

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 18 1977  
NOV 30 1978  
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 Man Mound (47 Sk-27)  
AND/OR COMMON Man Mound Park

**2 LOCATION**

*E of Baraboo WI 53*  
STREET & NUMBER -This site is located on Man Mound road, 2.5 miles east of County  
Trunk Highway "T"

CITY, TOWN ~~Town of Greenfield~~ VICINITY OF City of Baraboo CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2nd  
STATE Wisconsin CODE 55 COUNTY Sauk CODE 111

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input 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 (Joint Ownership)**

NAME Sauk County Historical Society and Sauk County  
Mr. Gordon Willson, President Sauk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 133 11th Street  
CITY, TOWN Baraboo STATE Wisconsin 53913  
VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Sauk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Baraboo STATE Wisconsin 53913

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE 1976  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN Madison STATE Wisconsin 53706

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

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

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

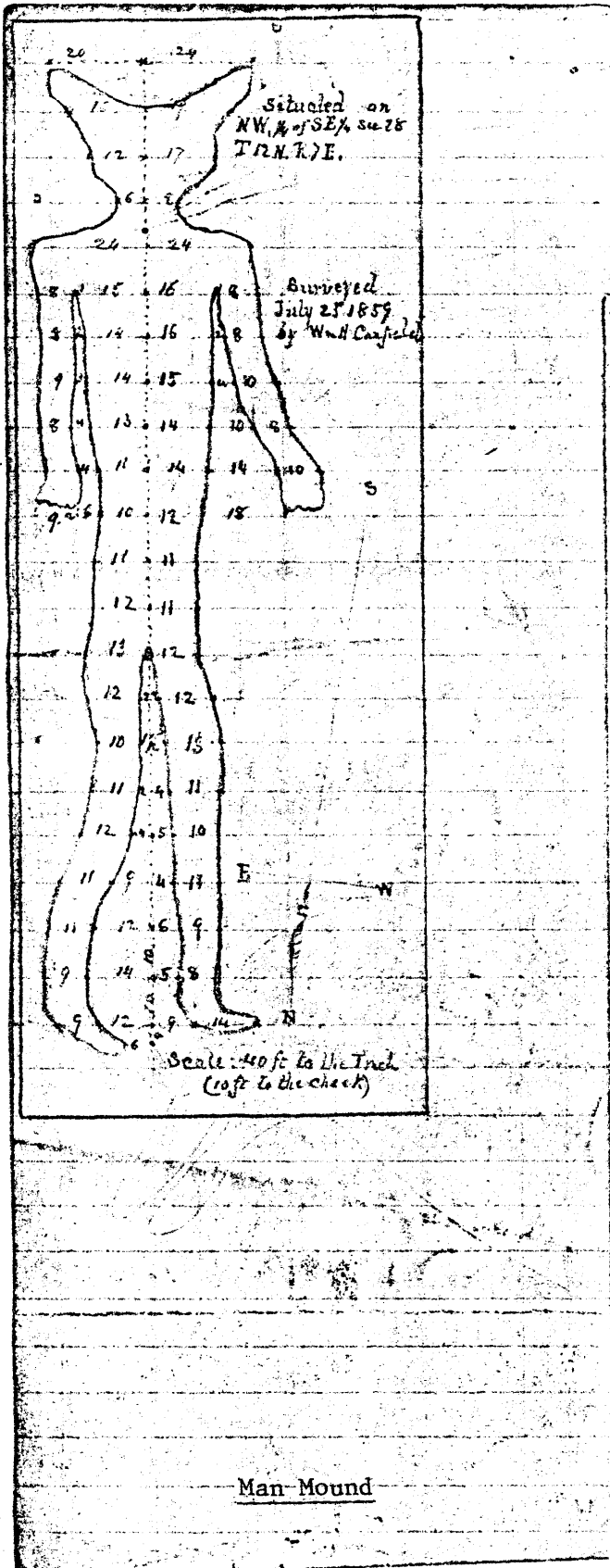
The Man Mound is located on the broad floodplain of an intermittent tributary of the Baraboo River. The mound, in the shape of a human figure, was originally discovered in 1859 by W. H. Canfield during a land survey. Canfield reported his discovery to Increase A. Lapham who published a brief report on the site entitled "Man-Shaped Mounds in Wisconsin" (1859: 365-368). According to Lapham the mound had the following appearance:

It represents, .... very clearly and decidedly, the human form, in the act of walking, and with an expression of boldness and decision which cannot be mistaken. The figure is no less than two hundred and fourteen feet in length; the head is thirty feet long, the body one hundred, and the legs eighty-four. The head lies towards the south, and the motion is westward. All the lines of this most singular effigy are curved gracefully, much care having been bestowed upon its construction. The head is ornamented with two projections or horns, giving a comical expression to the whole figure (1859: 365)." (See attached manuscript map by Canfield )

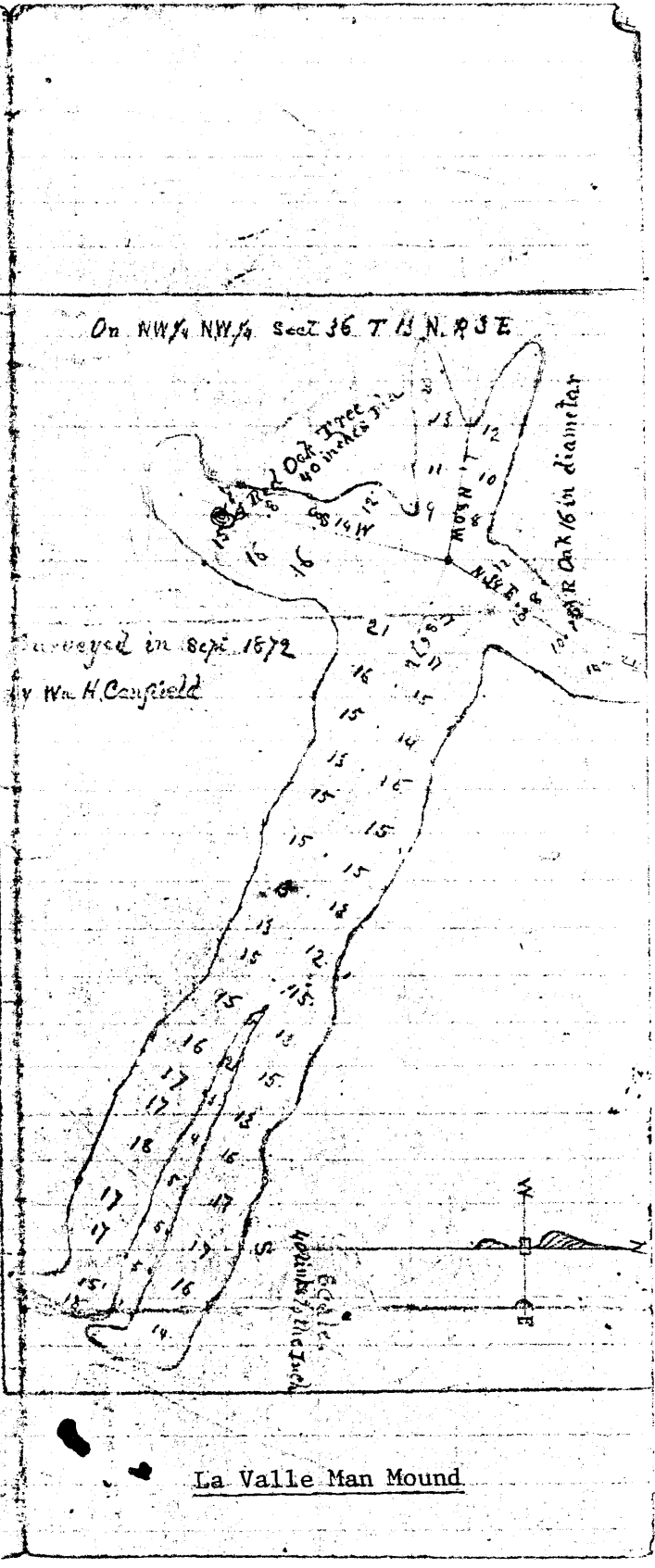
By 1905, a town road had been constructed across the mound, destroying most of the legs and feet -- the northernmost fifty feet of the mound. In 1907, the site and surrounding property were acquired by the Sauk County Historical Society and the Wisconsin Archeological Society and were dedicated as a park on August 8, 1908 (Brown 1906; 1908). (See attached map of site by A. B. Stout).

