

2. ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND INTEGRITY OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

It is the operational standard of the Facilities Management Division at OHS to evaluate properties administered by the Society that are at least fifty years old or older, using the criteria established by the U.S. Department of the Interior for the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Resources determined to meet the criteria for eligibility of the National Register will be treated as significant resources.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The historic and prehistoric cultural resources at the Newark Earthworks will be evaluated for significance using the criteria established for the National Register. These criteria establish that a resource must possess a quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture that is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Generally, properties eligible for listing in the National Register are at least fifty years old, unless they are exceptionally important.

ORGANIZATION OF RESOURCES FOR EVALUATION

For the purpose of management, cultural resources will be evaluated by historical period and/or grouped by resource type. Individual resources are documented in Section II: Inventory and Existing Conditions. These inventories contain an extended history and description of the individual resource as well as a brief statement of significance based on the conclusions below. These two sections are meant to work together without unduly duplicating material, while at the same time eliminating the necessity to jump back and forth between sections.

Prehistoric Archaeological Resources –Aboveground/Belowground

Definition

An archaeological resource is "any surface, subsurface, or submerged location which contains material remains of prehistoric or historic human life or activities that are of archaeological interest and the depositional environment in which they were interred or accumulated" (Ohio Historic Preservation Office 1994:42-43; adapted from 36 CFR Part 79).

The prehistoric archaeological resources at the Newark Earthworks State Memorial include aboveground resources, i.e., the visible earthwork remnants, and

belowground resources, including degraded earthwork remnants and buried artifacts and features. The earthworks are predominantly, if not exclusively, Middle Woodland in age (circa 100 B.C. – A.D. 400); however, a few could relate to an Early Woodland presence (circa 800 B.C. – A.D. 100). Subsurface artifacts and features could relate to the entire spectrum of prehistoric occupations in the region.

A. ABOVEGROUND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES – EARTHWORKS

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEWARK EARTHWORKS

Significance

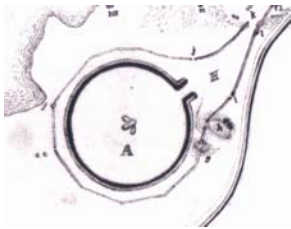
The Newark Earthworks State Memorial is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark. National Landmarks "are the most significant places in American history – they illustrate and commemorate our collective past and help us to understand our national identity" (Stanton 1999:7). The National Historic Landmark includes only those remnants of the Newark Earthworks owned by OHS.

Most archaeologists and historians would attribute international significance to the Newark Earthworks site. For example, it is included in the *70 Wonders of the Ancient World* compiled by an international team of scholars (Scarre 1999). However, it has not been nominated or recognized, as yet, as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The Society will pursue having the site listed as a World Heritage Site by researching the process and then taking the steps necessary to nominate the site.

ABOVEGROUND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES BY SITE

GREAT CIRCLE EARTHWORKS

Description



Great Circle ca 1862

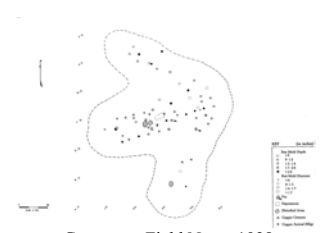
The aboveground archaeological resources at the Great Circle Earthworks consist of the earthworks and borrow pits themselves. At the Great Circle Earthworks these include the Great Circle, Eagle Mound, a crescentic earthwork southwest of Eagle Mound, two converging walls that lead from the entrance of the Great Circle to the northeast end of the Ohio Historical Society's property, and the borrow pits and circular ditch.

Evaluation

Substantial portions of the Great Circle preserve the original form and structure of the embankment. The walls were damaged in certain places during the use of the site as a fairground, and this damage was restored by the CCC. An outer polygonal wall that funneled into converging embankment walls that led into the Newark Square were damaged by plowing and other processes. The portions of the converging walls mapped by Squier and Davis were restored by the CCC. The CCC relied almost entirely on the map and descriptions of the site published by Squier and Davis (1848), but the Salisbury map and manuscript (c. 1862) demonstrates that the Squier and Davis map is incomplete.

Greenman Excavations 1928

Greenman excavated Eagle Mound for the Ohio Historical Society in 1928. His field notes indicate that a small portion of the mound at its northeastern end was not excavated due to the presence of a large tree. Also, it is possible that data are preserved at the base of Greenman's excavation. It is possible that he did not entirely remove the cultural deposits.



Greenman Field Notes 1928

Squier and Davis reported the existence of a crescent-shaped earthwork a short distance to the southwest of the Eagle Mound. No other historic map documents such an earthwork, and even Squier and Davis were tentative in their description of it (1848:68). When Greenman was excavating Eagle Mound he dug a long exploratory trench along a line that would have bisected the documented location of the crescent. He found no subsurface traces of an earthwork. It is therefore likely that no such earthwork ever existed. A future project should be the careful removal of this reconstructed earthwork.

Significance

See SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT above.

OCTAGON EARTHWORKS

Description

The aboveground archaeological resources at the Octagon Earthworks consist of the earthworks themselves. These include the circular and octagonal enclosures, Observatory Mound, a small circular enclosure, remnants of parallel walls that once framed passages leading to other points on the landscape, eight platform mounds (or barrier mounds) located within the octagonal enclosure, and the borrow pits.

Evaluation

Substantial portions of the Octagon and its associated circular enclosure preserve the original form and structure of the embankments. Although much of the northern parts of the site were under cultivation between 1837 and 1891, substantial parts of the circle and octagon were never plowed. And even the northernmost walls had not been totally obliterated when the Ohio National Guard (then the Ohio State Militia) restored them between 1893 and 1896. W. H. Holmes produced a contour map of the circular enclosure in 1892 that shows that much of the site was still largely intact or clearly traceable:

"From a point a little to the southeast of the gateway around the eastern side to the observatory hill, the original forest has never been fully removed, save at two points – one at the lane crossing, ... the other next the observatory, where for a space of about 100 feet it is reduced to less than half the original height by the plow" (Holmes 1892:369).

Southern Intact Portion of Circle

In 1894, Cyrus Thomas wrote that the southern portions of the Octagon remained "almost uninjured, being still more or less covered by the original forest growth" (Thomas 1894:464), and even the northernmost walls remained "quite distinct, the height not being less at any point than 2 ½ feet..." (1894:464).



Octagon cross section showing construction debris ca 1994

In 1963, Moundbuilders Country Club's original clubhouse, that had been built straddling the circle, was demolished and a new building was constructed at the same location. In this process, a segment of the circular enclosure approximately 100 feet in length was destroyed and relocated leaving a gap in the reconstructed wall for the passage of golf carts. This was discovered when subsequent excavations, associated with the widening of this opening, revealed a cross-section of recent fill containing bricks, broken bottles, and golf tees.

Observatory Mound

The Observatory Mound was dug into as early as 1836 and probably repeatedly thereafter. Robert Fulton, writing in January of 1868, described the Observatory as "a shapeless mass of earth" (Fulton 1868). In 1881, Isaac Smucker wrote that, although it had been "greatly mutilated and despoiled" it was still "twenty feet or more in height" (Smucker 1881:264). Therefore, it is likely that significant remnants of its internal structure remain intact.

Small Enclosure

The small circular enclosure at the southern end of the Octagon was likely plowed and degraded to an unknown extent. It was restored by the Ohio National Guard in 1894.

Parallel Walls

The portions of the parallel-walled avenues at the southeastern edge of the Octagon Earthwork likely were plowed and degraded to an unknown extent. They were restored by the CCC.

Barrier Mounds

The barrier mounds at the openings to the octagonal enclosure have been subjected to varying amounts of disturbance. Some were dug into and some, particularly those on the northern and eastern sides of the octagon, may have been reduced by cultivation. If any experienced substantial degradation they would have been restored by the Ohio National Guard.

Significance

See SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT above.

WRIGHT EARTHWORKS

Description

The aboveground archaeological resources at the Wright Earthworks consist of the earthworks themselves. These fragments of the Newark Square enclosure and one of two parallel walls that connected the square with an oval enclosure may preserve part of the original form and structure of the embankments.

Evaluation

The walls were damaged extensively by plowing, and possibly other processes. The CCC restored this damage (see History section). The accuracy of their location was confirmed by excavations conducted in 1977 on the adjacent property that has become the right-of-way for S.R. 79 (Lepper and Yerkes 1997:179).

Significance

See SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT above.

B. BELOWGROUND/ ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

BRIEF DISCUSSION OF SITE USE:

What is likely to be found under the ground.

Prehistoric Use

Prior to the construction of the earthworks during the Middle Woodland era (circa 100 B.C. – A.D. 500) the Raccoon Creek Valley was home to a succession of Native American cultures. From the Paleoindian pioneers who first discovered America to the Early Woodland precursors of the Hopewell culture, this rich valley was a transportation corridor and a bountiful source of natural resources. Villages, campsites, hunting camps, workshops, and ritual sites from these earlier epochs can be expected to occur in the vicinity of the Newark Earthworks.

The Newark Earthworks seem to have been built predominantly as a ritual center. The Hopewell builders engaged in mortuary activities nearly exclusively at the northeast oval enclosure, which is no longer extant nor on OHS property. The other enclosures likely served other ritual or social functions. There is some evidence for contemporaneous habitations in the vicinity of the earthworks, but the evidence is meager and is in no way commensurate with the size of the earthen architecture.

After A.D. 400 the Newark Earthworks may have been abandoned. There is little evidence for Late Woodland or Late Prehistoric occupation in the region before the construction of Alligator Mound three miles upstream at around A.D. 1200.

Historic Use

Historically, the Shawnee, Delaware, and Wyandot Indians are known to have frequented the region, although no substantial towns or villages are documented in the immediate vicinity of the earthworks.

During the early nineteenth century, areas of both the Octagon Earthworks and the Great Circle Earthworks were under cultivation. In 1891, one map annotated the maximum extent of agricultural fields at Octagon Earthworks but presumably the site had been cultivated to some extent as early as 1840. Photographic sources revealed at least one farmstead site at the Octagon Earthworks. Archaeological testing at the Great Circle Earthworks in 1992 revealed a plow zone in areas outside of the earthworks. It is presumed that the Wright Earthworks site was also under some degree of cultivation as the mounds were significantly deteriorated prior to restoration in 1936.

Both the Octagon Earthworks site and the Great Circle site have had limited military use. Between 1892 and 1908, the Octagon Earthworks served as an encampment ground for the Ohio state militia. At the Great Circle, the only military use of the site was the five-month encampment of the 76th Ohio Volunteer Infantry over the winter of 1861-1862 and a brief reunion of Civil War veterans in 1878.

Recreational use has been the dominant use at Great Circle from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Use as a county fairgrounds from 1853 until 1933 has, presumably had the greatest impact on the site leaving unintended historic

archaeological resources. After designation as a State Memorial in 1937, recreational activity has been mostly passive. At the Octagon Earthworks recreational activity has been the dominant use for almost all of the twentieth century. This use has been mostly passive as well, in the form of golf, from 1910 until present.

Current Use

The current use at Great Circle is very similar to a public park with picnic facilities as well as other passive recreational uses. Additionally, there is an educational use at the Great Circle with active hands-on learning programs in the area around the museum. Other areas of the site have been developed with interpretive gardens.

The current use at the Wright Earthworks is strictly limited to passive recreation.

The current use at Octagon is strictly passive recreational golf, with limited educational uses.

Future Use

The future use of all three sites will be passive recreational use and educational use.

PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

GREAT CIRCLE EARTHWORKS

Description

The belowground archaeological resources at the Great Circle Earthwork include remnants of earthworks that, due to plowing or other factors, are no longer apparent on the surface, and subsurface features, such as post molds from prehistoric structures and artifacts related to the 12,000 years of human occupation in this region.

Evaluation

Archaeological excavations conducted by Bloomsburg University and the Ohio Historical Society in 1992 confirmed the existence of traces of the outer polygonal wall mapped by James and Charles Salisbury. Ohio Historical Society collections include a variety of artifacts from the Newark Earthworks representing a number of cultural periods. Greenman excavated several projectile points representing diverse archaeological cultures from the fill of Eagle Mound (see Lepper 1989:133). Their presence in mound fill suggests they had been accidentally dug up from nearby deposits and fortuitously incorporated into the mound. OHS archaeologists recovered several points, including a Paleoindian fluted preform fragment, from fields adjacent to the Great Circle. A private collector discovered a copper celt near Eagle Mound, while illegally using a metal detector on OHS property (this artifact was subsequently recovered by OHS), and a grooved axe was uncovered during incidental work on the racetrack within the Great Circle. These discoveries indicate that archaeological resources independent of the earthworks themselves are present at the Newark Earthworks State Memorials.

Significance

See SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT Above.



Cross Section,
Great Circle, 1992

OCTAGON EARTHWORKS

Description

The belowground archaeological resources at the Octagon Earthworks include remnants of earthworks that, due to plowing or other processes, are no longer apparent on the surface, and subsurface features and artifacts related to the 12,000 years of human occupation at this site.

Evaluation

A subsurface feature has been documented in association with one of the barrier mounds in the interior of the Octagon. Artifacts and features have been discovered inside enclosures at other Hopewell earthwork sites including Fort Ancient, Seip Mound, and Stubbs Earthworks. It is probable that similar artifacts and features are present at Octagon Earthworks, but no systematic explorations have been undertaken.

Significance

See SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT Above.

WRIGHT EARTHWORKS

Description

The belowground archaeological resources at the Wright Earthworks include remnants of earthworks that, due to plowing or other factors, are no longer apparent on the surface, and subsurface features and artifacts related to the 12,000 years of human occupation at this site.

Evaluation

Artifacts and features have been documented in proximity to Wright Earthworks (Lepper and Yerkes 1997). Artifacts and features have been discovered inside enclosures at other Hopewell earthwork sites including Fort Ancient, Seip Mound, and Stubbs Earthworks. It is probable that similar artifacts and features are present at Wright Earthworks, but no systematic explorations have been undertaken.

Significance

See SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT Above.

HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Description

The historic archaeological resources at the Newark Earthworks State Memorial include buried structural remains, artifacts and features related to the activities undertaken at the site by European-Americans since A.D. 1800.

Evaluation

The integrity of these resources is unknown in most cases.



Great Circle ca 1937, Showing ground disturbance after CCC camp removed.

C. ABOVEGROUND RESOURCES/ STANDING STRUCTURES

DEPRESSION-RELIEF ERA STRUCTURES – 1934-1937



House and Shop at Great Circle ca 1937



Bridge at Great Circle

Significance Statement

History

A detailed history of the Depression-relief era work at the Octagon and Great Circle has been compiled and is included in Appendix II - a Brief History of the Newark Earthworks.

Description

There are twelve Depression-relief era, aboveground structures documented in the inventory, not including several masonry perimeter fence piers, miscellaneous stone curbing, and parking areas. Seven of the structures are contributing to the 1937 master plan at the Great Circle. The Depression-relief era aboveground resources should be treated as a whole as the existing elements provide a context to understand and interpret their significance. However, the key element to these historic, aboveground resources is the service area at the Great Circle, including the superintendent's dwelling, garage/shop, and environs.

Evaluation

The Depression-relief era structures constructed at the Newark Earthworks are significant under criterion A for their significance to the history of 1930s-era depression relief in the state of Ohio and their significance to the early development of the Ohio Historical Society site system, as well as the development of the system of State Parks in Ohio. The period of 1933-1937 was extremely important to the development of the OHS site system, as a system of public parks with passive recreational activities. The massive injection of federal funds in such a limited time had been unparalleled in both the histories of the nation and of the state. The scale at which projects were completed has affected all OHS operations since 1937. Much of the passive recreational activity at OHS sites today still utilizes facilities constructed with work-relief funds during this period. The standing structures at the Great Circle Earthworks offer a nearly intact example of park development as guided by the 1937 master plan. Thus, the structures maintain both integrity of historic material and integrity of context.

