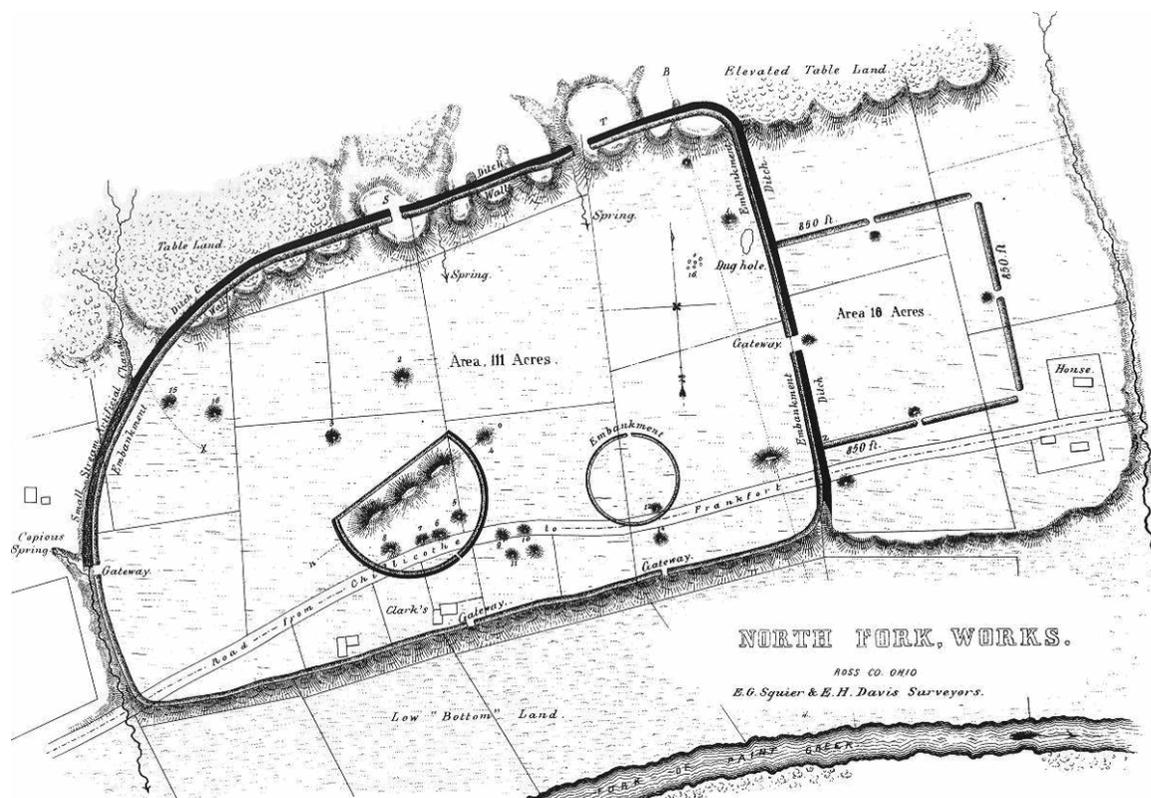


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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory



Hopewell Mound Group  
Hopewell Culture National Historical Park

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## Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

### Inventory Summary

#### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

##### CLI General Information:

##### Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

##### Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

**Inventory Unit Description:**

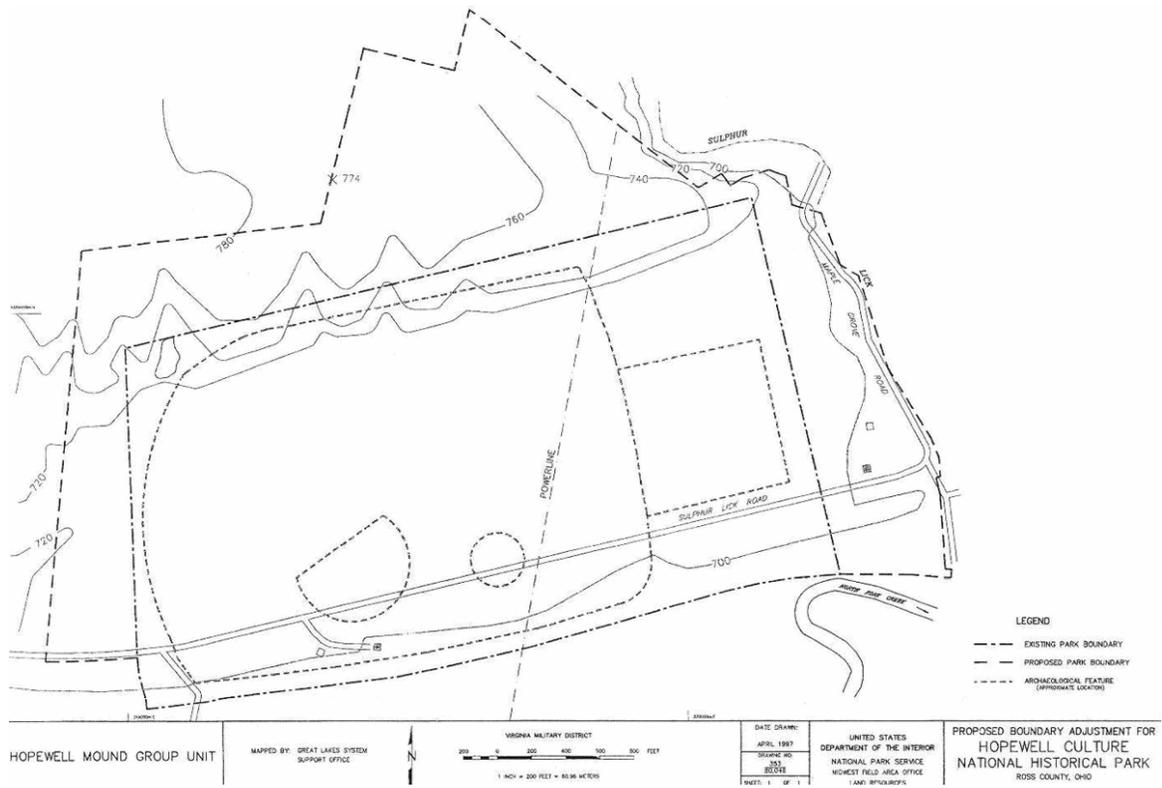
Hopewell Culture National Historical Park is located in Ross County, near the town of Chillicothe in southern Ohio. The park's five noncontiguous mound sites, which consist of 1,170 acres, lie near the Scioto River, Paint Creek, and the North Fork of Paint Creek. The landscape is described as topographically rugged and filled with heavy tree cover. Its diverse environment contains a combination of woodlands, riparian areas, prairie, fallow fields, grass, and wetlands (NPS Website).

The park's prehistoric Hopewellian mounds date back to between approximately 200 BC and 500 AD. "The term Hopewell describes a broad network of beliefs and practices among different Native American groups over a large portion of eastern North America. The culture is characterized by the construction of enclosures made of earthen walls, often built in geometric patterns, and mounds of various shapes" (MWRO Inventory Program). The Hopewell culture is also characterized by an extensive trade networks and use of waterways to import goods from as far away as the Rocky Mountains and parts of the Atlantic coast.

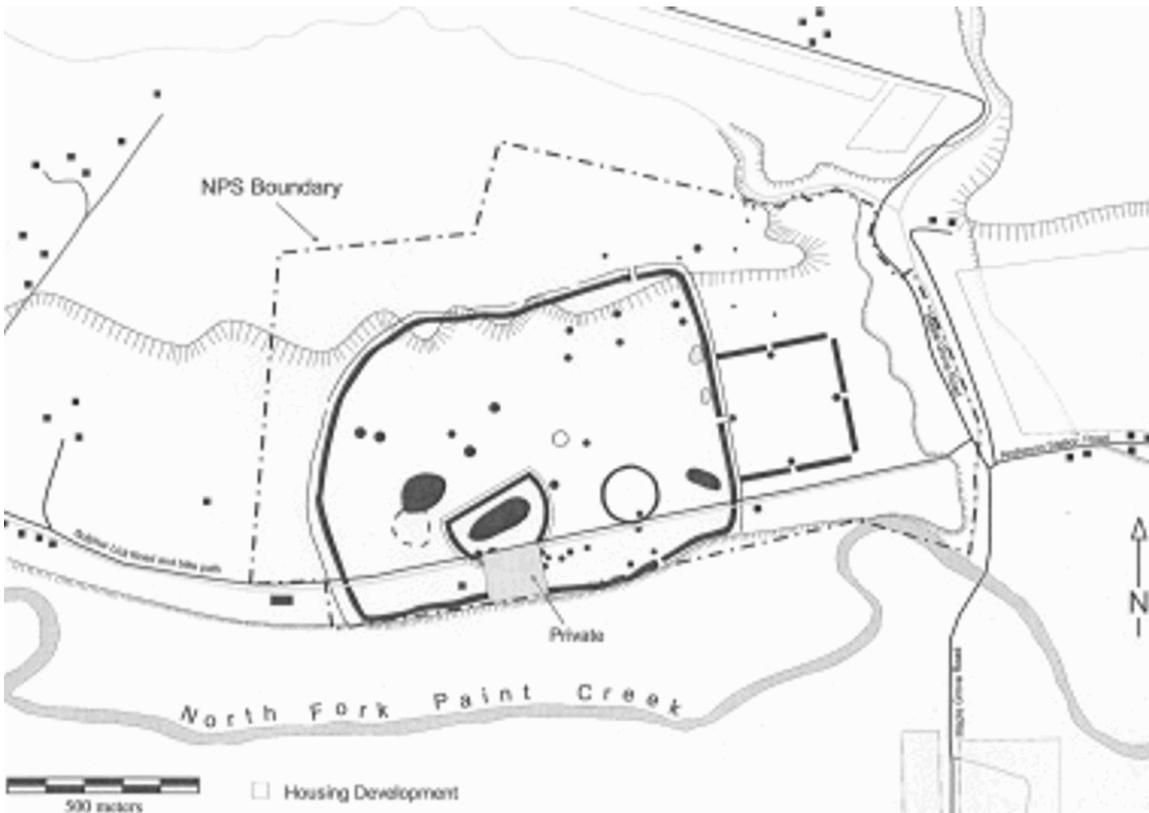
"The Hopewell Mound Group, one of the five noncontiguous sites, is singly one of the most important sites in Ohio, as well as in New World prehistory. It is located on the North Fork of Paint Creek, 5 miles southwest of Mound City Group. This earthwork is the "type-site" for the Hopewell culture since excavations that took place at this site set down the format of what is now classified as the Hopewell culture. The Hopewell Mound Group existed as a center for various ceremonial and funerary practices. This earthwork was named for Mordecai Hopewell, the landowner whose property included the Hopewell Mound Group" (MWRO Inventory Program). "The general shape of the Hopewell Mound Group is a parallelogram 1,800 feet long on the east and west sides and 2,800 feet long on the north and south. Archaeologists estimated that the walls were originally 35 feet wide at the base, and enclose an area of 111 acres. A smaller square enclosure with sides 850 feet long is connected to the east side of the parallelogram. Remnants of the east, west and north walls are visible. Two earthwork features are located within the parallelogram, one circular and one D-shaped. Three of the seven mounds in the D-shaped enclosure are joined. Their original size is estimated to be 500 feet long, 180 feet wide, and 30 feet tall. This is the largest known mound constructed by the Hopewell culture" (General Management Plan 1997).

The Hopewell Mound Group has been subjected to numerous excavations since at least 1845, and possibly as early as 1820. Negative impacts to the site include archeological excavations, pothunting, erosion, vegetation, animal infestation, agriculture, railroad construction, and modern development. Despite extensive excavations in the past, the site still offers considerable possibilities for expanding knowledge about the Hopewell culture.

Site Plan



*Hopewell Mound Group unit. Outer boundary line displays the current boundaries. Not displayed is the rail to trail bike path which runs parallel and just to the south of the road (1997).*



*Site boundaries as of 2008.*

**Property Level and CLI Numbers**

**Inventory Unit Name:** Hopewell Mound Group  
**Property Level:** Landscape  
**CLI Identification Number:** 975460

**Park Information**

**Park Name and Alpha Code:** Hopewell Culture National Historical Park -HOCU  
**Park Organization Code:** 6514  
**Park Administrative Unit:** Hopewell Culture National Historical Park

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Concurrence Status:

**Park Superintendent Concurrence:** Yes

**Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:** 09/05/2008

**National Register Concurrence:** Eligible -- Keeper

**Date of Concurrence Determination:** 02/12/1974

### Concurrence Graphic Information:



### United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Hopewell Culture National Historical Park  
16062 State Route 104  
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601-8694

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H3017  
HOCU

September 5, 2008

#### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, Midwest Region

**Through:** Chief Historic Structures and Landscapes, Midwest Region

**From:** Superintendent, Hopewell Culture

**Subject:** Cultural Landscapes Inventories for Hopewell Mound Group, Mound City Group, and Hopeton Earthworks

This memo indicates general concurrence on the Cultural Landscapes Inventories (CLI) for Hopewell Mound Group, Mound City Group, and Hopeton Earthworks for section 110 purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Park staff have reviewed the documents and minor corrections and general comments on the document have been forwarded to the CLI Inventory Coordinator. The document accurately reflects the current condition for each site as "good" and the management category of "must be preserved and maintained." I understand that the information in the database can be amended at any time by contacting the CLI coordinator.

*Park Concurrence 9/5/08*

## Geographic Information & Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Hopewell Mound Group site is a noncontiguous component of the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park. It is surrounded by privately owned properties on all sides, and includes a small square parcel of privately owned land within the earthworks on the southern boundary. The extent of the cultural landscape is defined by the park unit property boundaries. The only exception is on the eastern side of the property, which contains the visitor parking area and restroom facilities. This eastern portion is physically separated by a tree-line that extends for approximately one-third of a mile, running from north to south. All National Park Service property which is to the east of the tree-line is not considered part of the Hopewell Mound Group cultural landscape.

### State and County:

**State:** OH

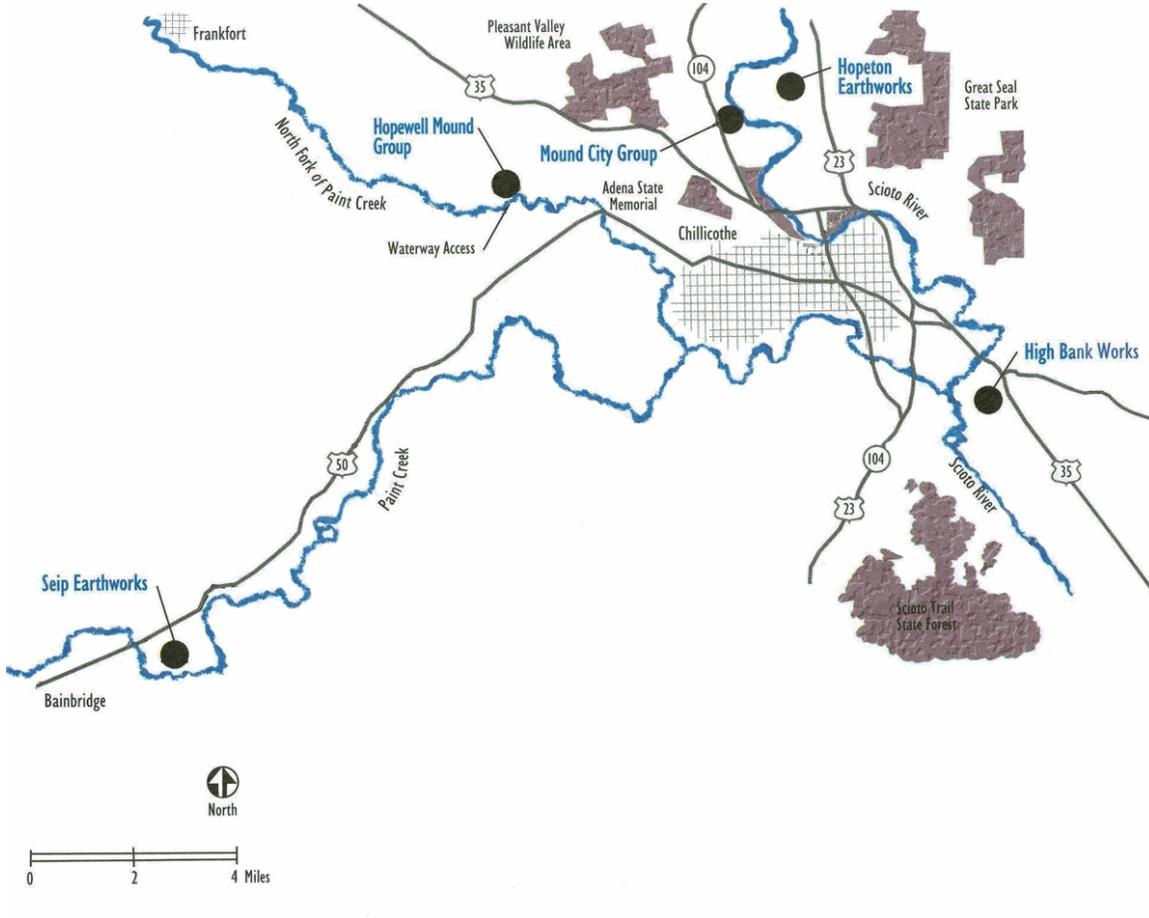
**County:** Ross County

**Size (Acres):** 270.00

**Boundary UTMS:**

<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Differentially Corrected
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	17
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	320,185
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,359,398
<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Differentially Corrected
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	17
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	320,304
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,358,751
<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Differentially Corrected
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	17
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	319,160
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,358,538
<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Differentially Corrected
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	17
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	319,146
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,359,274

**Location Map:**



*NPS map of the five noncontiguous sites at the Hopewell Culture National Historic Park (1996).*

**Management Information**

### General Management Information

**Management Category:** Must be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 05/27/1992

#### Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Hopewell Mound Group falls under Management Category A. Upon the establishment of the park in 1992, Congress specifically legislated the acquisition and preservation of the Hopewell Mound Group site. According to the General Management Plan, "Hopewell Culture National Historical Park was established to protect the prehistoric remains of a dynamic social and ceremonial phenomenon that flourished in the woodlands of eastern North America long before Europeans first landed on this continent" (General Management Plan 1997).

### Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

#### Management Agreement:

**Type of Agreement:** Memorandum Of Agreement

**Expiration Date:** 3/25/2004

#### Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

On March 25, 1999, the National Park Service entered into a five year agreement with the Ross County Park District, which involved the conversion of an abandoned railroad track into a bicycle trail. The trail, which runs through the southern portion of the Hopewell Mound Group, is part of a larger Tri-County Triangle Trail. The National Park Service specifically agreed "to share its equipment and to provide supervision for the clearing of the rail bed and corridor, and assist with minor construction and maintenance of the trail" within the boundaries of the Hopewell Mound Group property (Memorandum of Agreement 1999).

#### NPS Legal Interest:

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

#### Public Access:

**Type of Access:** Unrestricted

## National Register Information

### Existing National Register Status

#### National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Documented

#### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

“The earthen structure in Hopewell Mound Group is listed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. Earthwork HMG-E01 contributes to the site’s significance. The park contains nationally significant archeological resources including large earthwork and mound complexes that provide an insight into the social, ceremonial, political, and economic life of the Hopewell people” (MWRO Inventory Program). The Hopewell Mound Group was entered into the National Register on February 12, 1974.

#### Existing NRIS Information:

<b>Name in National Register:</b>	Hopewell Mound Group
<b>NRIS Number:</b>	74001616
<b>Primary Certification Date:</b>	02/12/1974

### National Register Eligibility

**National Register Concurrence:** Eligible -- Keeper

**Contributing/Individual:** Individual

**National Register Classification:** Site

**Significance Level:** National

**Significance Criteria:** C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

**Significance Criteria:** D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

#### Area of Significance:

**Area of Significance Category:** Archeology

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** Prehistoric

#### Statement of Significance:

## Hopewell Mound Group

### Hopewell Culture National Historical Park

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The Hopewell Mound Group is one of the most important sites that represent Hopewell culture. Coined by archeologists for the then property owner, Mordecai C. Hopewell, the name Hopewell has come to signify a diverse range of prehistoric eastern woodland Native Americans who shared a common mound-building culture. Past excavations have yielded a wealth of historic data on the Hopewell culture, and the site was entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. It is significant under Criterion C, as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction. It is also significant under Criterion D, as it has yielded a great deal of prehistoric information. The period of significance is considered to span from 300 BC to 500 AD, when Native Americans of the Hopewell culture occupied the Ohio Valley.

It is thought that the Hopewellian people settled into semi-permanent communities that centered on hunting, gathering, and gardening. The Hopewell developed complex social, political, and religious systems, as well as highly specialized skills. Mounds and earthworks were constructed to facilitate a variety of functions within the culture. Some sites, such as the Hopewell Mound Group, appear to have served as corporate centers for a variety of activities, including the ceremonial preparation and burial of the dead.

At least eighty-five burials have been removed from the Hopewell Mound Group, as well as a vast number of significant artifacts. The site contains both extended burials and cremations, which may reflect either an evolution of burial practices or differences in social status. The site contains a large earthen enclosure that is a parallelogram in form, with sides that span 2,800 feet from east to west, and 1,800 feet from north to south. Within the large enclosure are two earthworks and numerous mounds, three of which are joined together. Adjoined to the outside of the eastern wall of the large enclosure is a smaller square-shaped enclosure. All four sides measure 850 feet in length, and contain centrally located gateways. There are four small mounds within the small enclosure, each one located in front of a gateway. The internal complex contains approximately thirty mounds, and covers a 133 acre area. Mounds are also located on the exterior of the site's enclosures. These mounds, at least ten in number, are located on the second and third terraces, and are generally small in size.

Due to the passage of time, invasive vegetation, natural erosion, agriculture, development, and excavations, there have been a number of negative impacts upon the landscape. Most of the mounds and earthworks are so worn down that they are difficult to discern. However, the layout of the landscape remains spatially intact, despite numerous intrusive elements such as a power line, road, bicycle path, and building structures. Although the integrity of the landscape is diminished, the archeological significance remains. Beginning with the 1845 Squier and Davis archeological expedition, and continuing to present day, the site has yielded a tremendous amount of artifacts and information about the ancient Hopewell culture. Acquisition of the property by the National Park Service in 1990 has ensured that the Hopewell Mound Group will remain a richly significant link to the prehistoric cultures of North America.

## **Chronology & Physical History**

**Cultural Landscape Type and Use**

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Ethnographic/Traditional

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Mound

**Primary Current Use:** Recreation/Culture-Other

**Other Use/Function** **Other Type of Use or Function**

Meadow Both Current And Historic

Agricultural Field Historic

Forest Both Current And Historic

**Current and Historic Names:**

**Name** **Type of Name**

Hopewell Mound Group Both Current And Historic

Clark's Works Historic

North Fork Works Historic

**Ethnographic Study Conducted:** Yes-Restricted Information

**Associated Group:**

**Name of Group:** Hopewell

**Type of Association:** Historic

**Ethnographic Significance Description:**

An ethnographic overview and assessment report for the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park was completed in May 2002, by EDAW/KEA Environmental, Inc.

### **Physical History:**

#### Prehistoric - Present

“The Hopewell culture developed in southern and central Ohio between 200 B.C. and 500 A.D. The term Hopewell describes a broad network of economic, political, and spiritual beliefs and practices among different Native American groups over a large portion of the Eastern United States. The culture is characterized by the construction of enclosures made of earthen walls, often built in geometric patterns and mounds of various shapes. The culture is known for a network of contacts with other groups, which stretched from the Gulf of Mexico into central Canada and from the Atlantic Coast to the Rocky Mountains. This network brought materials such as mica, shark’s teeth, obsidian, copper, and shells into Ohio. Sometimes large amounts of these materials were brought back in journeys that may have been a “quest” with spiritual purposes.

Visible remnants of Hopewell culture are concentrated in the Scioto River valley near present-day Chillicothe, Ohio. The most striking Hopewell sites contain earthworks in the form of circles, squares, and other geometric shapes. Many of these sites were built to a monumental scale, with earthen walls up to 12 feet high outlining geometric figures more than 1,000 feet across. Conical and loaf-shaped earthen mounds up to 30 feet high are often found in association with the geometric earthworks.

Hopewellian people left no known written records. Archeological evidence and knowledge of other Native American cultures suggest that these mound and earthwork complexes may have been used for a variety of social, economic, and ceremonial purposes. Elaborate copper images of birds and bears, stone carvings of frogs, squirrels, ravens, and other birds and animals were under the mounds along with mica images of the human figure. The raw materials were traded or obtained from distant places, such as copper from the northern Great Lakes area, mica from the southern Appalachians, stone from the Knife River area of the western Great Plains, obsidian from the northern Rocky Mountains, and mollusks from the Gulf of Mexico and south Atlantic.

The Hopewell culture is significant beyond its artifacts and earthworks. It represents an important cultural development. Their years were a critical period in development of agricultural lifeways that sustained later populations. It is clear they had a stable society, capable of major efforts to build earthworks, as well as establishing their network of contacts with other peoples. Yet by 500 A.D. their way of life had disappeared, changed to meet new conditions and ideas.

Following the decline of the Hopewell culture, other groups such as the Intrusive Mound culture, the Cole culture, and the Fort Ancient peoples built small villages in this area and reused Hopewell sites. During the historic period, Native American hunting parties continued to seek game in this area, but many of the tribes were dispersed by warfare and pressure from Euroamerican settlers.

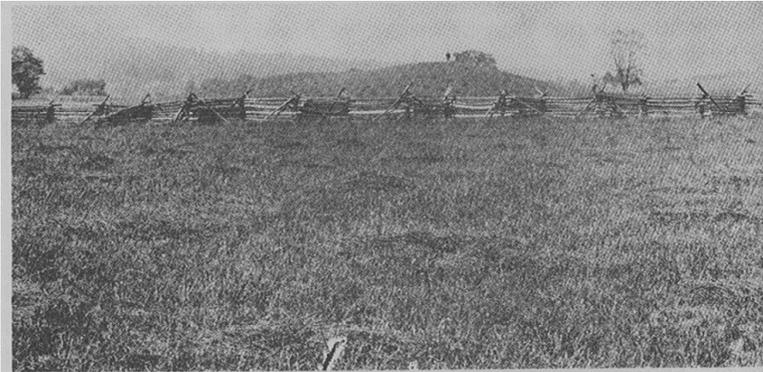
When the first Europeans began to explore the river valleys of the Midwest, they were awed

## Hopewell Mound Group

### Hopewell Culture National Historical Park

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by the thousands of mounds and earthworks they found spread across the landscape. Today few of these sites remain intact. Early settlers curious about the mounds thought nothing of digging in them. Others thought of them only as nuisances to be plowed flat to make farming easier. Most of the mounds and earthworks described and illustrated by early antiquarians and archaeologists have since disappeared. Some were lost beneath roads and buildings as towns and cities expanded. Looters destroyed others while seeking artifacts to sell to collectors and museums. Early investigations also took their toll, as techniques were often crude compared to current methods” (General Management Plan 1997).



Mound 25 at the Hopewell Mound Group as seen by Warren K. Moorehead in 1891. Photo #9. Field Museum of Natural History.

*Photo taken of Hopewell Mound Group in 1891 (General Management Plan 1997).*

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Hopewell Mound Group site retains integrity in various aspects, including location, materials, setting, and association. The site is located in its original location and portions of the original embankment walls and mounds can still be seen today. No reconstruction has occurred on the site, which leaves evident the effects of hundreds of years of weathering, erosion, vegetation, excavation, and farm usage. The lack of reconstruction retains the material integrity of the site in that what remains are the exact materials used by the Hopewell. Although many of the artifacts have been removed and the mounds and embankment walls have been reduced in size, the remaining works consist of the original materials. The setting also remains relatively intact in that the majority of the Hopewell Mound Group is a whole unit undivided by imposing structures and property lines. Despite the residential structure and three barns (which are slated to be removed in 2009) on the southern part of the boundary, and a power line running across the earthworks, the site as a whole is generally open and displays the site in its entirety. It has remained relatively undisturbed by buildings and structures that have been built increasingly around the site. The Hopewell Mound Group also retains integrity in its association to the prehistoric occupation of the Hopewell. It is the exact location of the Hopewell occupation and their use of the site as a ceremonial and funerary center.

Due to the many impacts caused by the environment and humans, a great amount of integrity has been lost. This includes the feeling, workmanship, and design. Mounds and embankment walls that once stood as high as 30 feet have been reduced to just a few feet high, therefore, reducing the initial design of the original Hopewell mounds. The workmanship that was put into the mounds has also been reduced in that many of the artifacts and structures within the mounds have been excavated and removed. The great reduction in size has also reduced the feeling of the site. The feeling encountered at the height of the Hopewell occupation is much different the one encountered today at the diminished mounds. This is due to the reduced size and appearance of the earthworks as a result of approximately 200 years of excavation and farming. Although many aspects of the site have been significantly diminished, the integrity as a whole remains intact.

<b>Aspects of Integrity:</b>	Location
	Materials
	Setting
	Association

### Landscape Characteristic:

#### Buildings and Structures

The Hopewell Mound Group site includes various structures and buildings such as three contiguous barn structures, a private residential structure, and power lines. The three barns are on the park's land and lie on the southern portion of the property. These barns, which were once used by local farmers, are scheduled to be razed in 2009 due to their poor structural

quality and non-contributing status. The residential structure, which falls within the embankment walls, is on the only parcel of contributing land that has not been acquired by the Park Service. It is located just above the southern border of the site. The power lines run at a slight angle from north to south through the approximate middle of the site.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: 3 Barn Structures

Feature Identification Number: 129232

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	17	319,363	4,358,632

Feature: Private Residential Structure

Feature Identification Number: 129252

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	17	319,494	4,358,625

Feature: North Power Line Structure

Feature Identification Number: 129238

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	17	319,858	4,359,265

Feature: Middle Power Line Structure

Feature Identification Number: 129274

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
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Hopewell Mound Group  
 Hopewell Culture National Historical Park

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GPS-Differentially Corrected                      Point                      NAD 83                      17                      319,803                      4,358,964

Feature:                      South Power Line Structure

Feature Identification Number:                      129276

Type of Feature Contribution:                      Non Contributing

Feature UTM Source	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	17	319,749	4,358,964

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Two noncontributing barn structures located near the southwestern corner of the site.*



*A third noncontributing barn structure, located near the southwestern corner of the site.*



*Noncontributing powerline structure that cuts through the middle of the earthworks, running from north to south.*



*Noncontributing privately-owned residential structure located near the southern boundary of the site.*

### **Views and Vistas**

The Hopewell Mound Group site contains two notable views. The first one lies on the east side of the site and looks westward over the entire earthwork. This view can be reached by following the hiking trail. The second view, which is also accessed by the hiking trail, is encountered from the northern terrace. This view gives visitors more of a panoramic view of the various mounds and embankment walls.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: View Looking West

Feature Identification Number: 129248

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	17	320,260	4,359,045

Feature: View Looking South

Feature Identification Number: 129250

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	17	319,858	4,359,265

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*2008 view facing westward across the earthworks.*



*2008 view facing southward from overlook.*

### **Circulation**

Features contributing to circulation within the Hopewell Mound Group site include a paved township road, paved bicycle trail, and a hiking trail. The township road runs within the embankment walls and runs from east to west parallel to the southern boundary. The bicycle trail also falls within the site boundary and runs east to west between the township road and the southern boundary. The recently completed hiking trail begins on the east side of the site just

north of the paved parking lot. It proceeds around the Hopewell Mound Group site going above the northern embankments, cutting through the forested terraces, and then coming down around the western edge of the site until it joins the bicycle path.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Paved Township Road

Feature Identification Number: 129242

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Paved Bicycle Trail

Feature Identification Number: 129244

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Hiking Trail

Feature Identification Number: 129246

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*View shows the hiking trail intersecting with the township road, which is to the left of the bike trail.*

### **Topography**

“The Hopewell Mound Group occupies the entire width of the 15 foot high second terrace which consists of a broad level plain. The southern earthen wall of the main enclosure follows the edge of the terrace and is presently located approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of the North Fork of Paint Creek. The Hopewell Mound Group continues to follow the terrace. The southern perimeter of the site follows along the terrace until it is cut by a small north-south stream. The

northern boundary of the site is marked by the third terrace, reported by Squier and Davis (1848) to be 50 feet in height. The southern wall follows the terrace and conforms to its contours. The rounded portion of the west wall and the north and east walls are bounded by a wall and exterior ditch. The lines ascend the declivity of the table land back of the terrace, and extend along its brow, dipping into the ravines and rising over the ridges into which it has been cut by the action of water” (Environmental Assessment 1987).

Although the Hopewell Mound Group no longer reflects its previous magnitude, Squier and Davis were able to witness the original mounds at the Hopewell Mound Group site. “According to Squier and Davis (1848) three of the seven mounds are joined together, forming a continuous elevation thirty feet high by five hundred feet long, and one hundred and eighty feet broad at the base. The ground within this work appears to be elevated above the general level of the plain” (Environmental Assessment 1987).

