

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Cahokia Mounds (Monks Mounds)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER Cahokia Mounds State Park  
Collinsville Road

--NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

East St. Louis

-- VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Illinois

17

Madison/St. Clair

119/163

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME Various private owners and State of Illinois-administered by Director, Cahokia  
Mounds State Park (currently Jim Anderson)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cahokia Mounds Museum, 8001 Collinsville Road

CITY, TOWN

STATE

East St. Louis

-- VICINITY OF

Illinois 62201

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerks Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

St. Clair County/ Madison County

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Belleville/Edwardsville

Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1960-present

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Illinois Archeological Survey, University of Illinois

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Urbana

Illinois

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cahokia, a Mississippian site east of St. Louis, is located in what is known as the American Bottoms--the flood plain, alluvial terraces and low bluffs along the eastern bank of the Mississippi River. Stretching from Granite City, Illinois, in the north to Columbia, Illinois, in the south, American Bottoms supported ten large and small population centers as well as fifty or more farming villages during Mississippian times.

As the largest site in the area, Cahokia consisted of Monks Mound, the huge earthwork at its center, plus probably some 120 smaller earthworks. Monks Mound, so named because of its use by Trappist monks in the early 19th century, dominates the site and stands roughly in its center. Measuring about 1000 feet by 700 feet at its base, this huge structure covers about 15 acres and rises in a series of 4 terraces to a height of approximately 100 feet. Post holes uncovered during excavations indicate that at times there were wooden structures on the various terraces. Of the smaller mounds, thirty-two are known to have been platform mounds (28 square or oval single platforms, four double platforms) with wooden structures on top used for ceremonial, social, or residential purposes; seven are known to have been conical mounds, possibly containing burials; and six are known to have been ridgetop mounds. The rest were of unknown shape.

One of the ridgetop mounds, called Mound 72, contained at least six separate episodes of burial which involved more than 200 individuals. The first episode involved a single individual who had been placed in a charnel house on a mound before burial and was accompanied by bundle burials. One of the other episodes included the interment of 4 men without heads or hands and over 50 women between the ages of 18 and 23, probably sacrificed. Near these individuals was an obviously important burial placed on a platform of thousands of shell beads along with a number of bone bundles and disarticulated bones nearby. Not far from these bundle burials were 3 men and 3 women accompanied by an incredible wealth of grave goods including chunky stones, copper, mica, and hundreds of points sorted into types. Pit burials, mass burials, and caches of pottery, shell beads, and projectile points were also present within Mound 72. After each episode of burial, the mound was extended until it achieved its present ridge-like form.

The ridgetop mounds apparently served to define the limits of the city. Mound 72 and Rattlesnake Mound to the south appeared to determine the north/south axis of the city while other ridgetop mounds located the eastern and western extremities. A large post hole under Mound 72 appeared to confirm the idea that ridgetop mounds were important aspects of town planning at Cahokia. Judging from the graves at Mound 72, these town markers seem to have been subsequently used as burial grounds.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES approximately 800- 1500  
A.D. BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Covering over 4000 acres east of St. Louis, Cahokia is the largest Mississippian Period community in eastern North America. The site had a long history beginning approximately 800 A.D. and extending through about 1500 A.D. Prominent features of this center are over one hundred mound constructions of a variety of sizes and functions. Flat-topped mounds were bases for temple and quarters construction (for religious and secular officials). Burial mounds contained high status graves of important personages, often accompanied by retainers or other special functionaries. The largest and most dominating structure at the site is Monks Mound which covers about 15 acres and rises in a series of four terraces to a height of about 100 feet above the valley floor; this huge earthwork is second only to Chololu and the Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacan in size of prehistoric man-made structures in North America. Among other interesting aspects of the site are the rectangular town plan based on north/south and east/west axes, the palisade surrounding the inner and probably most important precinct of the site, the extensive domiciliary remains, the grouping of the mounds and houses around plazas to form subcommunities, and the presence of the woodhenges interpreted to represent agricultural calendars.

