

I. CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE NEWARK EARTHWORKS

A. CHRONOLOGY OF PREHISTORIC OCCUPANCY AND IMPORTANT DATES

160 B.C.	Age of soil at the base of the Great Circle (2110 ± 80 years BP)
A.D. 105	Date for a shallow basin at Hale's House site. The pit contained mica, Hopewell pottery, and some stone tools (1845 ± 60 years BP)
A.D. 180	Date for a gravel-filled pit at Octagon gateway (1770 ± 80 years BP)
A.D. 300	Date for a postmold in gravel-filled basin at Octagon gateway (1650 ± 60 years BP)
A.D. 310	Date for a small "hour-glass shaped" basin with mica at Hale's House site (1640 ± 90 years BP)

Note: Radiocarbon dates are reported as "years BP" meaning "years Before Present" where the "present" is defined as AD 1950, or the year radiocarbon dating was invented.

B. HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY OF OWNERSHIP AND OCCUPANCY

- **Changes in ownership are in bold text**

1797	Original surveys of Licking County (no reference to earthworks)
1800	First recorded "discovery" of Newark Earthworks by pioneers Isaac and Catherine Stadden
1802	City of Newark founded
1812	Early Newark resident David Duke and his father estimate a minimum age for the Octagon at 600 years by counting tree-rings.
1813	John Poage Campbell, an early antiquarian, draws the earliest known map of Newark Earthworks. It is never published.
1815	Robert Walsh copies a map of Newark Earthworks from an unknown source. It also is never published.
1816	"Burnet & Crane" own much of Newark Earthworks property, including Great Circle and Elliptical Enclosure (Licking County Clerk of Courts records)
1820	Caleb Atwater, postmaster of Circleville, writes <i>A Description of the Antiquities Discovered in Ohio and other Western States</i> . This work includes the first published map of the Newark Earthworks. The book is published by the American Antiquarian Society and is favorably reviewed by Thomas Jefferson.

- 1825-32 Construction of Ohio and Erie canal destroys parts of the Newark Earthworks.
- 1836 Calliopean Society, of the Granville Literary and Theological Institution (Dennison), excavates the Observatory Mound at the Octagon and also a nearby Early Woodland burial mound;
Charles Whittlesey surveys the Newark Earthworks
- 1848 Publication of Squier and Davis' map of Newark Earthworks in their *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley*, Smithsonian Institution, Contributions to Knowledge, No. 1
- 1852-55 Central Ohio Railroad built through Newark Earthworks destroying many mounds and earthworks
- 1853 **Great Circle purchased by the Licking County Agricultural Society from Nathan and Martha Seymour, Henry and Catherine Holler, and a "Mr. Woodruff of New Jersey"****
- 1854 First county fair held at Great Circle; Ohio State Fair held at Great Circle
- 1860 Discovery of first "Holy Stone" at Newark. This was a stone artifact bearing Hebrew inscriptions. It is generally regarded to be a fraud perpetrated by persons unknown ;
Antiquarian Committee of Newark formed;
David Wyrick, Licking County surveyor, produces a detailed map of Newark Earthworks (published in the 1866 *Licking County Atlas*)
- 1861-62 Camp John Sherman at Great Circle
(October 1861 – 9 February 1862)
Training camp for 76th Ohio Volunteer Infantry
- 1862 Publication of Daniel Wilson's *Prehistoric Man* with Wyrick's map of Newark Earthworks (unattributed);
James H. and Charles B. Salisbury, Newark residents and early archaeologists, complete their survey of the Newark Earthworks
- 1867 Licking County Pioneer, Historical and Antiquarian Society founded
- 1878 Grand Re-union of the veteran soldiers and sailors of Ohio held at Great Circle (22 July)
- 1881 Discovery of "Wray figurine," a stone carving depicting a Hopewellian shaman dressed as a bear, at the site of the old Rolling Mill. Found where the largest of the burial mounds at Newark had been located.
- 1884 Buffalo Bill's Wild West show comes to Great Circle fair grounds (13 October)
- 1887 Licking County Pioneer, Historical and Antiquarian Society folds
- 1888 Cyrus Thomas/James D. Middleton survey of Newark Earthworks. It is published in the monumental "Report on the Mound Explorations of the Bureau of American Ethnology," *Twelfth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology* (1894).

- 1891 W. H. Homes/BAE survey of Newark Earthworks: Homes warns: "if the present use of the [Great Circle] as a fair ground is not discontinued, a few generations will witness its practical demolition" (1892:371).
- 1892 Ohio General Assembly approves the Octagon as camp for State Militia (February); Site is transferred to state.**
Ohio General Assembly inspects "Camp Buckeye" at the Octagon (18 March);
First Regiment of Light Artillery holds their encampment at the Octagon (11-16 August)
- 1893-96 Octagon restored by State Militia. Fowke (1902:171) believes "the State authorities have a little overdone the matter of restoration."
- 1896-1924 James Lingafelter establishes Idlewilde Park at Great Circle
- 1901 Professor R. O. Austin, of the Newark High School establishes a six-hole golf course at Octagon Earthworks. Play begins on 2 November 1901;
Encampment grounds named "Camp William McKinley" in honor of the recently assassinated president.
- 1908 State Militia abandons Camp McKinley
- 1908 Octagon deeded to Newark Board of Trade by State of Ohio**
- 1910 Country Club leases Octagon from Board of Trade
Great Circle park listed as "Rigel Park"
- 1911 Moundbuilders Country Club begins operation (15 June; 160 members);
9-hole golf course designed by Thomas Bendelow ("one of America's pioneer golf architects")
- 1918 Common Pleas Court appoints Albert A. Stasel as trustee to hold title to the Octagon. He is later succeeded by Leo T. Davis.**
- 1921 Moundbuilders Association of Licking County organized (*Newark Tribune*, 11 February)
- 1923 Golf course expanded to 18 holes at Moundbuilders Country Club
- 1925 Great Circle/"Idlewilde Park" now listed as "Mound Builders Park" in City Directory
- 1927 Great Circle deeded to the Board of Commissioners of Licking County by the Licking County Agricultural Society**
Licking County Conservation League trims and treats trees at Great Circle and erects "an imposing entrance to the grounds"
- 1928 Eagle Mound at the Great Circle and the nearby Wells Mound Group are excavated by E.F. Greenman for OHS. He discovers the remains of a large wooden structure at the base of Eagle Mound and, in the much-damaged Wells Mound No. 3, he finds the remains of an intrusive historic horse burial.

- 1930 Warren S. Weiant, Jr., a local Newark businessman and pioneer aviator, discovers from the air the Airport Circle (33Li10/3), a small circular enclosure connected to the Great Hopewell Road two miles south of the Octagon.
- 1932 Licking County Archaeological and Historical Society founded, C. R. Jones, F. A. Woolson, and others;
Historical Committee of Newark Chamber of Commerce instituted, headed by C. R. Jones;
Great Circle deeded to OHS (December 31). Deed voided owing to technicality
- 1933 **Octagon deeded to OHS (23 January) (recorded 9 March);**
Restoration of earthworks at Great Circle, supervised by E. F. Greenman (OHS) and undertaken by "City unemployed, paid from the Newark Relief Fund"; Civil Works Administration projects begin at both Octagon and Great Circle.
Last County Fair held at Great Circle (September 19-22)
Great Circle re-deeded to OHS (11 October) following act of legislature
- 1934 Civilian Conservation Corps Company #1544 arrives at Camp Licking Moundbuilders with 220 veteran enrollees (July 8)
Fairgrounds buildings removed; earthworks restored; superintendent's dwelling and shop erected
Wright Earthworks deeded to OHS by Frances Rees Wright
- 1936 Great Circle listed in City Directory as "Mound Builders State Park";
Dache Reeves, U.S. Army Air Corps takes aerial photographs of Newark Earthworks;
National Park Service in Cooperation with OHS continues CCC "Emergency Conservation Work" at Mound Builders State Park. Robert Goslin hired to "trace the earthwork complex over the city of Newark, and report on possible restorations and markings of locations of mounds and walls."
- 1937 **6.086 acres at the Great Circle Earthworks deeded to OHS by William and Laura Wehrle and Augustine Wehrle (January 16)**
CCC Company #1544 moved to Fairlawn, Ohio; Camp Licking dismantled
- 1959 Swimming pool added to Moundbuilders Country Club
- 1963 Original club house demolished at Moundbuilders Country Club
- 1964 New club house completed and dedicated at Moundbuilders Country Club;
Moundbuilders and Octagon State Memorials Citizens Committee convened by Erwin C. Zepp, Director, Ohio Historical Society to "assist the Society in promoting the use of the Moundbuilders and Octagon State Memorials, to make suggestions as to increasing their attractiveness to visitors, to propose ways and means by which the community can be made more conscious of the sites, and to propose ways and means by which the Society can better enter into community activities through Moundbuilders and Octagon State Memorials";

Newark Earthworks named National Historic Landmark (19 July)
- 1968-69 Golf course links remodeled at Moundbuilders Country Club

- 1970 Marie Sunkle, a Newark resident, discovers a deposit of Hopewell artifacts crafted from Flint Ridge flint while digging in her backyard. The Marie Sunkle cache (33Li36) is located less than a mile east of the Great Circle on the eastern side of the South Fork of the Licking River.
- 1971 Ohio Indian Art Museum opens at Great Circle (20 June)
- 1977-80 Archaeological explorations are conducted by the Ohio Department of Transportation prior to the construction of the Newark Expressway. Evidence of a small Hopewell habitation is uncovered.
- 1978 John Eddy, an archaeoastronomer, is the first to speculate that Newark's Octagon is aligned to northernmost rise of the moon.
- 1982 Licking County Archaeology and Landmarks Society formed; Archaeoastronomers Hively and Horn publish their definitive study of lunar alignments at Newark Earthworks.
- 1989 OHS sells residence and garage at Octagon, leases land to new owner
- 1992 OHS/Bloomsburg University archaeologists excavate an exploratory trench through the Great Circle exposing several layers of construction.
- 1994 OHS conducts excavations at Octagon State Memorial prior to the expansion of the Moundbuilders Country Club maintenance structure (approved by Board of Trustees, 19 February). They discover the remains of a large pit located at the base of the platform mound, evidence for which had been found on the 1812 Robert Walsh map of the Newark Earthworks.
- 1997 OHS extends Moundbuilders Country Club lease to 2078
- 1999 Moundbuilders Country Club proposes to build a new clubhouse
- 2002 Club house remodeled at Moundbuilders Country Club