With the exception of the destruction of its legs sometime prior to 1905 the Man Mound remains as it was originally described by Lapham in 1859. The mound is approximately two and one-half feet high.

No professional archeological excavations have been undertaken in or near this site and there is no evidence of any nonprofessional excavations. With the exception of the brush and trees cleared from the mound and park area in 1908, the erection of a viewing platform (date unknown) and several other park improvements away from the mound itself, [see attached sketch map provided by the Sauk County Planning Commission] there are no other known alterations that have occurred at this site.

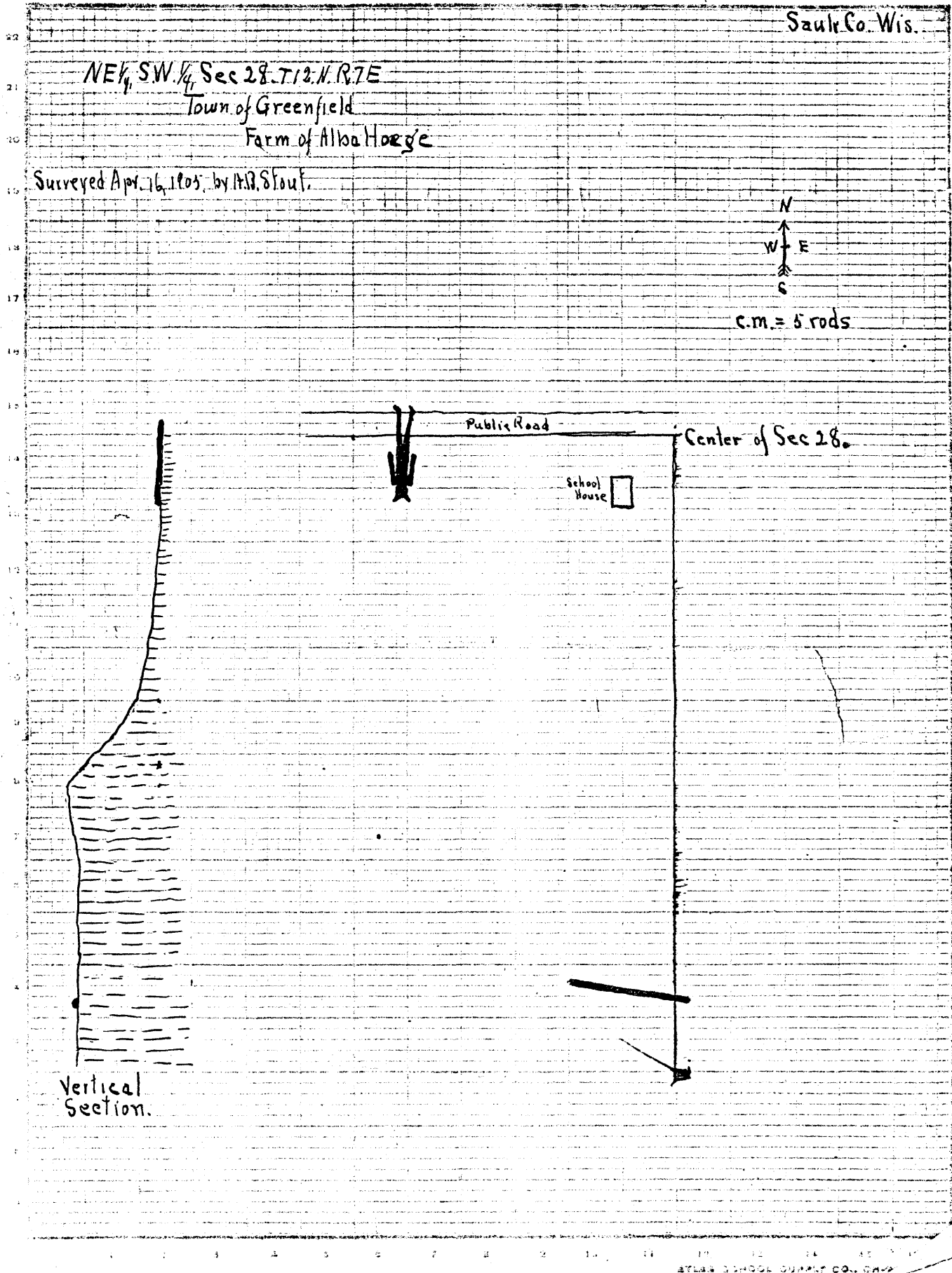


Man Mound



La Valle Man Mound

Copies by W. H. Canfield, of his original surveys of the Man Mound and the La Valle Man Mound.  
N.D. Charles E. Brown Manuscript Collection (Sauk County), State Historical Society of Wisconsin.



A. B. Stout. Map of Man Mound  
 1905 Charles E. Brown Manuscript Collection (Sauk County), Archives Division  
 State Historical Society of Wisconsin

# 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 checked="" 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of this site rests entirely in its sculptured form. Earth mounds constructed by the Effigy Mound Culture in Wisconsin (AD 700 to AD 1000) commonly represent various animals or linear and conical forms. Upon excavation, these mounds are usually found to contain human burials.

This human effigy mound is a rare example of effigy mound construction in Wisconsin and is the only remaining prehistoric monumental representation of the human form in the United States.

Based on an analysis of mythology and existing pictographs and petroglyphs, Peet (1898) speculated that the effigy mounds in Wisconsin were constructed by the ancestors of the Dakota Indians. Since certain mound types occur only in certain geographical areas and others appear to be clustered in certain areas, Peet felt that these represented various clan territories. This remains the most acceptable explanation for the distribution of effigy mounds.

Peet claimed that there were a total of fifteen human effigy mounds in the south-central Wisconsin area of Dane, Sauk and Columbia Counties. This figure cannot be verified by any of the documentation in his book, nor by the archeological site records and manuscript collections housed at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Doubtlessly, Peet fell prey to the common nineteenth century error of mistaking certain bird effigy forms for human forms.

The only documented human effigy mounds known in Wisconsin are the Man Mound and the La Valle Man Mound (Brown 1908: 140-141, Plate 3; see attached sketch by Canfield). The La Valle Man Mound was obliterated by agricultural activity in the late nineteenth century.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Brown, Charles E. 1906, "The desired purchase and preservation of the celebrated Man Mound," Wisconsin Archeologist, 6(2): 45-46.
- Brown, Charles E. 1908, "The preservation of the Man Mound," Wisconsin Archeologist, 7(4): 139-154.
- Brown, Charles E., Manuscript Collections (Sauk County), Archives Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA *approximately .3 acre - see 11-20-78 phone report.*

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.78 acres  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 6	2, 8, 4, 0, 2, 0	4, 8, 1, 8, 3, 3, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property coincide with those of the Man Mound Park.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard W. Dexter, Archeologist

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Division  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

January 3, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-2732

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Richard W. Dexter*

TITLE Acting Director  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 5/14/77

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles Abner*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST *Mary B. Franklin*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-30-78  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE 11-24-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET 3 ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

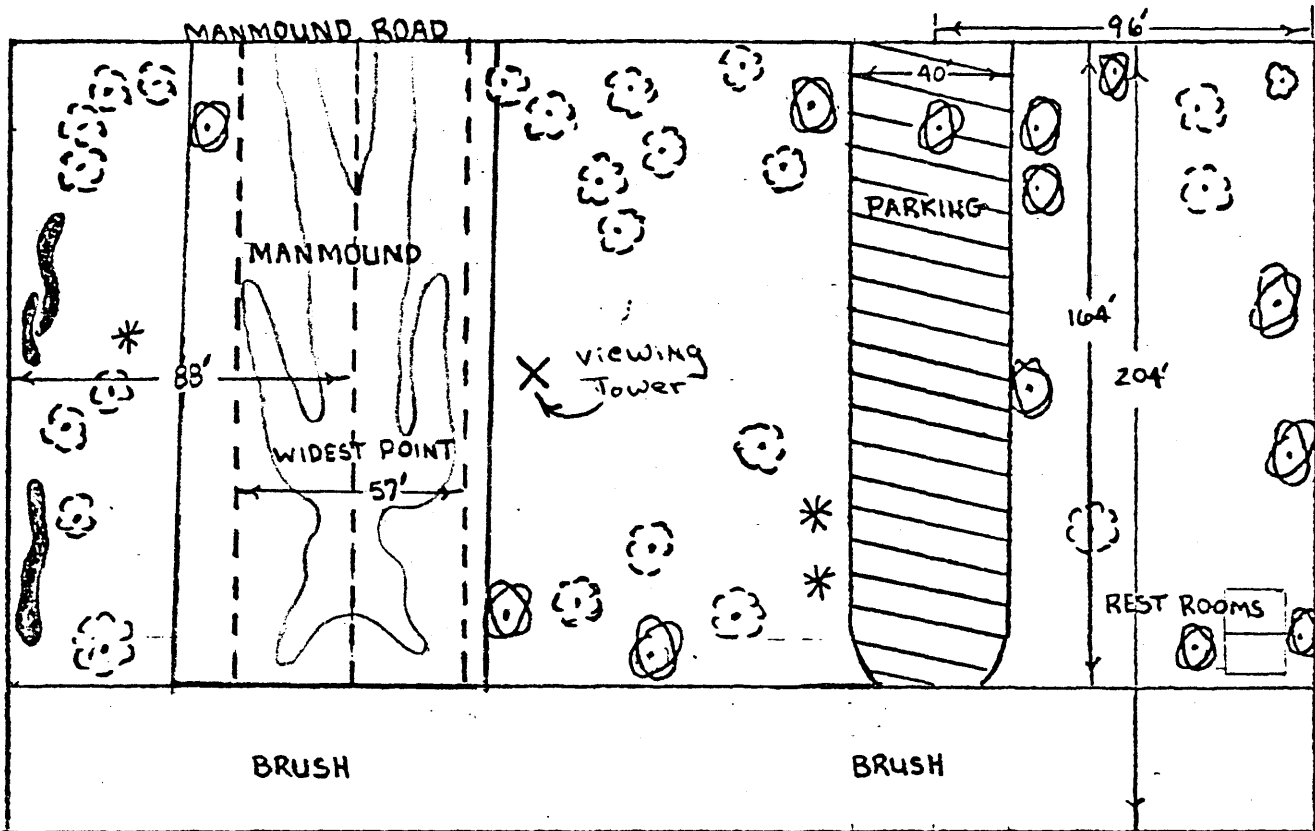
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Lapham, Increase A. 1859, "Man-shaped mounds in Wisconsin," Wisconsin Historical Collections, 4: 365-368.

Peet, Stephen D. 1898, Prehistoric America, Vol. II. Emblematic mounds and animal effigies, Chicago: American Antiquarian Office.

Stout, A. B. 1906, "Summary of the archaeology of eastern Sauk County, Wisconsin," Wisconsin Archeologist 5(2): 246-247.

# MANMOUND COUNTY PARK



Scale 1"=50' Approximate

Drawing of man mound is free hand.

-  cedar rail fence
-  PARKING AREA
-  TREES (EXISTING)
-  TREES To be planted
-  Conifers To be planted
-  Sumac To be planted

This sketch provided by  
the Sauk County Planning Department.