

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

((NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS))

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Ohio
COUNTY: Licking
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Newark Earthworks (Mound Builders State Memorial, Octagon State Memorial, Wright Earthworks)

AND/OR HISTORIC: Newark Earthworks

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Union Street, 30th Street and State Route 16, James and Waldo Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Newark CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Seventeenth

STATE: Ohio CODE: 39 COUNTY: Licking CODE: 089

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>golf course</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Ohio Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: State Historical Center, I-71 at 17th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Columbus STATE: Ohio CODE: 39

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Licking County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Newark STATE: Ohio CODE: 39

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Ohio
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Newark Earthworks are situated in the City of Newark between the South Fork of the Licking River and Raccoon Creek. They originally covered an area of over 2 square miles and consisted of three main groups of circular and rectangular or octagonal structures connected by series of long, parallel earthen walls. Included both inside and outside of these works were much smaller circular forms and numerous mounds. The accompanying map A illustrates the extent and magnitude of these earthen structures as they existed in 1848 when Squier and Davis conducted an extensive survey of Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley.

The expansion of the City of Newark, however, has obliterated large portions of the walls and many of the mounds. Fortunately, two important sections of the earthworks remained intact and are now preserved by the State of Ohio as Octagon State Memorial containing 120 acres and Mound Builders State Memorial containing 66 acres. Also evident at the present time and preserved by the State is an area known as the Wright Earthworks, containing less than one acre. On map A, these intact areas are encircled and labeled in red.

In Octagon State Memorial Park, parallel walls, about 300 feet in length and 60 feet apart, join a huge, nearly regular octagon, which encloses 50 acres, to a circular embankment, which encloses 20 acres. There are openings in the octagon at each of its eight angles. Within the octagon, opposite the openings, are small mounds. Opposite the entrance to the circle and on a direct line with the parallel walls, the height of the embankment increases by about 6 feet and the width doubles. Now called Observatory Mound, this elevated section enables one to view the entire 70-acre area. Outside the octagon along its southeastern edge, a small circle and remains of the once extensive parallel wall system are evident.

Octagon State Memorial presently operates as a golf course. Sand traps and other aspects unique to golfing dot the landscape and destroy some of the sense of awe and mystery which the ancient structures might otherwise evoke. Several buildings, mainly associated with this recreational enterprise, and a road and parking lot next to the earthworks are included within the landmark boundaries but are intrusive and extraneous to the landmark.

Mound Builders Memorial Park contains a circular structure which encloses an area of about 26 acres. A ditch, about 7 feet deep and 35 feet wide, follows along the interior of the circle and probably represents the "borrow area" for the earth used in the mound construction. About 1200 feet in diameter, the earthwork ranges from 8-14 feet in height. In the center of this circle lies the Eagle Effigy Mound, so-named because of its supposed likeness to a bird in flight. Although this mound was excavated in 1928 by the Ohio State Museum and found to be devoid of burials, Dr. Raymond Baby, State Archeologist of Ohio, stated in 1959 that the so-called "eagle" was actually three burial mounds. Portions of parallel walls about 80 feet apart extend out from an opening in the circle for about 100 feet.

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |                                       |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century             | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) approximately 300-B.C. - 250 A.D.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |  |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic               | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Newark Earthworks represent some of the best remaining evidence for the masterful construction of large geometric structures by the Hopewell Indians. Located in Newark, Ohio, the works are situated in the focal area for Hopewell culture. Originally among the largest and most complicated of prehistoric Hopewellian earthen structures, the Newark group probably covered an area of about 2 square miles and consisted of circular and rectangular or octagonal works connected by series of parallel walls. Included both inside and outside of these works were numerous mounds and many smaller circular forms. Although many of these structures have been destroyed by the expansion of the City of Newark, the three remaining portions, now operating as Ohio State Memorial Parks, give modern man an idea of the amount of planning and effort which must have gone into the development of this complex, large-scale building program.

Discussion

Aside from the digs conducted by the Ohio State Historical Society in the late 1920's, Newark Earthworks have not been extensively excavated by professional archeologists. Nevertheless, the geometric earthworks and the artifacts from the site are known to be typically Hopewell.

Evidence for Hopewell occupation exists in southern Ohio from about 300 B. C. to 250 A.D. Although the Hopewell culture may have originated in Illinois, it appears to have evolved into its classic form in Ohio. Hopewell influence extends as far east as Pennsylvania and New York, as far south as Louisiana and northern Florida, as far west as central Kansas, and as far north as Michigan and Wisconsin. Although the sites in these regions exhibit many variations, they can easily be identified by diagnostic Hopewell artifacts: platform pipes; long, unused points, sometimes ceremonially broken; corner-notched points; mica cut-outs; copper bracelets, breast plates, and ear spools; and grit-tempered pottery. The diagnostic Hopewell pottery is a squat vessel with a somewhat constricted neck, a diagonally hatched or cross-hatched rim, and incised and rocker stamped designs--often of birds and serpents--on the body.

(Continued)

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Squier, E. G. and Davis, E. H., Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley, Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, Vol. 1, 1848.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	UTM 17.376220.	4435230		0	0	
NE	0 17.378660.	4433920				
SE	0 17.378140.	4432810				
SW	0 17.376070.	4433100				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **190 acres (3 sections)**

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:  
**Francine Weiss, Staff Archeologist, Landmark Review Project**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service**      DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1100 L Street NW.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **D.C.**      CODE: **11**

**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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) **Landmark**

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation **Designated July 19, 1964**

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) **Boundary Certified**

Date **9/25/75**

ATTEST: **Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys**      date \_\_\_\_\_

**Boundary Affirmed:**

Keeper of The National Register **9/25/75**

Date \_\_\_\_\_      **Director, OAHN**      date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Ohio	
COUNTY	
Licking	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1)

Newark Earthworks

Several buildings associated with park functions, including a museum, a residence, two shelter houses, and a garage and workshop, along with an entry road and a parking lot, fall within the landmark boundaries. These modern structures are intrusions, for the landmark includes only the remnants of the aboriginal works.

The third remaining section of the ancient structures, the Wright Earthworks, includes a small portion of what was once one side of a parallel wall earthwork connected to a large square. The square, now destroyed except for this remnant at the intersection of James and Waldo Streets, was probably an important feature of the original earthworks.

Other than limited excavation by the Ohio State Museum in the 1920's, little professional archeological work has been done on the Newark Earthworks. Prior to their acquisition by the State of Ohio, these three areas were probably heavily looted by pot-hunters and relic-collectors, but the State has fortunately checked this problem insuring that the mounds and artifacts will no longer be disturbed or destroyed.

Boundary

The landmark is in three sections: Mound Builders State Memorial, Octagon State Memorial, and Wright Earthworks. For the Moundbuilders and Octagon sections, the landmark boundary follows the boundary lines of the State Park property as shown on the accompanying maps B, C, and D. The boundary for the Wright Earthworks, however, differs slightly from the state property line as shown by the red line on map E and the black line on map B. Beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of James Street with the 12-foot alley north of the intersection of James and Waldo Streets, the boundary for this section of the landmark follows east 150 feet along the south side of the 12-foot alley to its intersection with the 16-foot alley, then south 248 feet along the west side of the 16-foot alley to the northern boundary of the property of Marion Paulson, then west 150 feet along this property line to its intersection with James Street, then north along the east side of James Street 248 feet to the point of beginning. The landmark boundaries are based on present knowledge of archeological remains in the area under study.

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(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS), (Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Ohio
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(Number all entries)

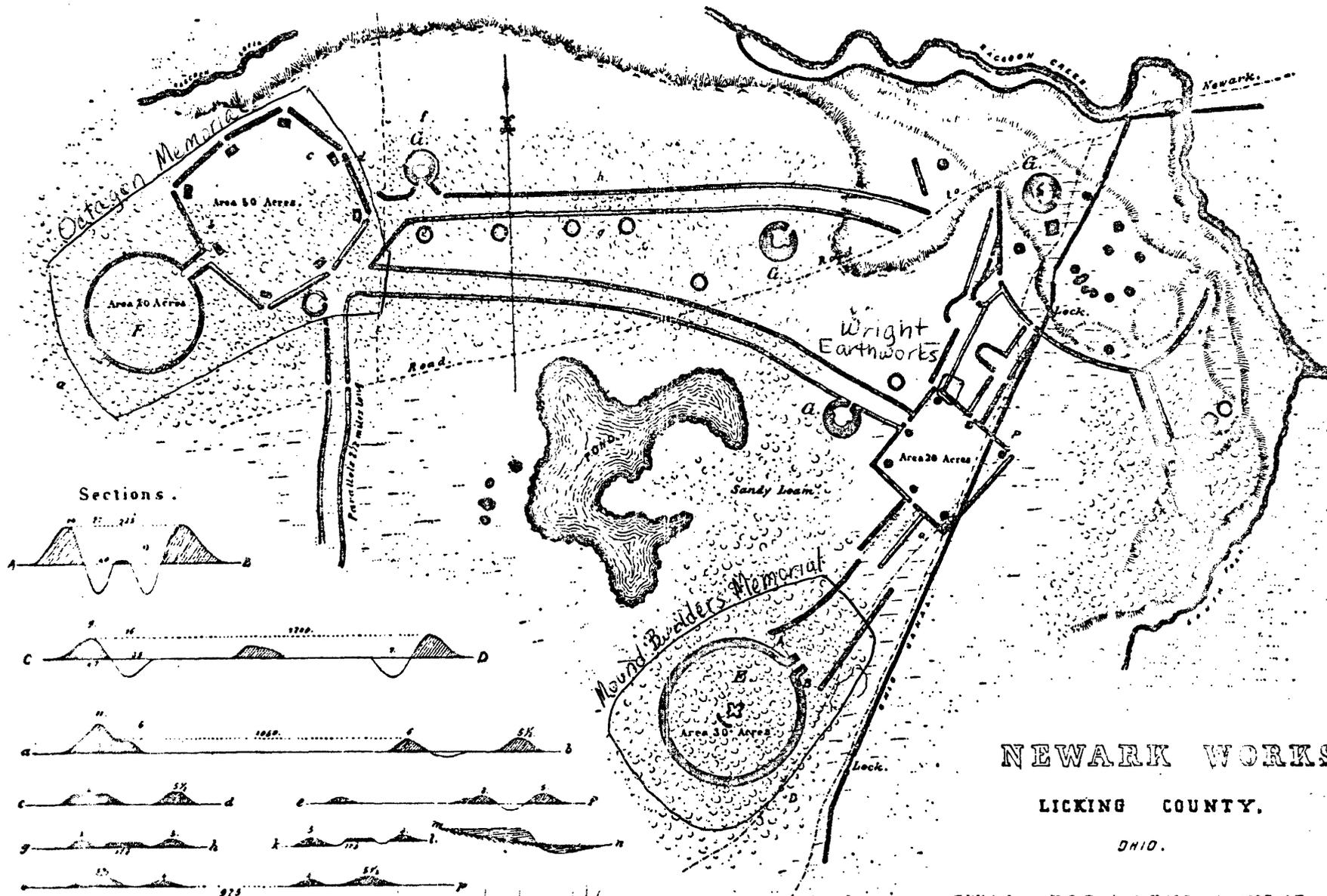
8. Statement of Significance: (1) Newark Earthworks

The Hopewell established extensive trading systems throughout much of what is now the United States. They utilized obsidian from the Rocky Mountains, shells from the Gulf Coast, copper from the Lake Superior region, and mica from the Allegheny Mountains in the Carolinas. These exotic materials were fashioned into ornaments and designs including copper breast plates and ear spools; mica cut-outs; and long, unused blades, often ceremonially broken. These artifacts--exhibiting the high quality craftsmanship typical of Hopewell--are often found in the graves in large quantities. Archeologists generally agree that they have some ceremonial significance.

Hopewell burials were generally conducted in wooden-post buildings--chapel houses--which were eventually burned. Most of the Hopewell dead were cremated, while about one-quarter--perhaps the distinguished minority--were placed in log tombs in an extended position. The graves, which included a large number of grave goods, were then covered with mounds of dirt.

Also diagnostic of the Hopewell culture are the geometric earthworks, such as those at Newark, associated with burial mounds. Used for religious, social, or ceremonial purposes, these structures imply a high degree of social organization among the Hopewell; for the extent and magnitude of the structures indicate that a sizeable work force was gathered together to build them.

Aside from the inference of some strong cohesive force--probably either political or religious--and vigorous trade along with a rich aesthetic tradition, little is known about the Hopewell. They probably lived in relatively permanent villages and subsisted by hunting, fishing, gathering and some farming. Relatively few Hopewell villages sites have been located; for until recently, attention was focused on the large "ceremonial centers" such as the one at Newark.



NEWARK WORKS

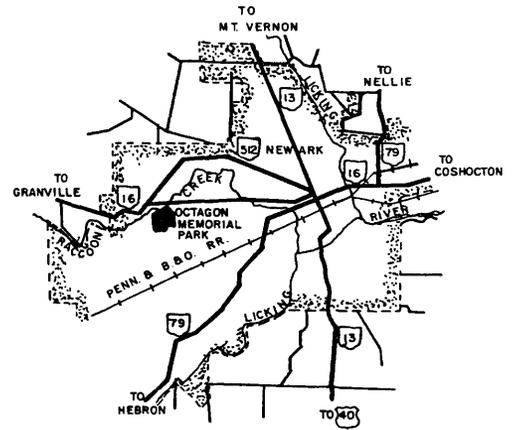
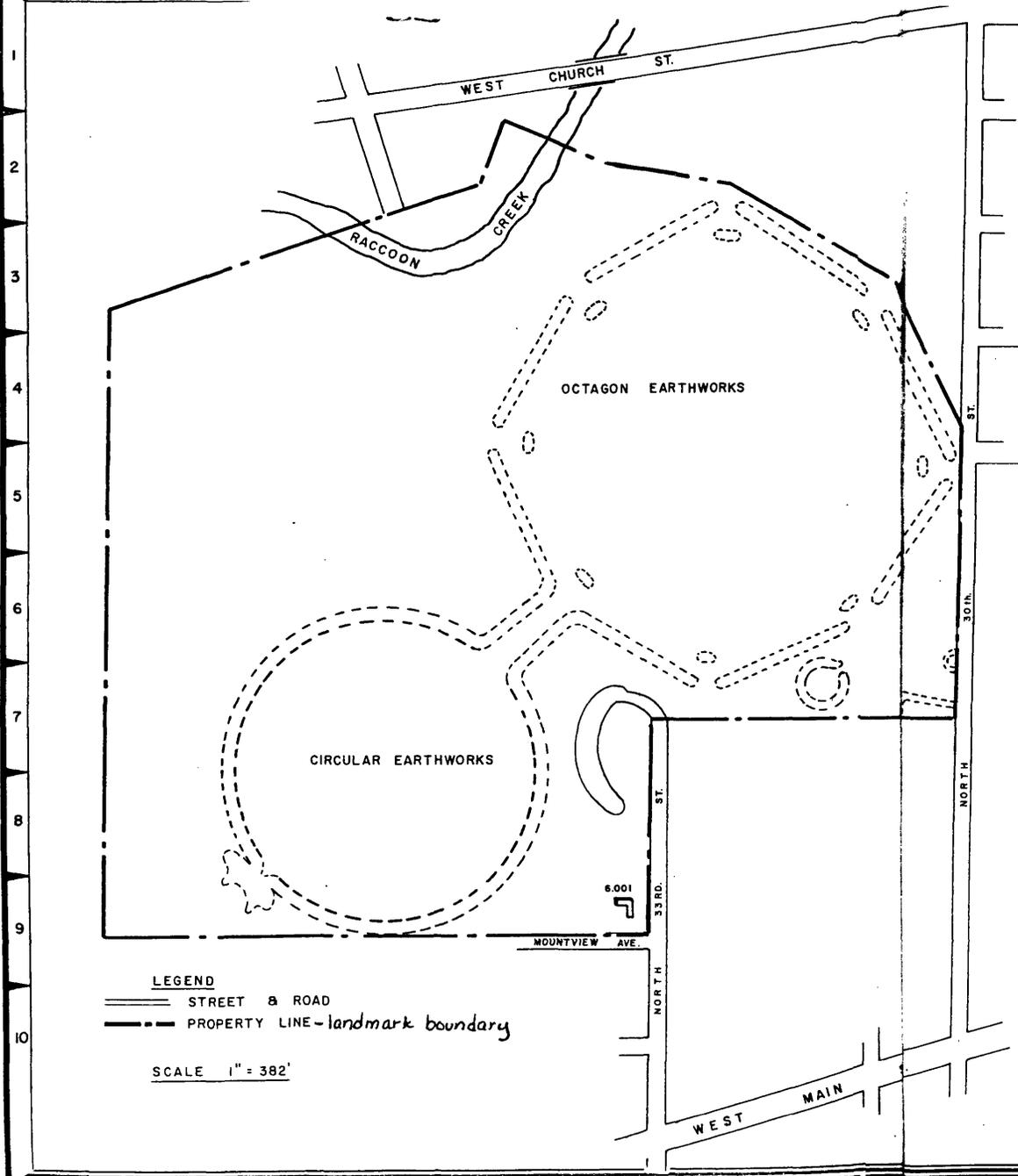
LICKING COUNTY,