Though the structures exhibit rustic stylistic elements that appear to be similar to other structures built during the period at other OHS sites, no systematic study of the importance, relevance or significance of style has been completed. However, many of the Depression-relief era structures at OHS sites that had CCC camps were designed by the same National Park Service employed architect. More investigation may show that these structures are eligible for inclusion on the National Register under Criterion C as well.

There are limited Depression-relief era structures at the Octagon Earthworks. These structures were the result of partial implementation of a 1937 park plan; the full plan was never completed. The structures themselves are significant in that they document the beginning of a park development at Octagon Earthworks that would have been similar to the development at the Great Circle Earthworks. The caretaker's dwelling, the primary structure built under the park plan, is no longer owned by OHS. Subsequent renovations have affected its integrity to an unknown extent.

MOUND BUILDERS COUNTRY CLUB – OCTAGON EARTHWORKS

CLUBHOUSE AND OTHER STRUCTURES

History

The existing structures utilized by the MCC, including the clubhouse, pool, tennis courts, and service facilities, were constructed as part of the improvements during the 1960s. During this period the club moved toward a family-oriented facility and constructed amenities that would attract new members.

Description

There are six aboveground resources associated with the MCC, all constructed between 1959-1964. Five resources comprise the facilities of the clubhouse. These include the clubhouse, a pool house, a swimming pool, a basketball court, and a tennis court. There is a small structure used as a halfway between 9th and 18th holes within the course. A modern steel-clad maintenance facility was constructed in 1994 and would be non-contributing to any evaluation of the MCC resources.

Evaluation

During the construction of new club facilities in the 1960s, all of the original facilities of the club were razed. Though the early history of the club could be interpreted as significant locally, the history of the club post-1960s when the focus became family-oriented is not as significant. The existing aboveground resources are not associated with the early period, they are not significant architecturally, and they do not meet the general criteria of being fifty years or older. None of the existing buildings at Octagon Earthworks associated with the MCC is historically significant or eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

Not Significant

GOLF LINKS

History

The first golf links at Octagon Earthworks are attributed to Professor R. O. Austin, a Newark High School teacher, who originally laid out “six holes with about 1850 yards of course” in 1901. The first golf links for the Mound Builders Country Club consisted of nine holes laid out by Thomas Bendelow in May 1910. The additional nine holes were not completed until 1923. The course was redesigned slightly prior to 1929 and again in 1968-1969. It appears that the current holes 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 7, 8, and 9, are eight of the original nine holes with slight alterations, and hole 9 was one of the original 1901 links.

Description

The golf links at the MCC consist of eighteen holes laid out through out both the circle and octagon enclosures. The holes have been improved with specialized turf for putting greens and sand traps. Throughout the links an asphalt golf cart path has been constructed. Multiple trees have been planted to supply shade to the links and to define the greens (originally the links were all open with no vegetation between holes).

Evaluation

Not Significant

Although the history of golf at Octagon provides an interesting and early glimpse of the history of outdoor recreation in Ohio, the course as it is laid out today is the result of significant alterations during 1968 and 1969. The experience of golfing a few of the holes at the country club might be similar to the historical experience, but the links as a cultural resource do not have the integrity of the 1901, 1910, or even the 1923 course. Examination of historic photographs show that the course today is very different from its historic counterpart. Thomas Bendelow, a significant figure in the history of golf and the designer of at least the original nine holes of the country club, is said to have laid out over 1000 golf courses in his lifetime. Stuart Bendelow, his grandson, has identified 480 of these courses; twenty-six of the Bendelow courses are in Ohio. Additionally, there are other Bendelow courses in a better state of preservation that are being maintained and marketed as classic courses.