Cahokia can be understood only with reference to a surrounding complex of satellite towns, ceremonial centers, and associated farmsteads scattered throughout the America Bottoms on the east bank of the Mississippi River. There is little doubt that this site and the adjacent American Bottoms area sustained one of the largest populations (and population densities) in prehistoric North America. Cahokia may have supported 40,000 people at its height. The site was thus the core of a prehistoric demographic and economic system representing an urban-suburban-rural cultural continuum. Strong evidence exists that Cahokia functioned as a major port-of-trade in the central Mississippi Valley. This site is as close as any site could be to being truly unique, and is of preeminent importance for studying man's major experiment in urbanism in prehistoric eastern North America.

### Prehistoric Chronology

The earliest occupation known at Cahokia dates from the Late Woodland Patrick phase at about 600-800 A.D. Pits into which posts were set remain in rectangular patterns at the site marking the houses from this period. Patrick

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Denny, Sidney G. and Theodore K. Frisbie, "Report of Archeological Reconnaissance in the Cahokia - I-255 Area," ms, carried out by Southern Illinois University for Illinois Department of Transportation, August 1975.
- Fowler, Melvin L., ed., Explorations into Cahokia Archeology, Illinois Archeological Survey, Bulletin 7, Urbana, 1973

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 4,000 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	75,7	6,7,0	4,28,4	4,6,0	B	1,5	75,7	8,6,0	4,28,05	1,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C	1,5	75,3	0,5,0	4,28,03	0,10	D	1,5	75,2	8,9,0	4,28,04	3,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Refer to the USGS map for a clarification of the boundary description. Beginning at a point on the north section line of Sec. 34, T.3 N., R.9 W. approximately .6 mi. east of the northwest corner of Sec. 34, the boundary proceeds east approximately 2.37 mi., then south approximately 1.49 mi., then in a general southwestern direction approximately 1.49 mi. to a point at the intersection of the northern edge of Harding Ditch with the northern right-of-way of Forest

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Illinois	17	Madison	119
Illinois	17	St. Clair	163

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

verbatim extracts from preliminary draft by L. Aten and J. Bond, NPS, 3/26/74

NAME/TITLE

Francine Weiss, Archeologist, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

9/17/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL XX

STATE     

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

**NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**

Designated: 7/19/74

date

TITLE

DATE

Boundary Certified: 10-22-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Chief Hist. & Arch. Surveys

date

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**

Chief Hist. & Arch. Surveys

date

Handwritten signatures and dates in a box, including "Francine Weiss" and "10-22-75".

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In any event, the town plan was regular following the north/south-east/west rectilinear pattern defined by the axes formed by the ridgetop mounds. The other mounds were in clusters and formed various plaza areas scattered throughout the site. The main area of housing occurred along an east-west ridge running through the site. In some areas, patterns of land utilization changed whereby a residential area became a public use area at one time and then later reverted back to residences. The houses were spaced at regular intervals with several to an acre. Rectangular in plan, they were of pole and thatch construction and were often superimposed. Within the larger city were many smaller subcommunities.

During the 12th century, a timber palisade was built around the central portion of the site encircling Monks Mound and some of the other smaller earthworks. The palisade, composed of an estimated 15,000 logs, was first discovered on aerial photographs and later confirmed by excavation. Originally, the structure had circular bastions but the three later modifications and reconstructions had rectangular bastions. The palisade has been interpreted to represent a fortification or a structure separating an inner, possibly elitist, area from the commonly accessible zones at the site.

Several other features of interest at Cahokia include nine borrow pits, the largest of which was 17 acres, from which the baskets full of earth were taken for the mound construction. Several large circles of upright timbers were also identified from post holes at the site; these structures have been interpreted as "woodhenges" or agricultural calendars used to observe solstices, equinoxes, and other astronomical events.

History of Excavations

Cahokia was first occupied by Europeans in 1809 when the central portion of the site was affirmed to Nicholas Jarrott who in turn donated it to a group of Trappist monks. The monks used the land for 4 years until hardships forced them to reconvey it to Jarrott. In 1831, a Mr. Amos Hill purchased the property and built his house on top of Monks Mound. From 1866 until its purchase by the State in 1923 for a state park, the site was owned by Thomas Ramey.

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Jean Marie Brackenridge gave the first serious attention to the site in 1813 in a letter to Thomas Jefferson. A visit by Major Stephen Long to the site in 1819 resulted in a map of the mounds. Early illustrations of Monks Mound such as the one by Featherstonaugh from 1834/1835 provide archeologists with knowledge of the 19th century condition of the structure. During the late 1800's, excavations were conducted by local archeologists and amateurs, notably William McAdams and Dr. J. Francis Snyder. During this time period, Dr. R. J. R. Patrick, in cooperation with a local engineer, made a map of the entire site. Now housed in the Missouri Historical Library in St. Louis, this invaluable research tool was the first accurate map of the site and gave detailed locations of the mounds plus sections showing their elevations.

In the 1920's, intensive archeological examination of Cahokia conducted by Warren K. Moorehead began under the auspices of the Illinois State Museum and the University of Illinois. Moorehead's work, as well as the work of a colleague Dr. M. Leighton, who established that Monks Mound was definitely man-made, was a great contributing factor toward urging the purchase of the site by the State.

Excavation at the site in the early 1930's was carried out by the Illinois State Museum, Milwaukee Public Museum, University of Chicago, and the University of Illinois and was concentrated in the western portion of the site in and near the Powell Mound which was being destroyed by the landowner. Dr. P. F. Titterington, an amateur in the area, kept records of any excavations in the late 1930's, and in the early 1940's Harriet Smith was in charge of a WPA project concentrating on the excavation of Murdock Mound, scheduled for destruction because of the construction of a subdivision.

The first aerial photographs of Cahokia were flown in the early 1920's and were probably the first such photos for any archeological site in the United States. A second set, also from the early 1920's, is housed in the Illinois State Museum while a third set taken in 1933 provides excellent stereo coverage and is housed in the Office of Anthropology at the Smithsonian.

In the early 1950's, the University of Michigan resumed intensive investigations at Cahokia with excavation in Mound 34 and near Mound 42 under the direction of James Griffin and Albert Spaulding. In 1956 the Thomas Gilcrease Foundation sponsored excavation in the area east of Monks Mound. Washington University conducted excavations at Cahokia, primarily in the Kunneman Mound Group, in the late 1950's under the supervision of Preston Holder. In 1960 construction of a store which would level Mounds 30 and 31 prompted test excavations for the salvage of data by Joseph Caldwell sponsored by the Illinois State Museum.

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In 1960, a cooperative program of the Illinois State Museum, the University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, and the Illinois Archeological Survey with the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads and the State of Illinois Division of Highways provided a great impetus to the investigations at Cahokia. The academic institutions were in charge of salvaging the data which could potentially be destroyed by the construction of Interstate Highway 55/70. Houses, pits, residential features, and woodhenges were recovered as a result of this cooperative salvage work. The analysis of much of this data was funded by the National Science Foundation during 1962-64.

From 1964-1966 Washington University conducted solid core testing on Monks Mound and discerned that it was built in a series of 14 stages. For many years, the University of Illinois under Charles Bareis has conducted field schools which concentrate on the peripheries of the site and on special projects such as the excavation of Mound 51. The State of Illinois has purchased large areas of the site and has financed investigations coordinated by a committee of archeologists appointed by the Illinois State Museum. The State has explored portions of Monks Mound, a palisade area, and other features.

In 1965, the Cahokia Archeological Project was formed and with National Science Foundation grants has continued in the late 1960's/early 1970's to decipher the Cahokia Site. A detailed map of the site using aerial photogrammetry was made; and extensive photographic and archival records for the site were collected. Portions of the palisade and portions to the west of Monks Mound as well as parts of the mound itself were examined. Mapping, surveying, and surface collecting were all part of this extensive project. As of the summer of 1975, excavations have continued in a Mississippian residential area of the western part of the site under Charles Bareis and in a part of the site east of Monks Mound which should provide evidence for an extension of the palisade. Archeological reconnaissance was also conducted by Southern Illinois University for the Illinois Department of Transportation during 1975 to help determine the southeastern limits of the site.

The accompanying map B gives the locations of the excavations at Cahokia since 1950. Fowler's 1974 publication, from which map B is taken, provides a detailed account of the history of investigations and a complete bibliography.

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Present Condition

At the present time, about 650 of the approximately 4000 acres of the landmark are owned by the State of Illinois. Approximately 40 of the remaining mounds are on this State property while another 40 or 50 are privately owned. Of the more than 100 mounds, some have been nearly obliterated by cultivation over the years and others have been destroyed by the expansion of the urban environment.

The State-owned portions of the landmark are well-maintained and utilized as a park with picnic areas and other facilities. A portion of the palisade has been reconstructed. A museum staffed by professional archeologists serves as an interpretive center for the site but does not contribute to the intrinsic national significance of the landmark. Experimentation in the construction of Mississippian-type houses and in the adoption by students of the lifestyle of the former inhabitants is also being sponsored by the State.

Numerous intrusions in the form of roads, levees, and contemporary residential and commercial developments presently exist within the limits of the prehistoric urban core delimited by the landmark boundaries. Many of these intrusions are relatively superficial. Although several mounds have been damaged, many are merely truncated, and the mound stubs remain for investigation and possibly for restoration. Most contemporary structures are erected on concrete slabs, leaving the subsurface archeology undisturbed; relatively few basements, pools, ditches, etc. have been constructed. The most permanent intrusions are Interstate 55/70 and the railroad right-of-way.



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phase materials have been recovered below the eastern margin of Monks Mound and at the western extremity of the Cahokia settlement.

For some reason, around 900 A.D. mound building began. The Late Woodland people in the area appear to have adopted Mississippian culture. The 150 years from 900 - 1050 A.D., called the Fairmont phase, exhibit the typically Mississippian traits of mound construction, elaborate burials and sharp social stratification. Soil cores of Monks Mound indicate that its construction was probably begun during this period; and dates from the large post pit beneath Mound 72 place the beginnings of its construction at 925 - 1055 A.D. The city was probably planned at this time, and the earliest woodhenge at the site is also of the Fairmont phase.

The Fairmont phase was succeeded by the Stirling phase which dates from 1050 - 1150 A.D. The first stockade with its circular bastions may have been begun during this period. The town continued to grow, and by 1100 A.D., both the first and fourth terraces of Monks Mound are known to have had buildings on them.

The Moorehead phase, which began about 1150 A.D. and lasted for 100 years, represents the highest development of the Mississippian at Cahokia, which may have had a population of 40,000 during this period. Much construction occurred at the site including the remodeling of the bastions and the reconstruction and repair of the palisade. The last of the woodhenges dates from this period.

An era of declining activity called the Sand Prairie phase began about 1250 A.D. and lasted until 1500 A.D. Although Murdock Mound is known to have had a structure on its top at this time (1270 - 1470 A.D.), the general impression from excavations is one of a gradual decline at Cahokia. An unnamed phase from 1500 - 1700 A.D. exhibits a general continuation of this decline. During the 18th century, local Indians occasionally buried their dead in some of the Cahokia mounds, but there is no record of any occupation.

Experiment in Urbanism

Archeological work at Cahokia has been ultimately directed at explaining the processes which led to the rise and fall of an urban center such as Cahokia. Fowler (1975) suggests that increased population and a rise in agricultural productivity (perhaps as a result of the replacement of the digging stick by

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the hoe and a type of maize more suitable to the Midwest) may have provided the increased population densities and stimulated the urbanism. Fowler further suggests that competition for farmland may have given impetus to the evolution of social controls and social hierarchies necessary for the large-scale construction of the town and so evident in the elaborate burials such as the ones in Mound 72.

Cahokia was well-suited for its role as an urban center. It is located on some of the best agricultural land in the area, and water sources (lakes, sloughs, and rivers) give it access to the rest of American Bottoms as well as to distant regions. As Fowler points out, the site was a central place to exploit the resources of the hinterland and to dominate trade in exotic goods. Trade goods found at the site serve to illustrate this point and include black chert from the Ozarks, copper from the Lake Superior region, mica from North Carolina, salt from southern Illinois or Missouri, lead from northern Illinois, and marine shells from the Gulf Coast. It has been suggested (Porter in Fowler, 1975) that control of trade played an essential role in the rise of Cahokia's importance and must be understood in an attempt to relate the site to the other smaller settlements and farming communities in American Bottoms.

The reasons for the decline of activity at Cahokia present something more of an enigma. The exhaustion of local resources along with competition from some of the smaller centers of Mississippian culture may have played a role in this decline. Although some Mississippian traits were evident at contact times among certain tribes such as the Natchez, Cahokia--the largest Mississippian center--was no longer active. An understanding of this urban experiment is one of the most intriguing problems facing archeologists in eastern North America.

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Fowler, Melvin L., "Cahokia: Ancient Capital of the Midwest," Addison-Wesley Module in Anthropology, No. 48, 1974.

Fowler, Melvin L., "A Pre-Columbia Urban Center on the Mississippi," Scientific American, v. 233, no. 2, pp. 92-101, 1975.

Moorehead, Warren K., "The Cahokia Mounds," University of Illinois Bull. vol. 26, no. 4, 1929.

Porter, James W., "The Mitchell Site and Prehistoric Exchange Systems at Cahokia: A.D. 1000-300," in Explorations into Cahokia Archeology, Melvin Fowler, ed., Illinois Archeological Survey, Bulletin 7, Urbana, 1973.

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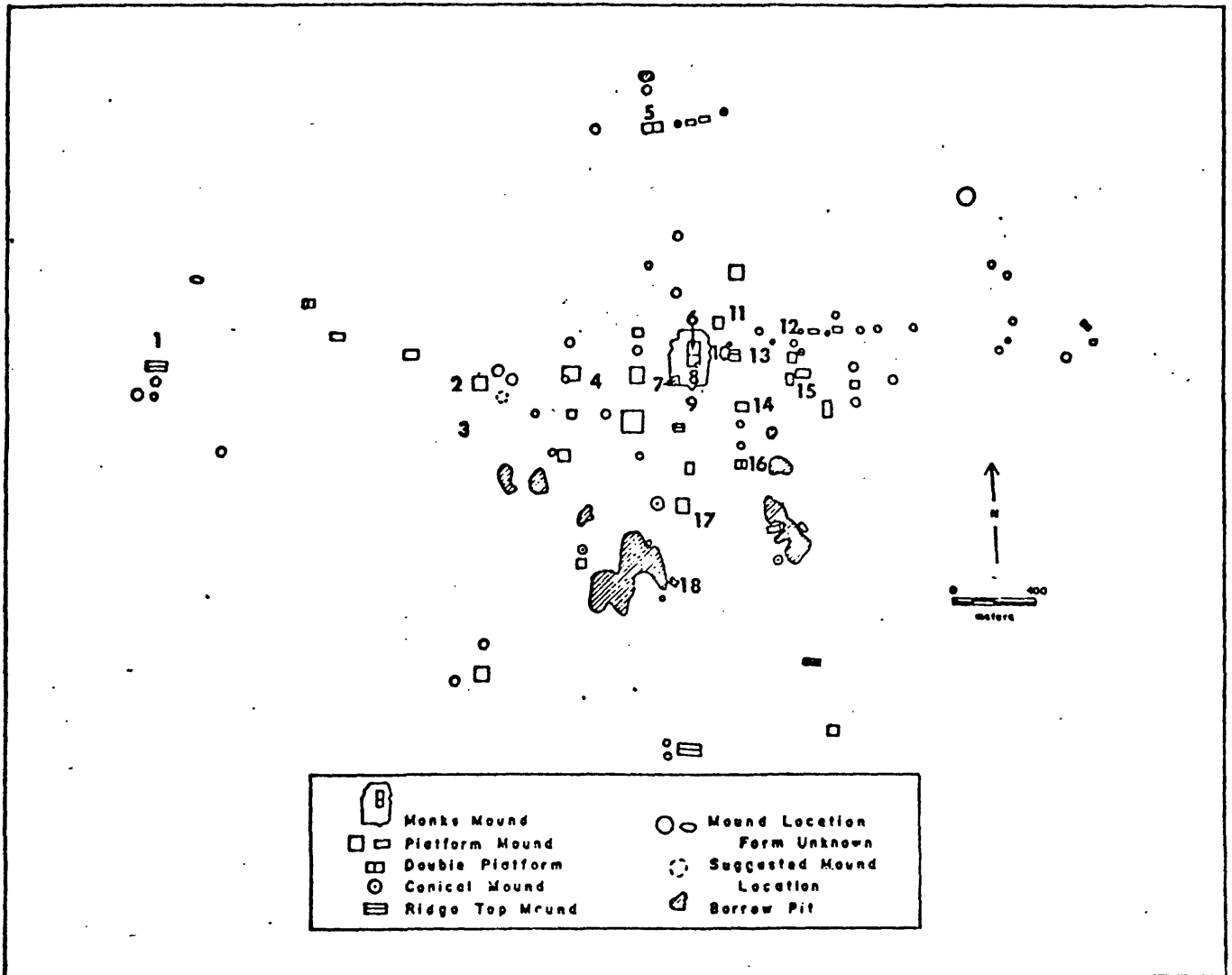
Cahokia Mounds

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Boulevard, then west approximately 1.35 miles along the northern right-of-way of Forest Blvd., then north approximately .53 mi. to the south section line of Sec. 3, T. 2N., R.9W., then in a general northwestern direction approximately .53 mi. to a point on the eastern right-of-way of Kingshighway approximately .15 mi. north of the southwest corner of said Sec. 3, then north approximately .95 mi. along the west section lines for Sect. 3, T.2 N., R.9 W., and Sec. 34, T.3 N., R.9 W., and then approximately 1.05 mi. in a general northeastern direction to the point of beginning.

The landmark boundary encloses the major site area of the urban center of Cahokia as determined by the present archeological evidence. The extent of the boundary at the southeast corner was determined after a careful survey by Denny and Frisbie of Southern Illinois University (1975). This survey was initiated as a result of coordination between the Illinois Department of Transportation, archeologists working at Cahokia, Rex Wilson and Larry Aten of the Interagency Archeological Services (Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation) and the Historic Sites Survey. Concern that the value of the archeological resources in the southeastern corner of Cahokia be established before a final boundary determination led to negotiations by Wilson and Aten with the Illinois Department of Transportation and resulted in an agreement by the State Transportation Department to fund the much needed survey work. After an evaluation of the survey, the general consensus of opinion was that, although some sites did exist outside of the present boundary, they were of a limited nature and were not an integral part of the Cahokia site. The boundary was based only on the extent and nature of the archeological remains and not on any visual, auditory, or atmospheric considerations although these factors may be important to insure the ultimate preservation of a site such as Cahokia which is continually threatened by the encroachment of the urban environment on the prehistoric setting.



**FIG. 4**  
**A schematic map of the Cahokia site showing locations and forms of mounds and the location of the various areas that have been excavated since 1950.**

1. Powell Trace - University of Illinois-Urbana
2. Tract 15B - Illinois State Museum
3. Phase II Highway Salvage - University of Illinois-Urbana
4. Tract 15A and Merrell field - Illinois State Museum, Beloit College and University of Michigan
5. Kunneman Mound Group - Washington University
6. Fourth Terrace, Monks Mound - Washington University
7. Southwest Corner, First Terrace of Monks Mound - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
8. First Terrace of Monks Mound - University of Illinois-Urbana
9. South Ramp of Monks Mound - Washington University
10. East Lobes of Monks Mound - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
11. North area of Ramey field - University of Illinois-Urbana
12. Mound 34 and Ramey field - University of Michigan and Gilcrease Institute
13. Palisade area, Ramey field - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Illinois State Museum, and
14. Mound 51 - University of Illinois-Urbana

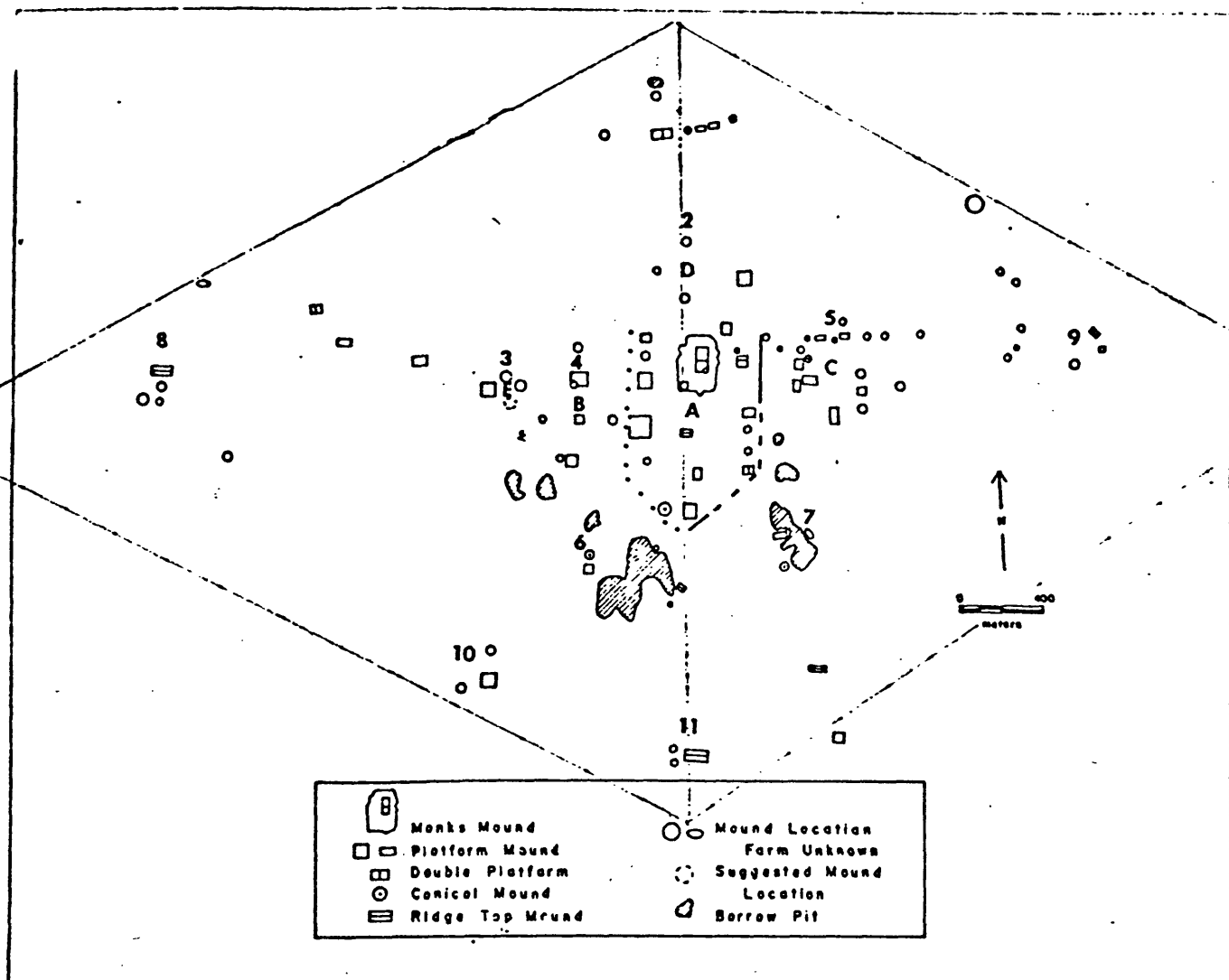


FIG. 7

A schematic map of the Cahokia site showing the interpretation of the community organization between 1050 and 1250 A. D. (Stirling and Moorhead Phases). The arabic numerals represent mound clusters or groupings and the letters label suggested plaza areas as follows:

Mound Groupings

1. Kunneman Group
2. North Group
3. Mound 44 Group
4. Merrell Group
5. Ramey Group
6. Twin Mound Group
7. Listerman Field Group
8. Powell Mound Group (West Group)
9. East Group
10. Roach Group
11. Rattlesnake Group

Plaza

- A. Main Plaza
- B. Merrell Plaza
- C. Ramey Plaza
- D. North Plaza
- E. Mound 44 Plaza

The lines around the Central Plaza (A) represent the palisade area; solid lines—area excavated; heavy dashed line—interpreted from aerial photographs; dotted line—postulated western palisade line.

Map D: From Fowler, M., "Cahokia: Ancient Capital of the Midwest,"  
Addison-Wesley, Module in Anthropology, No. 48, pp. 16-17, 1974.

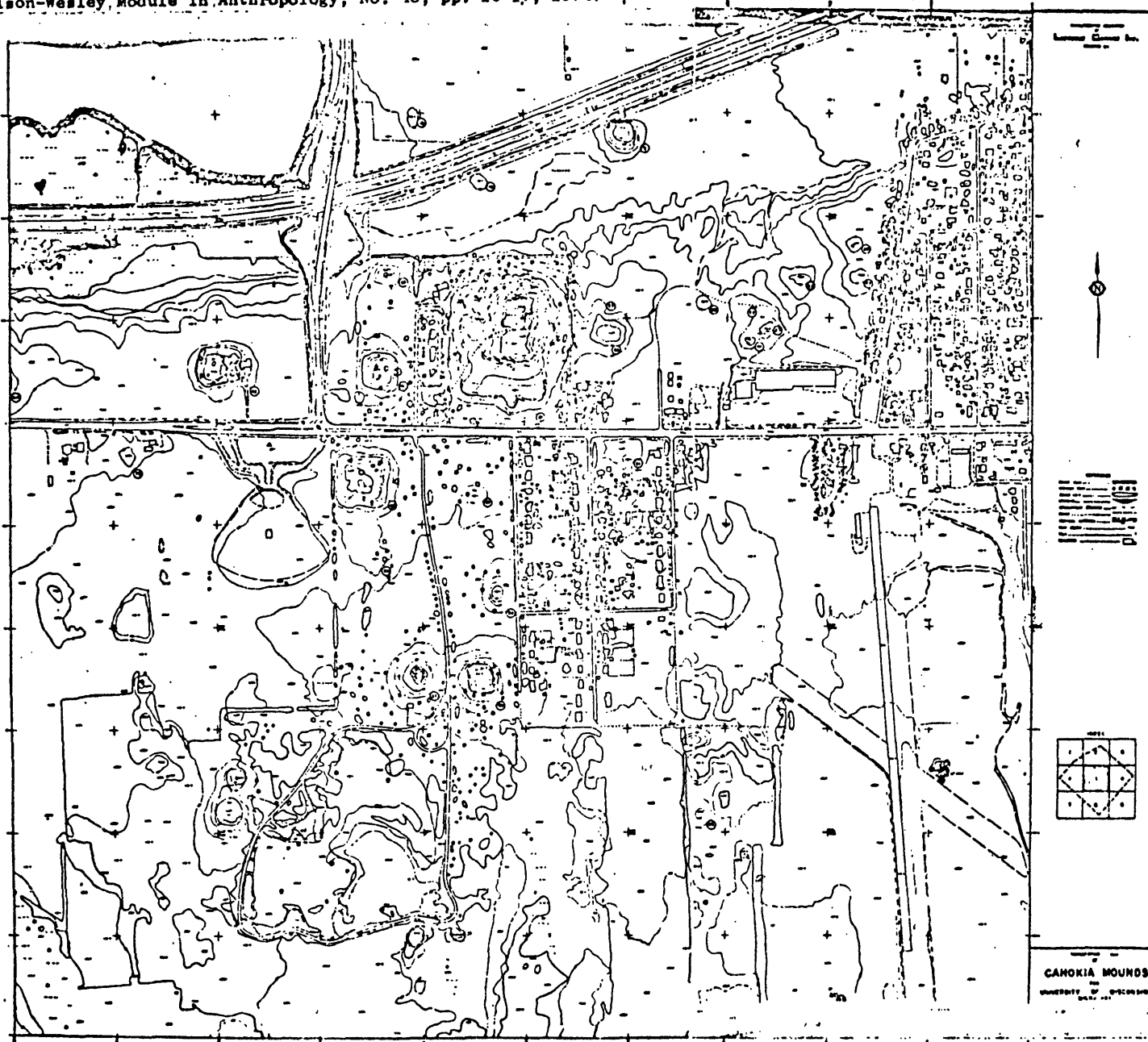


FIG. 5

A topographic map of the central four square kilometers of the Cahokia site. This map was prepared by aerial photogrammetry and has a contour interval of one meter. The numbers in circles are the mound numbers assigned by Moorhead (1929). Monks Mound (No. 38) is in the upper central portion of the map.