



Name of Property: Man Mound
City, State: Town of Greenfield, Sauk County, Wisconsin
Period of Significance: AD 750-1200
NHL Criteria: 4 and 6, Exception 5
NHL Theme: III. Expressing Cultural Values
5. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Design
Previous Recognition: 1977 National Register of Historic Places (boundary expansion, 2010)
National Historic Context: I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations
B. Post-Archaic and Pre-Contact Developments
12. Post-Archaic Adaptations of the Mississippi Valley
15. Eastern Farmers
C. Prehistoric Archaeology: Topical Facets
3. Prehistoric Social and Political Organizations
5. Prehistoric Arts/Handicrafts
10. Prehistoric Religion, Ideology, and Ceremonialism
11. Prehistoric Social Differentiation
XVII. Landscape Architecture

NHL Significance:

- Man Mound is the only surviving earthen anthropomorphic mound in North America. It is a particularly fine example of Late Woodland bas-relief earthen effigy mound construction, considered by many to be the artistic zenith of the millennia-long tradition

of mound construction in Eastern North America. Man Mound communicates the cultural and aesthetic values of its Late Woodland designers, exhibiting an unusual degree of anatomical detail in comparison to other monumental anthropomorphic figures and zoomorphic effigy mounds. The form of the figure emphasizes both the skill of its designers and creators and the importance of the entity depicted.

- Man Mound most likely depicts either a shaman or a Lower World human/spirit transformation, and thus represents a figure at the very heart of the effigy mound ceremonial complex. It has yielded and is likely to yield information of major scientific importance, expresses the cultural values of participants in the effigy mound ceremonial complex, and, to varying degrees, those of the Native residents of eastern North America. The site may reasonably be expected to yield data affecting theories, concepts, and ideas about Native North American ritual, social organization, and iconography.

Integrity:

- Though portions of the lower limbs and feet of the figure have been disturbed by road construction and pasturage of animals, the crucial stylistic attributes that set the figure apart from other “man” mounds and identify it as a potential shaman or spirit retain a high degree of integrity.
- The most significant structural elements of the effigy mound—the head and torso, where burial and other features should be located—retain integrity and are in pristine condition. Neither the mound itself nor its immediate surroundings south of Man Mound Road have ever been cultivated, and the site thus retains the potential for sub-surface features that could inform researchers about Late Woodland ritual and pre- and post-Late Woodland use of mound sites.

Owners of Property: Sauk County Historical Society, Town of Greenfield, and Ralph M. Wierich

Acreeage of Property: Approximately 1.4 acres

Origins of Nomination: Man Mound was listed in the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance in 1977. In 2010, Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office staff submitted a boundary expansion. Upon approving the expansion, the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board requested that Man Mound be considered for NHL nomination. The nomination was completed in 2014 by staff with the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Designation will underscore both the unique character of Man Mound as an ancient work of art and its status as one of the preeminent Late Woodland Effigy Mound Ceremonial Complex sites.
- Visitation to Man Mound County Park has increased sharply in recent years as Man Mound has gained local interest and support. Landmark designation would bolster this trend and foster greater interest in preservation of the site by enhancing awareness of

Man Mound and its importance.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- None is known. Man Mound currently enjoys the support of local residents and visitors as well as members of Wisconsin's Native Nations, and is moving towards iconic status among Wisconsinites with interests in archaeology and history.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Dr. Mills moved, Dr. Allan seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 11/18/15):

Paul Wolter, Executive Director, Sauk County Historical Society, Baraboo, Wisconsin
Kurt A. Sampson, President, Wisconsin Archeological Society, Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin
Sara L. Pfannkuche, President, Wisconsin Archeological Survey, Madison, Wisconsin
George W. Christiansen III, Senior Lecturer, Department of Anthropology and Sociology,
University of Wisconsin – Baraboo/Sauk County; Director, Center for Wisconsin Archeology,
Baraboo, Wisconsin

Terry Turnquist, Chairman, Town of Greenfield, Wisconsin

James A. Nepstad, Effigy Mounds National Monument, National Park Service, United States
Department of the Interior, Harpers Ferry, Iowa

Jim Draeger, State Historic Preservation Officer, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison,
Wisconsin

Robert P. Nurre, Baraboo, Wisconsin

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, United States Senator, Washington, DC

Advisory Board Recommendation: