

City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (1)

Name of Building or Site

Common

Spring Harbor Mound Group

Historic (if applicable)

Location

Street Address

1110 Spring Harbor Dr., 1775 Norman Way, and 5388 University Ave.

Aldermanic District

Nineteenth

Classification

Type of Property (building, monument, park, etc.)

Indian Mounds

Zoning District

R-1

Present Use

educational and residential

Current Owner of Property (available at City Assessor's office)

Name(s)

Board of Education and Joyce Reid

Street Address

545 W. Dayton, Madison, WI 53703
and
1775 Norman Way, Madison, WI 53705

Telephone Number

266-6235
and
238-8981

Legal Description (available at City Assessor's office)

Parcel Number

0709-184-0501-4 and
0709-184-0506-4 and
0709-184-0507-2

Legal Description

please see attached

Condition of Property

Physical Condition (excellent, good, fair, deteriorated, ruins)

good

Altered or Unaltered?

altered

Moved or Original Site?

not applicable

Wall Construction

not applicable

Legal Descriptions
Spring Harbor Mound Group

PARCEL: 0709-184-0501-4
SPRING HARBOR PART OF BLK 2 & PART OF NW
1/4 OF SE 1/4 SEC 18 T7N R9E DEBC AS FO
L BEG AT NW COR OF LOT 1 BLK 2 SPRING HA
RBOR TH W 326.3 FT ALONG S LN OF DALE AV
E TO NE COR OF LOT 13 TH SELY & SWLY ALO
NG ELY LNS OF LOTS 13 & 17 IN SD BLK TO
S COR OF SD LOT 17 TH NWLY ALONG W LN OF
LOT 17 TO MOST SELY COR OF LOT 13 TH SW
LY 258.2 FT ON A STRAIGHT LN TO A PT SD
PT BEING ON W LN OF LOT 14 BLK 2 & 301.0
FT S OF S LN OF DALE AVE MEAS ALONG W L
N OF LOTS 13 & 14 TH W 1 DEG 0 MIN W173.
6 FT TO NELY R/W LN OF FORMER US HWY 12
& 14 TH S 38 DEG 51 MIN E165.25 FT TO NW
LY COR OF PARCEL PREVIOUSLY SOLD TO MADI
SON GAS & ELECTRIC CO TH N 51 DEG 10 MIN
E ALG NWLY SIDE OF PROP PREV SOLD TO M
G & E CO A DIST OF 179.0 FT. TH S 65 DE
G 51 MIN E ALG NELY SIDE OF LAND PREV S
OLD M G & E CO A DIST OF 292.5 FT TO NW
LN OF SPRING HARBOR DR TH NELY & NWLY AL
ONG NW LN OF SPRING HARBOR DR & W LN OF
MENDOTA AVE TO A PT ON E LN OF LOT 2 LAS
T MENTIONED PT BEING 180 FT SE OF S LN O
F DALE AVE MEAS ALONG W LN OF MENDOTA AV
E TH W 213.5 FT ON A LN & 180 FT S OF &
MEASURED AT RT ANGLES OF DALE AVE TO W L
N OF SD LOT 2 TH N 180 FT ALONG W LN OF
LOT 2 & LOT 1 IN BLK 2 TO POS & PART OF
BEARMOUND AVE LYING BETWEEN SPRING HARBO
R DR & DALE AVE SCHOOL SITE
AND ALSO LOT 17 BLOC 2

PARCEL: 0709-184-0506-4
LOT 3 OF CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP NO 1818
RECORDED IN DANE COUNTY REGISTER OF
DEEDS IN VOLUME 7 PAGE 235 OF
CERTIFIED SURVEYS

PARCEL: 0709-184-0507-2
LOT 2 OF CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP NO 1818
RECORDED IN DANE COUNTY REGISTER OF
DEEDS IN VOLUME 7 PAGE 235 OF
CERTIFIED SURVEYS

City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (2)

Describe Present and Original Physical Construction and Appearance.

The Spring Harbor Mound Group is a prehistoric aboriginal site containing two earthworks. The site is located on the crest of a ridge overlooking the floodplain of old Merrill Creek. The creek joins Lake Mendota approximately 400 m northeast of the site. Historically, several springs were reported in the area, with three major springs located in the vicinity of present day Spring Harbor at the mouth of Merrill Creek (Foote and Henion 1890). The Spring Harbor Mound Group is one of four groups located within the historic Merrill Springs resort area. These four mound groups contained approximately 50 mounds situated along a mile of Lake Mendota shoreline. Many of these mounds are now destroyed or badly damaged. The Spring Harbor Mound Group was originally reported to contain between four and six mounds: two to three linears, one bear effigy, and one to two bird effigies of which only two remain.

T. H. Lewis first surveyed in the Merrill Springs resort area in 1888, placing all the mounds under the name Four Lakes Mounds (Lewis, mss). In the late 1880s, Stephen D. Peet also surveyed the Merrill Springs area and mapped a portion of the mounds which now most closely approximates the Merrill Springs II Group (47 DA 699) with a few possibly belonging to the Black Hawk Country Club Group (47 DA 131) (Peet 1898). Comprehensive surveys done between 1905 and 1910 by A. B. Stout and a companion survey done by C. E. Brown in 1910 divided the Merrill Springs resort area mounds into four discreet mound groups using the surrounding topography. Stout's mapping included six mounds within the Spring Harbor Group: two bird effigies, a bear effigy and three linears. Brown reported only four mounds; one bird effigy, one bear effigy and two linears. No explanation of the difference in mound number was ever given for Spring Harbor. Brown describes damages to those he mapped at the time of his survey:

This group is on the side and top of a nearly bare grassy hill. Between it and the base of the hill, a narrow tract of marshy land extends to the lake shore. This tract is now being converted into solid ground by Mr. E. N. Warner's sand dredge. Mound No. 2 (linear) is now rather irregular along the edges, having been mutilated by relic hunters. All but about 50 feet of the wing of the bird has been destroyed by the road and adjoining cultivated field. (Brown, mss, parentheses added)

In the Fall of 1989, a crew from the State Historical Society returned to the area to reassess the status of the Spring Harbor Mound Group. Only two mounds from Brown's original four remained. Since 1910, Brown's Mound No. 2 has been completely destroyed and a house structure is in its place. The bird effigy (Brown's Mound No. 4) has also been destroyed by the construction of the Spring Harbor Elementary School building which now houses the Madison Business School.

Descriptions of the two remaining Spring Harbor Mounds are as follows. Measurements are approximate since the edges of the mounds blend in with the natural contours of the landscape.

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LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (3)

Mound 1 Linear. This mound runs north-south and measures approximately 90 feet by 15 feet. As these dimensions approximate those of Stout and Brown, it appears that very little damage or erosion has injured this mound in the last 80 years.

Mound 2 Bear Effigy. This mound also runs north-south with the legs and head facing east and extending downslope from the crest of the ridge. From head to hind end, the mound measures approximately 75 feet and from back to end of leg, approximately 25 feet. These measurements also approximate those taken in 1910. Presently, there is a tree growing by the head.

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LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (4)

Original Owner People of the Late Woodland Stage Effigy Mound Tradition	Original Use ceremonial and funerary
Architect or Builder People of the Late Woodland Stage Effigy Mound Tradition	Architectural Style not applicable
Date of Construction ca. 800-1100 A.D.	Indigenous Materials Used not applicable

List of Bibliographical References Used

- Arzigian, Constance
1986 The Emergence of Horticultural Societies in Wisconsin. In William F. Keegan (ed.) Emergent Horticultural Societies of the Eastern Woodlands. Southern Illinois University of Carbondale, Center for Archaeological Investigations Occasional Paper No. 7.
- Benn, David
1979 Some Trends and Traditions in Woodland Cultures of the Quad-State Region in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. The Wisconsin Archeologist 60(1):47-82.
- Brown, Charles E.
nd Unpublished Manuscripts, on file with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison.
- 1912 Fourth Addition to the Record of Wisconsin Antiquities. The Wisconsin Archeologist (os) 10(4):169-170.

continued on page 5

Form Prepared By:

Name and Title

Cynthia Stiles-Hanson, Assistant State Archeologist and Katherine H. Rankin, Preservation Planner

Organization Represented (if any)

State Historical Society of Wisconsin and City of Madison

Address

P.O. Box 2985
Madison, WI 53701-2985

Telephone Number

266-6552

Date Nomination Form Was Prepared

February 10, 1993

City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (5)

Bibliographical References Used Continued

- Foote, C.M. and J.W. Henion
1890 Platbook of Dane County, Wisconsin. C.M. Foote Co.,
Minneapolis.
- Lewis, T.H.
nd Unpublished Manuscripts, Northwestern Archaeological Survey,
on file with the Minnesota State Historical Society, St. Paul.
- Mallam, R. Clark
1976 The Effigy Mound Tradition in Iowa: An Interpretative Model.
Report No. 9, Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City.
1984 Some Views on the Archaeology of the Driftless Zone in Iowa.
Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science.
- Peet, Stephen D.
1898 Prehistoric America, Volume II: Emblematic Mounds and Animal
Effigies. American Antiquarian Office, Chicago.
- Peterson, Robert
1979 The Wisconsin Effigy Mounds Project, Volume I and II.
Unpublished Report on file, State Historical Society of
Wisconsin, Madison.
- Salkin, Philip
1987 The Late Woodland Stage in Southeastern Wisconsin. Wisconsin
Academy Review 33(2):75-79.
- Scherz, James
1987 New Surveys of Wisconsin Indian Mounds. Wisconsin Academy
Review 33(2):63-66.
- Stout, A.B.
nd Unpublished Maps, on file with C.E. Brown Manuscripts with
State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison.

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LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (6)

Significance of Nominated Property and Conformance to Designation Criteria:

The Spring Harbor Mound Group is a prehistoric aboriginal site containing a bear effigy mound and a linear mound dating to the Late Woodland Stage. The Spring Harbor Group has been linked with three other groups in an area known historically as the Merrill Springs resort area. The Merrill Springs resort area contains remains of a once extensive array of linear, conical and effigy mounds which stretched along a portion of the southwestern shoreline of Lake Mendota. Of an approximate 50 mounds in four discrete groupings in the historic Merrill Springs area, less than half survive and many of those in damaged condition. The Spring Harbor Mound Group, one of the four groups at Merrill Springs, contains only two of the original four to six mounds attributed to it. Aboriginal mound sites derive their significance primarily from the shape and location of the mounds within the group, so although only two mounds remain, the site maintains sufficient integrity to yield significant information on the Late Woodland Stage of Madison's prehistory.

Effigy mound groups like Spring Harbor are generally dated to the Late Woodland Stage circa 650-1200 A.D. Many believe, however, that the effigy mounds themselves were built during a rather narrow time span of AD 800-1100 (Benn 1979). Effigy mound groups are believed to have functioned as ceremonial centers for the periodic reinforcement of kinship ties and belief systems of individual Late Woodland social groups. Dane County once contained over 1,000 mounds in approximately 115 locations or centers that are attributable to the Late Woodland Stage (Peterson 1979:53). This figure includes at least 289 effigy mounds. Most of these were found in the four lakes area around Madison and most have been destroyed by agricultural practices and urban expansion. Approximately 200 mounds in approximately 50 locations remain. These include less than 60 effigies.

The mound groups located at Merrill Springs lie along the Lake Mendota shoreline in close proximity to a series of springs in the area. Interspersed among the four mound groups are habitation sites containing artifacts dating to the Late Woodland period. The collection of habitation and mound sites together indicates an intense use of the area around the springs for religious/ceremonial as well as domestic/subsistence activities.

The Spring Harbor Mound Group has the potential to yield important information on the Late Woodland Stage. For example, ceramics and other artifacts can help clarify the nature of the Late Woodland sequence. This is important, since it has recently been proposed that not all Late Woodland populations participated in the construction of effigy mounds (Salkin 1987). Charcoal and other organic material associated with ceremonial activities can provide radiocarbon dates that will further refine the temporal span of mound construction. Recently, the role of maize horticulture in Woodland Society has been a research issue (Arzigian 1986). Since these types of mounds frequently contain burials, analysis of teeth and bone chemistry can provide insights into the diet of the Effigy Mound people.

