

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Mound City Group National Monument

AND/OR COMMON

*Amendment to description and statement of significance

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
N/A

CITY, TOWN
Chillicothe

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6th

STATE
Ohio

X VICINITY OF
CODE
39

COUNTY
Ross

CODE
141

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

X DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

X PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

X UNOCCUPIED

X WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

X PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

List of Classified Structures

DATE

1976

X FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

GOOD
 FAIR

HIGH RATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mound City Group consists of a grouping of Hopewellian burial mounds (now largely rations and reconstructions) surrounded by a low earthen wall. The site is level, and well kept, fringed by woods, and on high ground overlooking the Scioto River. Prehistorically, by the end of its development the site had about the same contours it is difficult to determine the actual appearance. Burial mounds were constructed the burned sites of the charnel houses in which the dead were prepared, and when they reached completion were covered with a protective layer of gravel. In the millenium following its abandonment, the site retained its contours but disappeared from view the natural regrowth of vegetation. The remains were easily discernable to the observer in the 1840s, however, when Squier and Davis described the complex of earthen features. Looting and agriculture took their toll in ensuing decades, and in 1917 levelling for construction of Camp Sherman severely disrupted most of the mounds and associated features. Reconstruction efforts began in the 1920s during renewed scientific investigation. The present condition of the property owes most to investigations and corrective restoration work that began in the late 1950s and 1960s. Archeological research and restoration work is still underway, with a view to restoring the contours of all mounds within the Mound City Group.

The Mound City Group lies within a rectangular earth enclosure of approximately 13 acres within which are located 23 burial mounds. The earth walls of the enclosure vary in height from 3 to 4 feet, with an entrance or gateway on both the east and west sides. The largest mound of the group was described by early explorers as 17½ feet high and 100 feet in diameter. All the mounds are dome-shaped with the exception of one which is elliptical. Just outside the enclosure are two additional mounds.

The following are the historic structures in the national monument:
(Unless otherwise noted they are in excellent condition)

- HS-M1 A conical earth burial mound, 35' in diameter and 7' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M2 A conical earth burial mound, 90' in diameter and 10' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M3 An oval earth burial mound, 50'x140'x10' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M4 An oval earth burial mound, 60'x90'x6' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M5 An oval earth burial mound, 60'x90'x6' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M6 A conical earth burial mound, 50' in diameter and 5' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M7 A conical earth burial mound, 100' in diameter and 17' high with 24 sandstone steps rising to a stone viewing platform on top. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M8 A conical earth burial mound, 55' in diameter and 8' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M9 A conical earth burial mound, 50' in diameter and 4' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M10 A conical earth burial mound, 60' in diameter and 3' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M11 A conical earth burial mound, 55' in diameter and 5' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M12 A conical earth burial mound, 55' in diameter and 6' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 10-300A)

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mound City Group National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation in 1923 to preserve an important assemblage of earthen structures associated with the prehistoric Adena and Hopewell cultures. Mound City Group was closely associated with the origin of American archeology in the studies of Squier and Davis in the 1840s, was among the first sites to open the eyes of Americans to the long and rich native prehistory of the country, has contributed extensively to our understanding of the Hopewell cultural tradition, and is perhaps the best assemblage of Hopewellian funerary features available for public enjoyment as a historical park.

By about 300 B.C. the prehistoric Indians we now call Hopewell had developed a distinctive culture in the Middle West. For perhaps 900 years these people flourished, their zenith being here in the Scioto Valley of southern Ohio. But by about A.D. 600 the Hopewell culture had faded. Hundreds of years later European settlers found only mounds and ceremonial earthworks to hint at this vanished culture.

The Hopewell are best known for their high artistic achievements and for their practice of erecting earth mounds over the remains of their dead. From the extraordinary variety of burial offerings found in the mounds, archeologists have learned a great deal about these prehistoric people. They were excellent artists and craftsmen and worked with a great variety of material foreign to what is now Ohio.

Copper from the Lake Superior region was used for ear spoons, headdresses, breastplate ornaments, ceremonial objects, and tools. Stone effigy pipes were beautifully carved to represent the bird and animal life around them. From obsidian they made delicately chipped blades. Freshwater pearls from local streams, quartz and mica from the Blue Ridge Mountains, shells from the Gulf of Mexico, grizzly-bear teeth from the Rockies, all were used in making the beautiful and elaborate offerings buried with the dead. Pottery of excellent workmanship was made; and even woven fabric of bark and other vegetable fibers has been found preserved through contact with copper objects. Animal bone was used extensively, and wood must have been important in the manufacture of implements and utensils.

The Hopewell Indians lived in small villages near rivers and streams. Some of the villages may have been some distance from their mounds; sites such as Mound City were chiefly as ceremonial centers. They knew how to raise corn and probably had simple gardens. Their diet was augmented by hunting animals and gathering wild fruits and vegetables. Though their culture was widespread, and they made use of materials obtained by trade and travel in distant parts of North America, the evidence of their remains suggests that they were a peaceful and more or less sedentary people.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 10-300A)

MAJOR Applenau, Roy

Photographic Report Mound City Group National Monument, Chillicothe, Ohio, October 1948.

Faust, Richard D., "A Review of the APW-Z Program, 1963"

Morgan, Richard G., "Mound City, A Prehistoric Indian Shrine," unpub. ms.

Peck, G. Richard, "The Rise and Fall of Camp Sherman," 1972

Squier, Ephraim George and David, Edwin Hamilton, Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley: Comprising the Results of Extensive Original Surveys and Explorations. 1848

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

PERCENTAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 67.50

UTM REFERENCES

Table with UTM coordinates (Zone, Easting, Northing) for points A, B, C, and D.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Mound City beginning at a point along State Highway 106 about 308 meters north-northwest of the intersection of State Highway 104 and the entrance to the Chillicothe Federal Reformatory north of Chillicothe, Ohio, the boundary of Mound City Group National Monument follows Highway 106 north-northwest about 500 meters, then turns east-northeast about 460 meters to a point where it meets the Scioto River. It then follows the bank of the Scioto River southeast about 730 meters to a point where it returns about 850 meters west-southwest to the point of beginning.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE David Arbogast, Historical Architect

March 7, 1976

AMENDED BY: Jill M. York, Historian

July 1, 1982

ORGANIZATION

DATE

National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1709 Jackson Street

(402) 221-3426

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Omaha

Nebraska

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES [X]

NO

NONE

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

DATE

TITLE Associate Director, Cultural Resources Management

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

No. 10-300a
10-741UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

HS-34 An earth wall, 6' x 4' high, enclosing a rectangular area 840' x 860' with two openings, 13' wide each, at opposite sides. It was reconstructed in 1923 and in 1960.

*Other structures at the site which do not contribute to the significance of the site include:

HS-37 Construction stones. About 500 sandstone blocks from Lock No. 35 of the Ohio and Erie Canal lying in a series of jumbled piles. Several of the stones retain carved inscriptions and decoration. They are in ruins.

HS-38 Dock, steps, and wall. A series of steps, walks, and a platform leading from the rear of the mounds, through woods, and down a bank to the Scioto River, to a triangular stone dock, 24' x 26' x 16', with three iron mooring rings. The ensemble has been altered. It is extremely deteriorated and constitutes a severe safety hazard

Other noncontributing structures within the monument include a modern visitor center, constructed in 1960; the Superintendent's residence, constructed circa 1925; and a farmhouse, constructed circa 1925. **

1935

One larger stone

**Amended information

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

- HS-M13 A conical earth burial mound, 70' in diameter and 9' high. It has a side revealing a glass enclosed display of the interior. It was reconstructed in 1920
- HS-M14 A conical earth burial mound, 50' in diameter and 5' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's and relocated in 1973.
- HS-M15 A flat site, depicting a charnel house. It has 159 wood posts geometrical arranged in a circular pattern. It was reconstructed in 1920's and relocated in 1920's.
- HS-M16 A conical earth burial mound, 55' in diameter and 3' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M17 A conical earth burial mound, 50' in diameter and 3' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M18 A conical earth burial mound, 90' in diameter and 10' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M19 A conical earth burial mound, 45' in diameter and 3' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M20 A conical earth burial mound, 65' in diameter and 4' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M21 A conical earth burial mound, 50' in diameter and 3' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's and relocated in 1974.
- HS-M22 A conical earth burial mound, 40' in diameter and 5' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M23 A conical earth burial mound, 55' in diameter and 3' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M24 A conical earth burial mound, 30' in diameter and 5' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-M25 A conical earth burial mound, 40' in diameter and 7' high. It was reconstructed in 1920's.
- HS-26 An earth borrow pit, 127'x60'x4' maximum depth. It was reexcavated in 1923 and 1960.
- HS-27 An earth borrow pit, 125'x60'x4' maximum depth. It was reexcavated in 1923 and 1960.
- HS-28 An earth borrow pit, 97'x37'x2' maximum depth. It was reexcavated in 1923 and 1960.
- HS-29 An earth borrow pit, 115'x60'x4' maximum depth. It was reexcavated in 1923 and 1960.
- HS-30 An earth borrow pit, 110'x60'x7' maximum depth. It was reexcavated in 1923 and 1960.
- HS-31 An earth borrow pit, 85'x50'x5' maximum depth. It was reexcavated in 1923 and 1960.
- HS-32 An earth borrow pit, 187'x110'x10' maximum depth. It was reexcavated in 1923 and 1960.
- HS-33 An earth borrow pit, 131'x55'x5' maximum depth. It was reexcavated in 1923 and 1960.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet 10-300A)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

Mound City was mapped and partially excavated in 1846 by two pioneer archeologists, E. G. Squier and E. H. Davis. The results of their survey of prehistoric earthworks, Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley, appeared in 1848 in the first publication of the newly founded Smithsonian Institution. Though early explorers had noticed many of the mounds, Squier and Davis' work was the first detailed study of prehistoric structures in the Mississippi Valley and is an archeological milestone.

The excavations at Mound City by Squier and Davis produced a great many spectacular objects, most interesting of which were numerous stone effigy pipes. Many were realistically carved in the images of birds, animals, and human heads. These objects, first acquired by the Blackmore Museum in England, were later transferred to the British Museum, London, where they remain today.

During World War I the area comprising Mound City was incorporated into Camp Sherman, a large training center. In 1920-21, after Camp Sherman had been razed, the Ohio Historical Society conducted extensive excavations at the site. These supplemented the information secured by Squier and Davis. A few years later the society restored the earthworks according to the best information available and developed the tract into a State memorial. The 1920-21 excavation brought to light many interesting details of the construction and purpose of the mounds and yielded many fine artifacts typical of the Hopewell culture.

Recent excavations have revealed further information about the mounds and their ancient builders. A more accurate restoration of many parts of the site has been made possible under a program of archeological research.

*The other structures described above do not contribute to the significance of the national monument... These include the several hundred construction stones (HS-37) from Ohio and Erie Canal Lock No. 35, which was disassembled during the 1930s, when the stones were deposited in their present positions on the bank of the Scioto River. The stones, in ruinous condition, lack integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The steps, platforms, walks, and dock (HS-38) were constructed in the mid- to late-1930s by the Works Progress Administration. The structures do not contribute to the significance of the monument. Further, their condition has deteriorated to the extent that they pose a serious safety hazard.**

**Amended information.