OHIO.

C. Whittlesey, F. G. Squier & E. H. Davis 1837-47.

— Areas in red are included within landmark boundaries. They are all that remain of the more extensive earthworks.

This map of the original Newark Earthworks is reproduced from E. G. Squier and E. H. Davis, *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley* (1848). The octagon and circle marked "F" in the upper left-hand corner, the Great Circle and effigy marked "E" in the lower center, and a section of the twenty-acre square northeast of the Great Circle are preserved as state memorials by the Ohio Historical Society.



VICINITY MAP



LEGEND

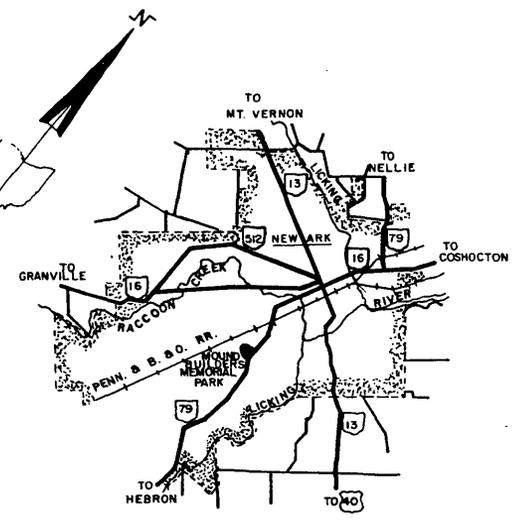
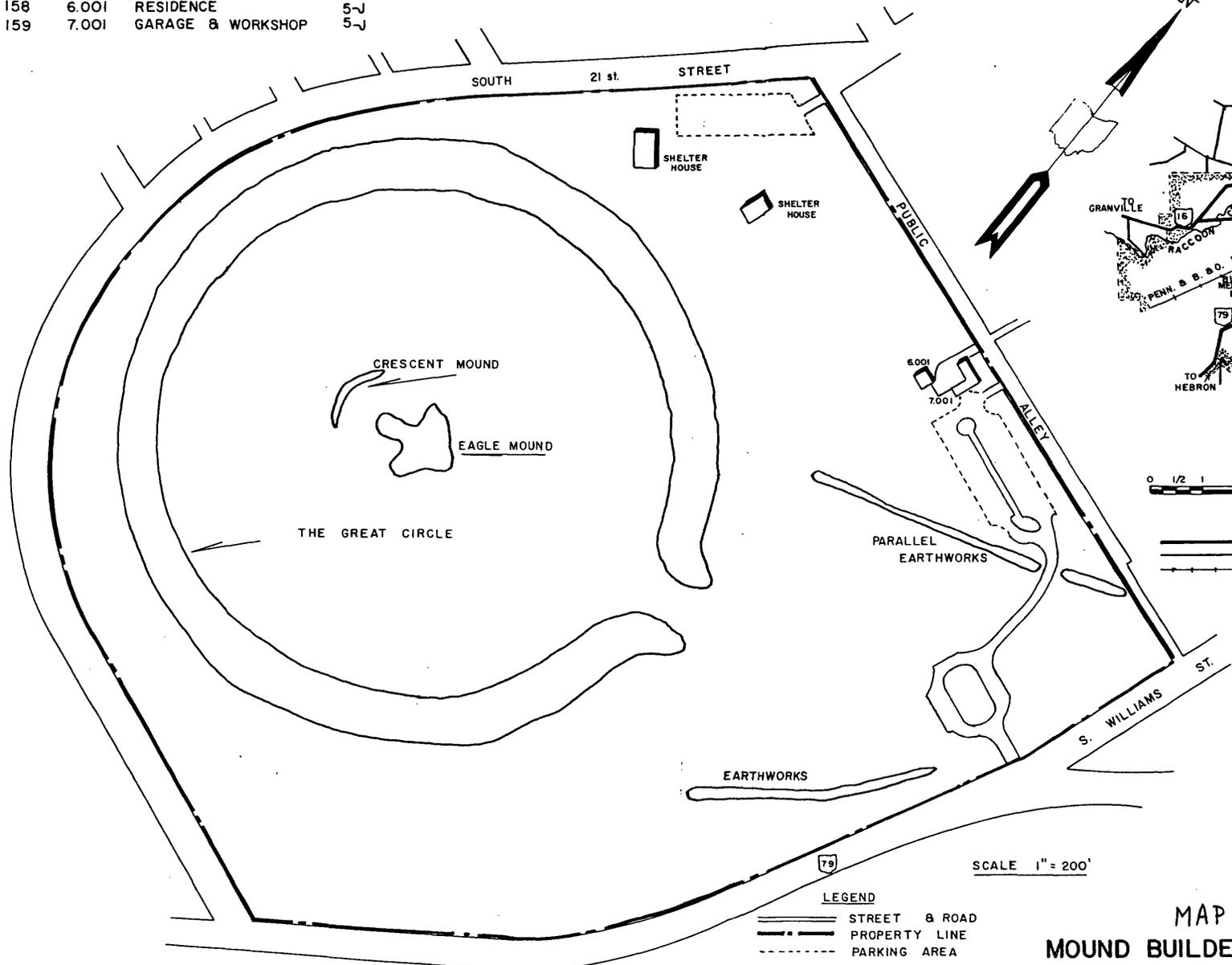
————	MAJOR HIGHWAY
=====	IMPROVED ROAD
————+————	RAILROAD

PG. NO.	CODE NO.	BUILDING NAME	INDEX NO.
163	6.001	RESIDENCE	9-F

MAP C  
OCTAGON MEMORIAL PARK  
PLOT PLAN (Newark Earthworks)

PG. NO.	CODE NO.	BUILDING NAME	INDEX NO.
158	6.001	RESIDENCE	5-J
159	7.001	GARAGE & WORKSHOP	5-J

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10



VICINITY MAP



LEGEND

	MAJOR HIGHWAY
	IMPROVED ROAD
	RAILROAD

LEGEND

	STREET & ROAD
	PROPERTY LINE
	PARKING AREA

SCALE 1" = 200'

160

MAP D  
MOUND BUILDERS MEMORIAL PARK  
PLOT PLAN (Newark Earthworks)

-PROPERTY OF FRANCIS REESE WRIGHT-

-12' ALLEY-

JAMES STREET  
NOT IMPROVED.

-16' ALLEY-

REAR OF PROPERTY FRONTING  
SOUTH PINE ST.

-PROPERTY OF MARION PAULSON-

WALDO ST

NOTE: ELEV. OF FINISHED PLOT TO BE 100.  
ELEV. OF RESULT EARTHWORKS TO  
BE 100.

# MAP E

## WRIGHT EARTHWORKS

THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TOPOGRAPHIC & DETAIL MAP OF PROPERTY  
ACQUIRED FOR STATE PARK

NEWARK OHIO  
SCALE: 1" = 16'

TOPOGRAPHY SURVEY & C&T BY R.S. TATIG, ENGINEER FOR PROJECT  
22A 221A-MOUND BUILDERS STATE PARK  
THE PARK OHIO



—landmark boundary

(PROJECT 22A221B FILE-DR.F2)