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However, in light of the fact that mounds are now protected as burial places under Wisconsin state law, it is relevant to point out that significant information concerning Late Woodland peoples can be gained from Effigy Mound groups, such as Spring Harbor through non-destructive studies. Clark Mallam has studied the location and arrangement of Effigy Mound groups as well as Effigy Mound types in Iowa and has gained some insights into Late Woodland social systems and ideology as a result. By analyzing the geographical distribution of Effigy Mound types, for example, he was able to determine that a number of separate social groups were responsible for Effigy Mound construction in northeastern Iowa (Mallam 1976).

In a more recent essay, he suggests that the meaning and function of Effigy Mound groups can be addressed through such analysis aided by ethnographic analogy. He observes, for example, that Effigy Mound groups tend to be located near zones of predictable and annual occurring resources. This suggests to him that a complex set of ideological, social, political, and economic relationships may be involved in mound construction. He suggests that mounds "are not so much burial sites as they are metaphorical expressions about the idealized state that should exist between nature and culture—balance and harmony" (1984:19). In his view, the Late Woodland people were expressing their "cosmological convictions" by "sacralizing the earth" through the construction of mounds.

. . . in other words, they consecrated the mosaic environment with its varied resources and ecological relationships by defining it as sacred space. If the rhythm-balance and order of this region could be maintained, the resources on which humans depended would continue. In this sense, mound building may be perceived as an ongoing world renewal ritual, a sacred activity humans entered into in order to insure regular and consistent production of natural resources. (1984:19)

Mapping of mound groups and mound alignments have convinced others that they functioned primarily as calendric devices and recorded symbolic geometries. (Scherz 1987).

Similar analysis of mound group location, arrangements, and physical relationships to other sites can make substantial contributions to our understanding of Late Woodland Society in the southwest and south central part of Wisconsin.

