorl of the conch. Also, according to the Museum catalogue a number of 'lanceheads and arrowheads' are recorded for the mound, but since these were lumped with those from many other sites and the senior author had little time to separate them, they were not checked in detail."

A. R. Sines of Charleston, who assisted in the excavations in 1961, stated that one of the skeletons measured 6'8-3/4" from head to heel, but the extreme height indicated might have been an exaggeration created by earth pressing down on the burial.

Some thirty or forty years ago, a pipeline was laid across the corner of the mound. At that time Deitz Ernst of Wheeling, an amateur archeologist, recovered a number of sherds of limestone-tempered pottery. The mound is still standing and probably contains more archeological material of value to the scientist.

The mound was for many years owned by Union Carbide Corporation, which deeded it to the City of South Charleston on condition that it be used for a park-- otherwise to revert to the corporation.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edward V. McMichael and Oscar L. Mairs, "Excavation of the Murad Mound, Kanawha County, West Virginia, and An Analysis of Kanawha Valley Mounds," Report of Archeological Investigations, No. 1, West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey, Morgantown, W. Va.
 Harry L. Flournoy, his article reprinted in Gazette-Mail State Mag. 6/18/61.
 Hale, John P. Some Local Archeology. Charleston, W. Va., 1898.
 Webb, W. S. and R. S. Baby. The Adena People No. 2. Columbus, 1957.
 Thomas, Cyrus. Report on the Mound Explorations of the Bureau of Ethnology, 12th Annual Report, Bureau of American Ethnology, pp. 35, 741. Washington, D.C., 1894.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 22 '07.78"	81 ° 41 '48.76 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.1 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Clifford M. Lewis, S.J.

ORGANIZATION: W. Va. Antiquities Commission DATE: July 9, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
39 Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.

CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown STATE: West Virginia CODE: 47

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name Clifford M. Lewis, S.J.

Title Acting for State Liaison Officer

Date July 9, 1970

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

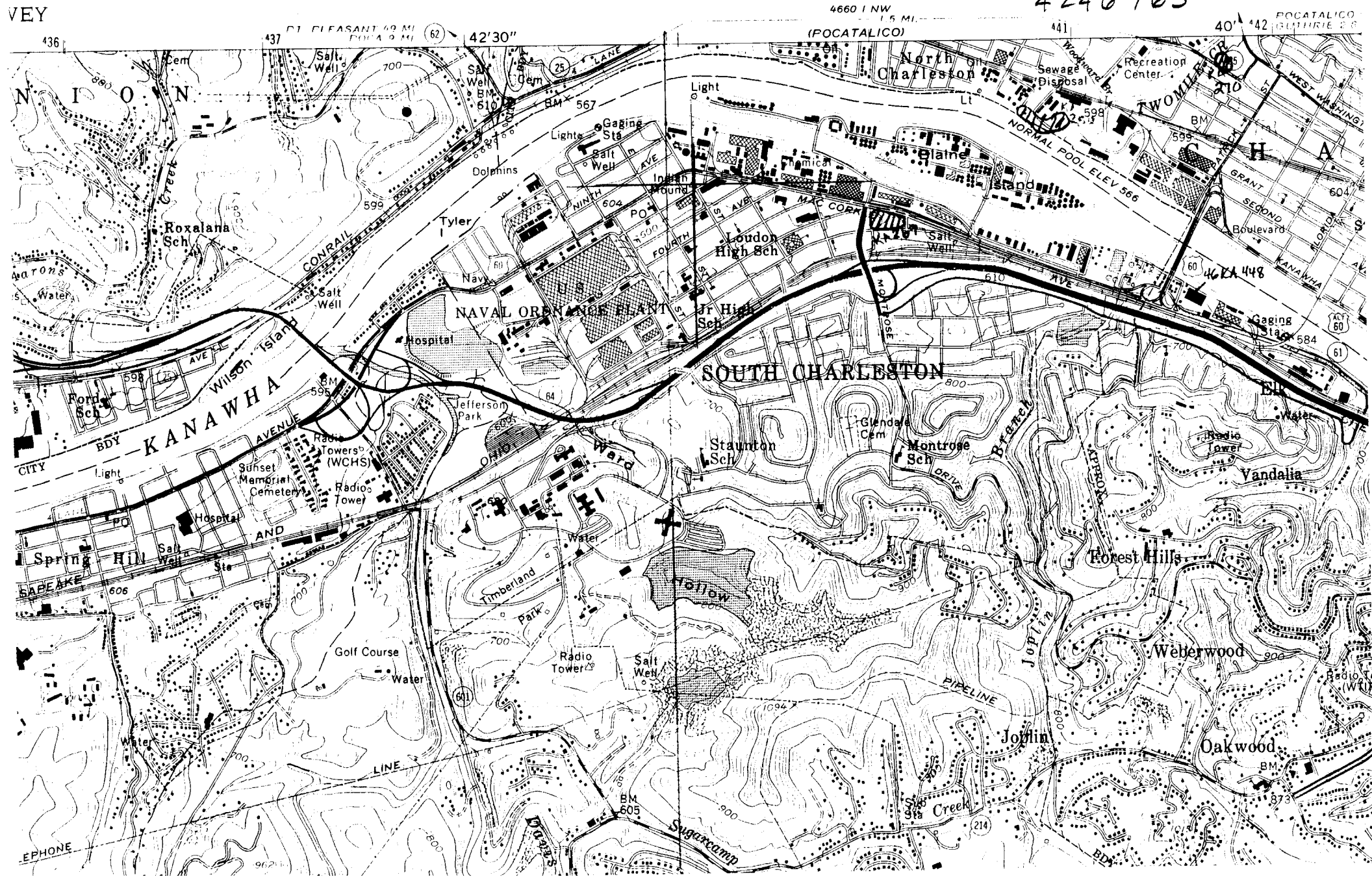
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

CHARLESTON
WEST
QUAD

SOUTH CHARLESTON
MOUND (CRIEL MD)

17 439135
4246765

S
INTERIOR
VEY





DISCO

VOGUE