Natural water systems relevant to the physical form of the landscape include ravines, springs, and streams. One spring was historically located on the eastern boundary, and two others stood within the mound walls. Ravines located near the site contributed to erosion and the collapse of various parts of the embankment walls. The eastern boundary ran parallel to a stream (Environmental Assessment 1987). “Another feature at this site is a gully or altered stream bed on the west side of the large enclosure where the defenses descend from the tablelands to the west. The stream was turned from its natural course into the ditch, where water was still running in 1848” (Squier and Davis 1848).

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Pond

Feature Identification Number: 129322

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	17	319,124	4,359,130

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

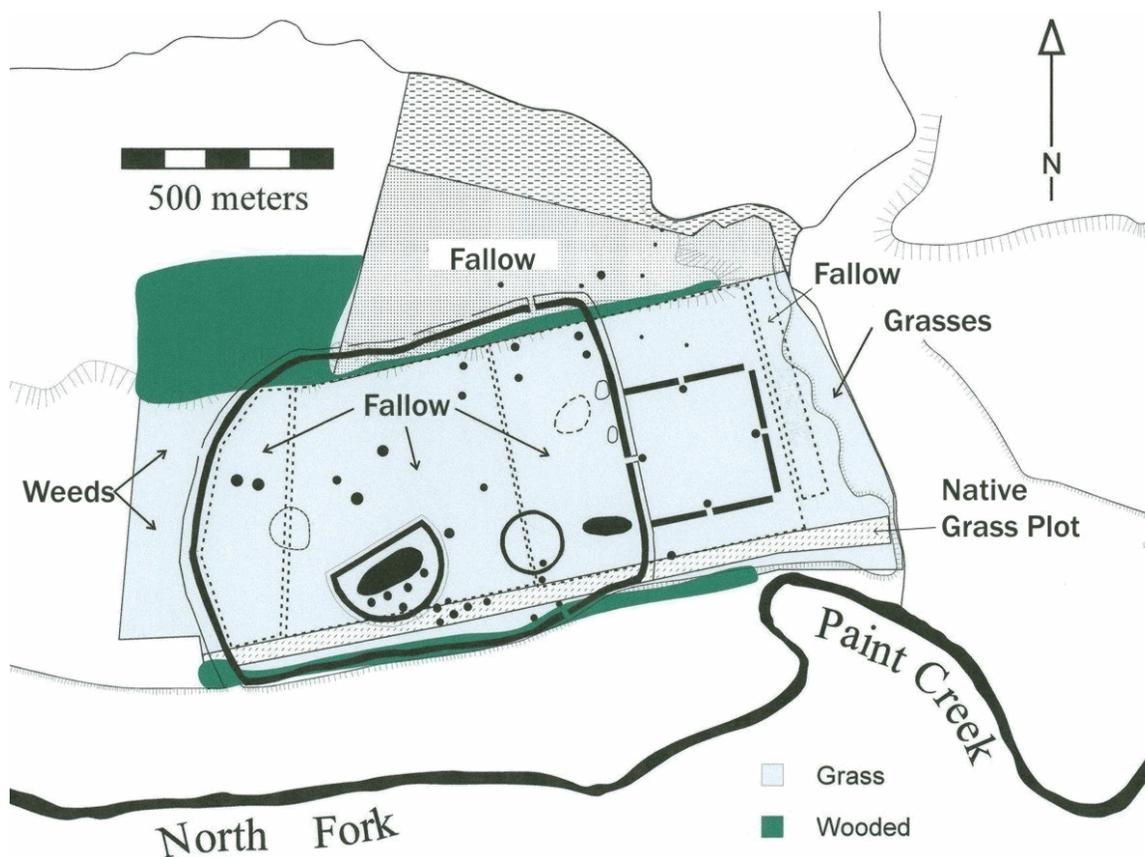


*2008 eastward facing view of the second level terrace upon which most of the archeological features are situated.*

### **Vegetation**

The Hopewell Mound Group contains approximately 72 acres of semi-mature mixed deciduous forest such as a mix of oaks, hickory, beech, sugar maple, ash, yellow poplar, and basswood (NPS Park Website). The remaining acreage is fallow agricultural fields in early succession. “Heavy forest vegetation protects the northern edge of earthwork, with thick multiflora rose dominating the understory” (Vegetation Management Plan 2002).

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Map illustration of defining vegetation characteristics for the Hopewell Mound Group site.*

**Archeological Sites**

Excavation of the Hopewell Mound Group site has occurred since approximately 1845 and continues through this day. Squier and Davis completed the first set of systematic excavations in 1845, and also produced maps of the various earthworks and mounds. In the 1890s, Warren K. Moorehead excavated approximately half of the site's mounds in an effort to provide information and artifacts for the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. However, it was the archaeological excavations of Henry Shetrone in the 1920s that remain as the existing authority on the Hopewell Mound Group. Shetrone located and mapped the mound and earthwork locations, which remains a valuable tool today as the mounds become less visible. At the completion of his fieldwork, almost every mound had been excavated, if not by him, then by previous excavators. Shetrone concluded that these earthworks were a great ceremonial center and possibly a habitation site. While the possibility of a village site within the earthworks has been researched since Shetrone's work, it has been suggested that although habitation debris may exist, these sites were unusually clean, thus making it uncharacteristic of a typical habitation site. Excavations have continued since the time of Shetrone, looking at both mound and non-mound contents. Despite extensive archeological excavations and research, new

findings and data continue to unfold, giving us a greater understanding of the Hopewell culture.

Within the Hopewell Mound Group site there are thought to be between thirty and forty mounds. Destructive agricultural practices, and intrusive railroad and residential structures have greatly reduced the visibility of most of the earthworks. Due to conflicting archeological documentation that resulted from various excavations, the historic locations of mounds that no longer exist are difficult to discern. UTMs provided here for archeological features represent only the major distinguishing earthworks of the site.

**Character-defining Features:**

- Feature: Earthworks Parallelogram NE Corner  
Feature Identification Number: 129278  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
  
- Feature: Earthworks Parallelogram SE Corner  
Feature Identification Number: 129280  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
  
- Feature: Earthworks Parallelogram SW Corner  
Feature Identification Number: 129282  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
  
- Feature: Earthworks Parallelogram NW Corner  
Feature Identification Number: 129284  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
  
- Feature: Mound 25 and "D" Shaped Enclosure  
Feature Identification Number: 129296  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
  
- Feature: Square Earthworks Enclosure  
Feature Identification Number: 129298  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
  
- Feature: Circular Earthworks Enclosure  
Feature Identification Number: 129300  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*2008 view of the northeast corner of the earthworks parallelogram wall.*



*The northeast section of wall stands at approximately eight feet, and is significant as the highest of the remaining earthwork features.*



*2008 view of the northwestern portion of the earthworks parallelogram wall and exterior ditch structure.*

### **Cultural Traditions**

The use of land, patterns of land division, building forms, and the use of materials are distinct within the Hopewell culture. The Hopewell Mound Group earthwork walls consist primarily of a large enclosure with two circular and one D-shaped enclosure and then an adjoining square enclosure on the east side. The site itself contains approximately 40 burial mounds and is classified primarily as a ceremonial site (Environmental Assessment 1987).

It has been hypothesized that habitation occurred at the Hopewell Mound Group site, and recent excavations indicate a possible habitation site dating to approximately 1,000 years ago. It has been proven, however, that the earthwork was primarily used as a ceremonial and burial site. A mound was typically built in stages: A wooden structure containing a clay platform was probably the scene of funeral ceremonies and other gatherings. The dead were either cremated or buried onsite. Objects of copper, stone, shell, and bone were placed near the remains. “The dead were often buried with mortuary goods indicative of the status of the deceased. These associated mortuary offerings were often manufactured of raw materials collected from as far away as the Gulf of Mexico coast and the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming. The long distance exchange of materials, complex mortuary rituals, and construction of mound and earthwork complexes characteristic of southern Ohio Hopewell evidences a religious ceremonialism centered on a propitiation of the spirit world which affected the hunting, trading, warfare, games, health, death and in fact, every phase of the existence of these people. These physical remains of mortuary ceremonialism are not those of an exotic cult, but are tangible evidence of religious practices which reflect the political and social organization of Hopewellian society” (Environmental Assessment 1987). “After many such ceremonies the structure was burned or dismantled, and the entire site was covered with a large mound of earth. Wall-like earthworks sometimes surrounded groups of mounds” (NPS Park Brochure). “The composite geometric earthworks and mounds represent the most visible manifestation of the Hopewell culture in southern Ohio. Highly evolved mortuary ritual is reflected in the numerous human interments associated with these mound complexes” (Environmental Assessment 1987).

## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Good  
**Assessment Date:** 05/30/2008

### Impacts

**Type of Impact:** Erosion  
**External or Internal:** Internal

**Type of Impact:** Vegetation/Invasive Plants  
**External or Internal:** Internal

**Type of Impact:** Vandalism/Theft/Arson  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** Although there have been no recently documented occurrences, "pothunters" have historically displaced earthwork materials and removed uncovered artifacts. In the 1970s, an individual used a bulldozer to displace a portion of the earthworks wall.

**Type of Impact:** Agriculture  
**External or Internal:** Internal

## Treatment

### Treatment

**Approved Treatment:** Preservation  
**Approved Treatment Document:** General Management Plan  
**Document Date:** 04/08/1997

### Approved Treatment Costs

**Cost Date:** 04/08/1997

## Bibliography and Supplemental Information

### Bibliography

**Citation Author:** Downs, Michael A., Rebecca A. Hawkins, Betsy R. Strick, N'omi B. Greber

**Citation Title:** Ethnographic Overview and Assessment: Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Ross County, Ohio.

**Year of Publication:** 2002

**Citation Publisher:** EDAW/KEA Environmental, Inc.

**Citation Author:** Greber, N'omi B. and Katharine C. Ruhl

**Citation Title:** The Hopewell Site: A Contemporary Analysis Based on the Work of Charles C. Willoughby

**Year of Publication:** 2000

**Citation Publisher:** Eastern National

**Citation Author:** National Park Service

**Citation Title:** Hopewell Culture National Historical Park General Management Plan

**Year of Publication:** 1997

**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service

**Citation Author:** National Park Service

**Citation Title:** MWRO Inventory Program-List of Classified Structures "Hopewell Site - Hopewell Mound Group"

**Year of Publication:** 2005

**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service

**Citation Author:** National Park Service

**Citation Title:** Hopewell Culture Park Brochure

**Year of Publication:** 2002

**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service

**Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** Environmental Assessment Hopewell Sites Study- Mound City Group National Monument Ohio  
**Year of Publication:** 1987  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service

**Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** Hopewell Culture National Historical Park Website  
<http://www.nps.gov/hocu/historyculture/index.htm>  
**Year of Publication:** 2008  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service

**Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** Draft Vegetation Management Plan Hopewell Culture National Historical Park  
**Year of Publication:** 2002  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service

### Supplemental Information

**Title:** Memorandum of Agreement Between National Park Service and Ross County Park District, Agreement No. 1443MAHOCU99001

**Description:** The effective dates of the agreement ran from March 25, 1999 to March 25, 2004.

**Title:** National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for Hopewell Mound Group.

**Description:** The nomination form was prepared by Elizabeth A. Scheurer on April 2, 1973. The site was entered into the National Register on February 12, 1974.