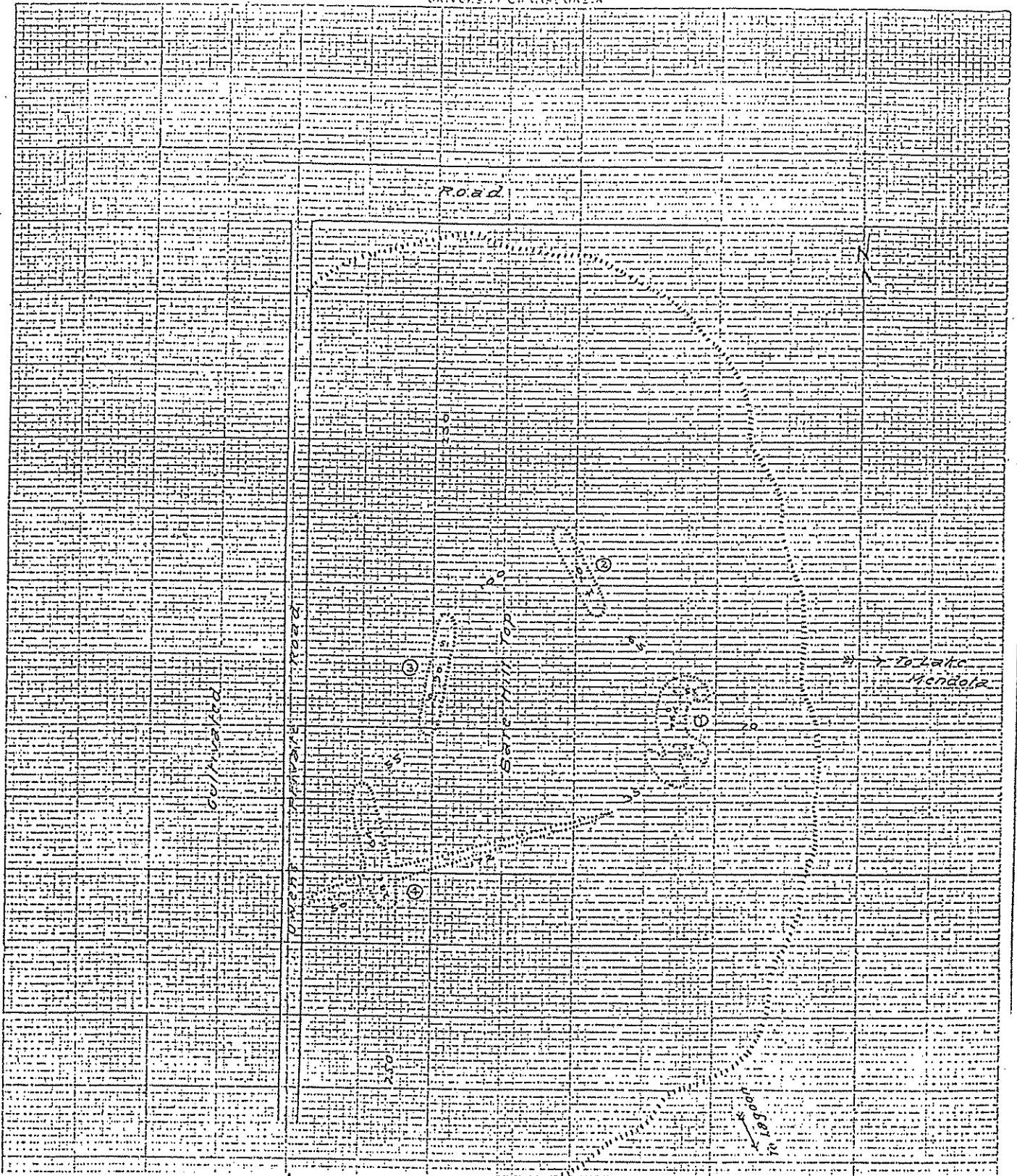
The Spring Harbor Mound Group contains a high significance in this collection since it contains two mounds which have received preservation attention in the past, chiefly due to the concern of one of the historic landowner, Ernest N. Warner. Although the other mounds in this particular group and also most of the mounds in the Merrill Springs area were destroyed or damaged, the bear effigy and linear mound in the Spring Harbor Group were carefully preserved. These mounds and the area between them are a rare example of relatively undisturbed portions of the original Merrill Springs mound groupings.

Note: Although the parcels on which these mounds sit are nominated as a

City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (8)

Madison Landmark in their entirety, the intent of the nomination is to protect only the mounds and their environs. Therefore, there shall be varying levels of protection depending upon how far away the construction project is from the existing mounds.

1. For the existing mounds and the area within five feet of the outlines of the existing mounds, there shall be no construction or ground disturbance of any type, as currently required by state law;
2. For an area within an additional five foot radius of protection (for a total of ten feet from the existing mounds), no ground disturbance shall occur unless no reasonable alternative locations exist for the new construction, as determined by the Landmarks Commission;
3. For the area outside of the ten foot radius of protection but within 25 feet of the mounds, construction and remodeling projects shall be reviewed by the Landmarks Commission to make sure that the mounds and the area within the ten foot area of protection are protected from ground disturbance; and
4. For the area outside of the 25 foot area of review by the Landmarks Commission, all projects requiring a building permit shall be reviewed and approved by the Landmarks Commission's designee, unless ground disturbance within ten feet of the mound appears likely, in which case the Landmarks Commission will review the project using the standards stated in 3. above.



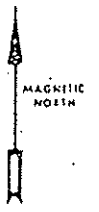
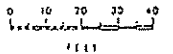
1910 site map by
 C.E. Brown.
 Scale 1"=100'

Spring Harbor Mound Group
 City of Madison, Dane County, WI






Warner Group
 at Merrill Springs
 After measurements taken
 by Chas. E. Brown
 Aug. 23, 1910

1989 site map

Spring Harbor Mound Group
City of Madison, Dane County, WI



SPRING HARBOR MOUND GROUP
47 DA 432 / BDA 273

-  Existing Mounds
-  Previously Reported Mounds (Brown 1910);
no surface features remain
-  Property Boundaries
-  Found Pipe Property Markers
-  Trench Station

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET