

C.H. NASH MUSEUM **CHUCALISSA**

The University of Memphis



The C.H. Nash Museum is located on the grounds of the Chucalissa archaeological site that contains a prehistoric Mississippian era (A.D. 1000 – 1500) temple mound complex.

Museum Exhibits – Two exhibit halls interpret the landscape's past and present Native American and traditional cultures.

Hands-On Archaeology Lab – Visitors have the opportunity to examine prehistoric artifacts up to 10,000 years old.

Mound Complex – Features a central plaza, three earthen mounds, a replica prehistoric house, and seasonal gardens, which grow the prehistoric Three Sisters as well as traditional vegetables.

Nature Trail – Highlights of the half-mile trail include a certified arboretum, medicinal plant sanctuary, and scenic overlook.

Museum Store – Offers books, pottery, jewelry, and other handcrafted items from Native American artisans.

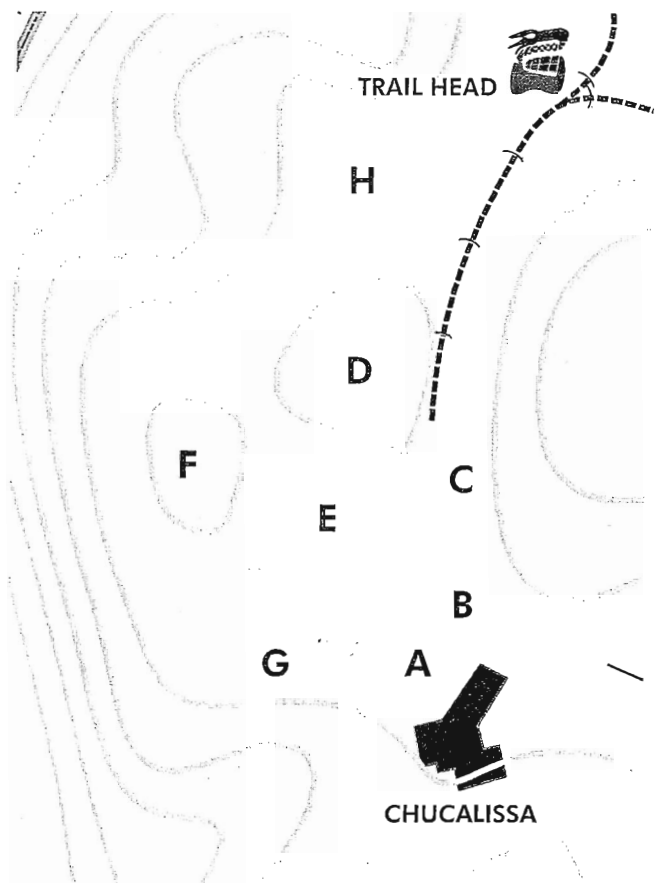
Group Programs – Contact the Museum about our Family Days and Group Educational Programs.



CHUCALISSA

1987 Indian Village Drive
Memphis TN 38109
(901) 785-3160

CHUCALISSA {CHUCK-AH-LIZZA}
is a Choctaw word for "abandoned house"



MOUND COMPLEX

- A. CANOE:** This canoe was constructed from a single cypress log using traditional methods of burning and scraping.
- B. HERB GARDEN:** The herbs in this garden represent only a small sample of the native plants used for a variety of purposes by prehistoric Chucalissa residents.
- C. COMMUNITY GARDEN:** This garden is planted, tended and harvested by members of the Westwood Community, which surrounds the Chucalissa area.
- D. PLATFORM MOUND:** Temples as well as houses for chiefs, shamans, or priests were commonplace atop flat-topped rectangular mounds.
- E. PLAZA:** This space was used for special religious, political and social events such as stickball games and celebrations.
- F. SMALL MOUND:** This mound predates the larger Platform Mound by about 100 years. Archaeologists determined that this earthwork once also served as a platform mound, but erosion has caused its current dome shape.
- G. RESIDENTIAL RIDGE:** This short, narrow ridge once contained several houses of high-ranking individuals at the Chucalissa village.
- H. RECONSTRUCTED HOUSE:** Archaeologists recorded evidence of several prehistoric houses at this location similar to the reconstructed house you see now. An extended family of 10 or 15 individuals might occupy a single house. The houses were constructed from logs, sticks, and river cane with walls plastered on both sides with mud and clay.