

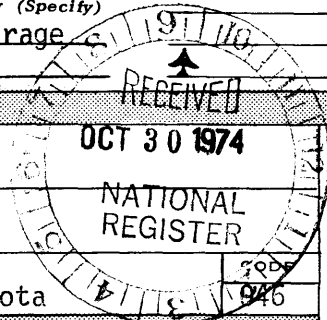
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	South Dakota
COUNTY:	Clay
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 19 1974

1. NAME				
COMMON: Spirit Mound (PAHA WAKAN)				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>W. 1st Street 178219</i>				
Section 14--Spirit Mound Township				
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Vermillion</i>		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: No. 1		
STATE South Dakota	CODE 046	COUNTY: Clay	CODE 027	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <i>Pasturage</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Ernest Schmidt				
STREET AND NUMBER: Rural Route 3				
CITY OR TOWN: Vermillion		STATE: South Dakota		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds				
STREET AND NUMBER: Clay County Courthouse				
CITY OR TOWN: Vermillion		STATE: South Dakota		CODE 046
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Register of Historic Sites				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Clay County Historical Society				
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 160				
CITY OR TOWN: Vermillion		STATE: South Dakota		CODE 046

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The hills constituting Turkey Ridge which include Spirit Mound were originally carved by streams which flowed through the region before ice covered it. The ice sheets overrode them, rounding off the sharper corners and extending their elongated shapes. This action is well shown on Spirit Mound at the southern end of Turkey Ridge.

The historical appearance of Spirit Mound is best described through the eyes of Lewis and Clark:

This Mound is situated on an elevated plain in a level and extensive prairie. . . , the base of the Mound is a regular parallelogram, the long side of which is about 300 yards in length, the shorter, 60 or 70 yards, From the longer side of the base it uses from the North and South with a steep assent to the height of 65 or 70 feet, leaving a level plain on the top of 12 feet in width and 90 in length. The North and South part of this Mound is joined by two regular rises, each in oval forms of half its height, forming three regular rises from the plain. The assent of each elevated part is as sudden as the principal Mound at the narrower side of its Base.

From the top of this Mound we beheld a most beautiful landscape; Numerous herds of buffalow were seen feeding in various direction; the Plain to the North N.W. and N.E. extends without interruption as far as can be seen.

Of course the view has been altered considerably due to vanished wildlife, tree belts, power lines, etc.; but if preserved in its present state, Spirit Mound would appear much as Lewis and Clark left it.

Natural erosion, a cattle lot, and the location of a pit silo on the west side have been the only factors altering Spirit Mound's appearance.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

August 25, 1804

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☒ Other (Specify)☒ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

exploration☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In August of 1804, the Lewis and Clark party camped on the Missouri's south bank near the mouth of White Stone Creek. Clark reported that across the river to the north they could see a conical hill and he related its spiritual background:

In a northerley derection from the Mouth of this Creek in an emence Plain a high Hill is situated, and appears of a Conic form, and by the different nations of Indians in this quarter is Suppose to be the residence of Deavels. That they are in human form with remarkable large heads, and about 18 Inches high, that they are very watchful and are arm'd with Sharp arrows with which they Can Kill at a great distance; they are Said to kill all persons who are So hardy as to attempt to approach the hill; they State that tradition informs them that many Indians have Suffered by these little people, and among others three MAHAR Men fell a sacrefise to their murceless fury not many Years Sence. So Much do the Maha [Omaha], Soues [Sioux], Ottoes [Otoes] and other neighboring nations believe this fable, that no Consideration is Suffecient to induce them to approach the hill. (DeVoto, 22)

The following morning, Saturday, August 25, Clark, Captain Lewis, and several of their men walked the nine miles to Spirit Mound. They discovered its inhabitants to be a great number of birds and insects driven to the hill's lee side by the prairie winds. Climbing the summit they surveyed the surrounding country and returned to the river. As to the spirit legend Clark speculated:

One evidence which the Inds give for believing this place to be the residence of some unusial Spirits is that they frequently discover a large assemblage of Birds about this Mound is in my opinion a Sufficent proof to produce in the Savage Mind a Confident belief of all the properties which they ascribe it. (DeVoto, 24)

No archeologic discoveries have been made on Spirit Mound. Its significance lies in the hill's association with Lewis and Clark. The many

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Thwaites, R. G. (ed.) ORIGINAL JOURNALS OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION, 1804-1806, New York.
 DeVote, Bernard. THE JOURNALS OF LEWIS AND CLARK. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1953.
 TOUR GUIDE, RURAL CLAY COUNTY. South Dakota, 1971.
 ANTIQUARIAN PRESS. 1959, I, 121-123.
 AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN. September, 1891. 289.
 REGISTER OF HISTORIC SITES IN CLAY COUNTY. South Dakota, 1972.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 42 ° 52 ' 51 "	Degrees Minutes Seconds 96 ° 57 ' 48 "		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	42 ° 52 ' 51 "	96 ° 57 ' 12 "				
SE	42 ° 52 ' 13 "	96 ° 57 ' 12 "				
SW	42 ° 52 ' 13 "	96 ° 57 ' 48 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 240 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Lloyd R. Moses

ORGANIZATION: **Clay County Historical Society** DATE: **12/2/72**

STREET AND NUMBER:
116 N. Harvard

CITY OR TOWN: **Vermillion** STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **046**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

**James E. Gillihan, State
 Historic Preservation Officer**

Date

10-10-74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

11/19/74

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

11.15.74

HR
 14/667130
 4749400
 SE
 14/667130
 4748200
 SW
 14/666320
 4748180
 NW
 14/666290
 4749390

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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Significance--Page 2

dams along the river have inundated the majority of their campsites and council sites. Spirit Mound is one of the few remaining physical features on the Upper Missouri readily identifiable as a place the explorers visited and recorded.

