

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Strong Partridge Mound Group

other names/site number RO-143

2. Location

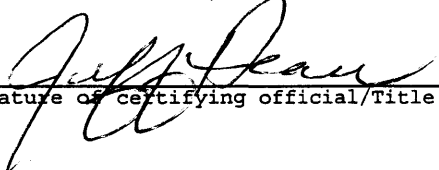
street & number 1750 Arrowhead Drive N/A not for publication

city or town Beloit N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Rock code 105 zip code 53511

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



Signature of certifying official/Title

1/16/94

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Strong Partridge Mound Group
Name of Property

Rock County, WI
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Janet E. Lumsden 3-1-94

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within the count)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing Noncontributing

1

1

___ buildings
___ sites
___ structures
___ objects
0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary/graves/burials
Religion/ceremonial site

landscape/park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Strong Partridge Mound Group
Name of Property

Rock County, WI
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the
criteria qualifying the property for the
National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from
instructions)
Archeology/prehistoric

A Property is associated with events
that have made a significant
contribution to the broad patterns of
our history.

B Property is associated with the lives
of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive
characteristics of a type, period, or
method of construction or represents
the work of a master, or possesses
high artistic values, or represents a
significant and distinguishable entity
whose components lack individual
distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to
yield, information important in
prehistory or history.

Period of Significance

A.D. 650 - A.D. 1300

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is
marked above)

N A

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or
used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or
structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved
significance within the past 50 years.

Cultural Affiliation

Native American
Late Woodland Effigy Mound

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Strong Partridge Mound Group
Name of Property

Rock County, WI
County and State

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property two acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/3/4/8/6/0</u>	<u>4/7/0/9/1/6/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing				
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing				
											<u>see continuation sheet</u>

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steven Hackenberger, Asst. Professor
organization University of Wisconsin, Rock Center date 7/15/93
street & number 2909 Kellog Ave telephone (608)758-6516
city or town Janesville state WI zip code 53546

name/title Diane Y. Holliday, Asst. State Archeologist
organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 7/15/93
street & number 816 State Street telephone (608)264-6494
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53706

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Strong Partridge Mound Group
Name of Property

Rock County, WI
County and State

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Beloit
street & number 100 State Street telephone (608)364-6600
city or town Beloit state WI zip code 53511

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Strong Partridge Mound Group
Rock County, WI

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Strong Partridge Mound Group consists of four mounds located on a western terrace of Turtle Creek, approximately 4 miles above the confluence of Turtle Creek with the Rock River. The site presently lies within the City of Beloit and is contained within a city-owned park. This mound group consists of a turtle effigy, an oblong mound and two conical mounds, aligned in a southwesterly to northeasterly direction (Figs. 1, 2). In 1913, the turtle effigy was described as 154 feet long and 2.5 feet high; the oblong mound measured ca. 40 by 25 feet and 2 feet high; the smallest conical measured ca. 20 feet in diameter and was about a foot high and the larger conical measured approximately 28 feet in diameter and was about two feet high (Becker 1913). All four mounds have suffered some disturbance from relic hunters.

The Strong Partridge Mound Group was originally sketched by Stephen Peet in the mid-19th century, mapped by T.H. Lewis in 1888 and sketched again by Becker (1913) (Fig.1). Most recently this site was formally mapped as part of a survey of the remaining mound groups in Rock County (Fig.2), a project funded by the Winnebago Nation and a NPS survey and planning grant, administered through the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Neither the Strong Partridge mounds or immediately adjacent lands have ever been tested through archeological excavations, but the shapes and sizes of the mounds indicate that they can be attributed to the Late Woodland Effigy Mound tradition. The Effigy Mound tradition, centered in Wisconsin, is represented by relatively low earthen mounds constructed in the shapes of animals or in linear or conical forms. The construction of these distinctive mounds has been dated to between A.D. 650 and A.D. 1300 (Benn 1979; Salkin 1987).

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Strong Partridge Mound Group, comprised of four mounds, is a Late Woodland Effigy Mound site most likely constructed between A.D. 650 and A.D. 1300. It is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion D, for its potential to yield information important to our understanding of prehistory.

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Strong Partridge Mound Group
Rock County, WI

Specifically, additional investigations at this site have the potential to test current hypotheses on the identity of the effigy mound builders, refine the temporal span of effigy mound construction, and provide information on Late Woodland social systems and ideology.

Research Potential

Although the Late Woodland in southern Wisconsin has generally been equated with the Effigy Mound Tradition, recent research suggests that there were at least two distinct Late Woodland cultures in southern Wisconsin, designated the Horicon and Kekoskee Phases (Salkin 1987). Salkin hypothesizes that the Horicon Phase people, an indigenous society of hunter-gatherers, lived in small groups, manufactured Madison series ceramics, and came together on a seasonal basis to construct effigy mounds. He notes that there is almost no evidence for either horticulture or permanent villages for Horicon Phase sites. In contrast, Salkin suggests that the Kekoskee Phase people relied to some degree on maize horticulture, lived in relatively large semi-permanent villages (some fortified), and produced collared ceramics, suggesting influence from more eastern Late Woodland peoples. He suggests that Kekoskee Phase people were not involved in the construction of effigy mounds. According to the available radiocarbon dates, the Kekoskee Phase probably dates to between A.D. 800 and A.D. 1300 and the Horicon Phase can be assigned to the years between A.D. 700 and A.D. 1100-1200.

The Strong Partridge Mound Group may contain datable material and assist in efforts to refine the chronology of the Effigy Mound tradition. The mounds may also contain either Madison ware or possibly collared ceramics that could be used to test the hypothesized distinctions between the Horicon and Kekoskee Phase peoples. The geographic placement of this mound group, near the Turtle Creek confluence with the Rock River, may also lend added significance to the site when examining the questions of a local northern lakes origins of the Horicon phase and the extent and timing of influence from southern riverine societies. Further, analysis of human remains buried within these mounds could potentially reveal the degree to which these people were dependent upon maize horticulture. It should be noted, however, that current

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Strong Partridge Mound Group
Rock County, WI

state law prohibits the disturbance of any human burial without the authorization of the State Historical Society.

Perhaps most intriguing, the Strong Partridge Mound Group can potentially provide information on Late Woodland social systems and ideology. The meaning and purpose of effigy mounds has been a matter of scientific inquiry for decades. Mallam (1976:38) hypothesized that the primary purpose of the mounds was not funerary; rather, burials were just one of many cultural activities performed at these sites. Mallam (1976), Benn (1979) and Storck (1974) have each suggested that mound sites were congregation points and served to integrate different social groups at local and regional levels. In 1984, Mallam elaborated on his interpretation of how effigy mounds, with and without burials, may have functioned in ritual ceremonies marking the passage of seasons and earth renewal typical of Native American ideologies. Such renewal rituals may have been timed with astronomical events and some have hypothesized that mounds may align with solar, lunar, or planetary cycles (Scherz 1987).

Some theories of mound placement focus on resource availability. Mallam (1984) observed that effigy mound groups tend to be located near zones of predictable and annual reoccurring resources and Goldstein (1991) has offered the idea that effigy mounds may have served as maps to such resources. Effigy mounds may have served as territorial markers and stood as symbols of the particular group that constructed them (Benn 1979). Radin (1911) specifically suggested that effigy mounds served as totems. Analyses of the placement of mounds across the landscape and the distribution of particular types of effigy mounds are ongoing (Goldstein 1991).

An additional question that can potentially be addressed through the analysis of effigy mounds is the degree of social differentiation maintained within Late Woodland societies. Larger Middle Woodland Hopewell mounds contain prepared burial chambers, with multiple, albeit discrete burials of elite individuals, as well as mixed and cremated remains of other individuals of unknown or commoner status. Late Woodland mounds though are lacking in grave goods and exotic items. To what extent do these mounds reflect the ideas of ranked or egalitarian peoples? Was it

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Strong Partridge Mound Group
Rock County, WI

desirable to acknowledge or obscure social inequality? Were all burials performed in simple expression of organic wholeness of an egalitarian society, or could the lack of grave goods and sometimes mixing of remains reflect efforts to mask social inequalities? The remains of men, women and children have been recovered from effigy mounds, but were all individuals buried in mounds or were mound burials limited to certain segments of society? The frequency and use of different mound types for burials could reflect social distinctions. It may be that the more common conical mounds represent the interment of commoners and that the use of more rare mound types such as panther or bear represent higher status individuals. If commoners and elite were segregated though, as opposed to being mixed, should we suppose that Late Woodland communities were more ranked or less ranked than Middle Woodland societies?

"Post-processual" explanations of European monuments have been proposed by Hodder (1984), who stresses symbolic aspects of mounds and megalithic tombs as functioning houses for dead ancestors. The important meaning of houses, and tombs as symbolic houses, is explained to have derived from needs to control the reproduction of a labor force and the competitive recruitment of women by lineages. With surplus land, resource production is less emphasized, and reproduction is more heavily emphasized. More elaborate houses and ancestral monuments are therefore interpreted as expressions of lineage power/success and function to recruit wives and increase lineage labor.

Certainly we have yet to exhaust imaginable scenarios for the symbolic role of Woodland mounds, and/or discount the possibility of giving some general forms of social meaning to specific types of mounds. Anthropologists have long sought a meaning for the conical, oval and short linear mounds. Could these mounds represent lodges of different types or sizes? Some of Radin's Winnebago informants interpreted the simple circular or conical mounds as lodge foundations, but whose lodges were these? Do the lodges belong to the living or the dead? Are the altar-like hearths and cysts often found in Late Woodland mounds, symbolic of those maintained in lodges? Do the abundant conical mounds house the commoners and/or elite of patrilineal or matrilineal ancestors?

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Strong Partridge Mound Group
Rock County, WI

Do the different sizes of conical mounds reflect differences in the size and/or success of particular households and lineages? Could the linear and effigy mounds, be akin to totems, and contain the male and/or female heads of clan-like social segments and therefore symbolize legacies of spiritual power?

Two general arguments may favor the hypothesis that mounds are symbolic houses. Many early Native American communities practiced burials in permanent and semi-permanent houses, and the later Mississippian elite established residence on the tops of temple mounds, and placed charnel houses on/under other mounds. Perhaps mound/house burials developed in societies in which house materials were less permanent. Status differentiation in mound burials may have developed in cases where house designs otherwise excluded status differentiation based on the size and sophistication of domestic residence.

In summary, the contents of the Strong Partridge Mound Group and its placement in relationship to the landscape and other mound groups have the potential to yield information on the identity of the peoples who built the effigy mounds, the temporal span of effigy mound construction, and Late Woodland social systems and ideology.

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Strong Partridge Mound Group
Rock County, WI

REFERENCES

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1913 Turtle Creek Mounds and Village Sites. The Wisconsin Archeologist 12:7-20.
- Benn, D.W.
1979 Some Trends and Traditions in Woodland Cultures of the Quad-State Region in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. The Wisconsin Archeologist 60:47-82.
- Goldstein, L.G.
1991 The Southeastern Wisconsin Archeology Report: 1990-1991. Report of Investigation No. 107, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI.
- Hodder, I.
1984 Burials, Houses, Women, and Men in the European Neolithic, in Ideology, Power, and Prehistory, edited by D. Miller and C. Tilley, pp.51-68. Cambridge University Press.
- Mallam, R.C.
1976 The Iowa Effigy Mound Manifestation: An Interpretive Model. Office of The State Archaeologist, Report No. 9, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

1984 Some Views on the Archaeology of the Driftless Zone in Iowa. Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science 91:16-21.
- Radin, P.
1911 Some Aspects of Winnebago Archaeology. American Anthropologist 13:517-538.
- Salkin, P.H.
1987 The Late Woodland Stage in Southeastern Wisconsin. Wisconsin Academy of Review 33:75-79.

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Strong Partridge Mound Group
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REFERENCES

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1987 New Surveys of Wisconsin Indian Mounds. Wisconsin Academy
of Review 33:63-66.
- Storck, P.
1974 Some Aspects of Effigy Mound Subsistence and Settlement
Patterns During the Late Woodland Period in Wisconsin. Arctic
Anthropology II (supplement):272-279.

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Strong Partridge Mound Group
Rock County, WI

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A metes and bounds description of the boundaries of the Strong Partridge Mound Group is shown on Fig. 2.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary has been drawn to enclose all four mounds.

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Section Landowner Page 9

Strong Partridge Mound Group
Rock County, WI

City of Beloit
100 State Street
Beloit, WI 53511

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Section Photographs Page 10 Strong Partridge Mound Group
Rock County, WI

Photograph 1 of 2:

View of Mound 1, looking east.
June, 1993
Steven Hackenberger

Photograph 2 of 2:

View of Mound 1, looking northeast.
June, 1993
Steven Hackenberger

Negatives on file at University of Wisconsin - Rock Center, 2909
Kellogg Avenue, Janesville, WI 53546.

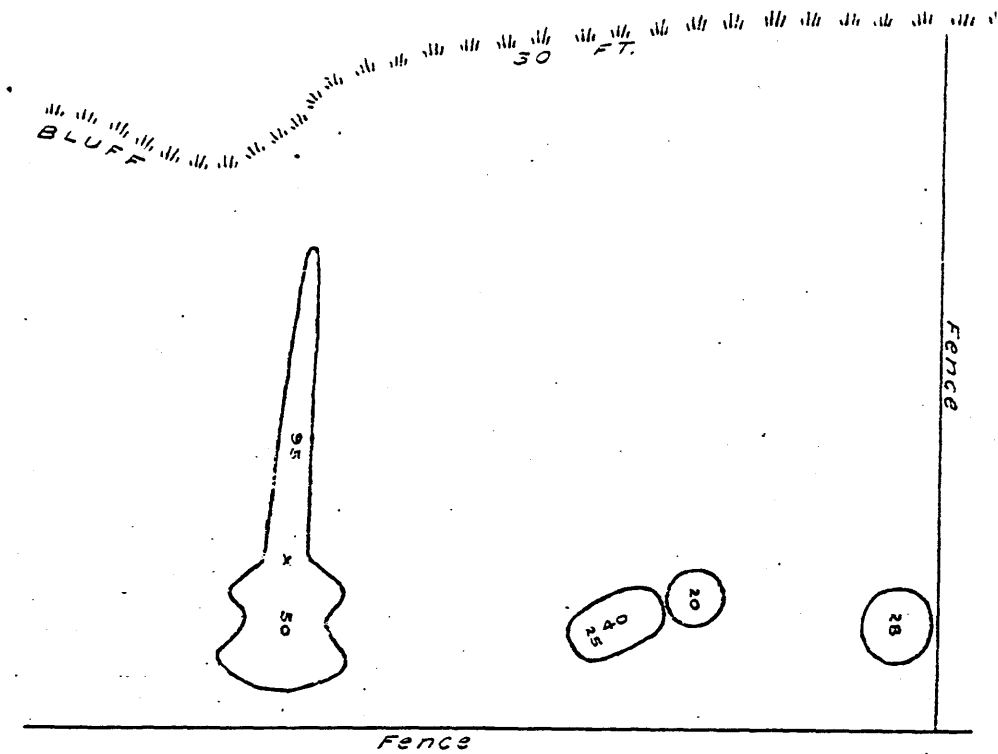


Fig. 1 1913 Site Map of Strong Partridge Mound Group (after Becker[1913]),
City of Beloit, Rock County, WI

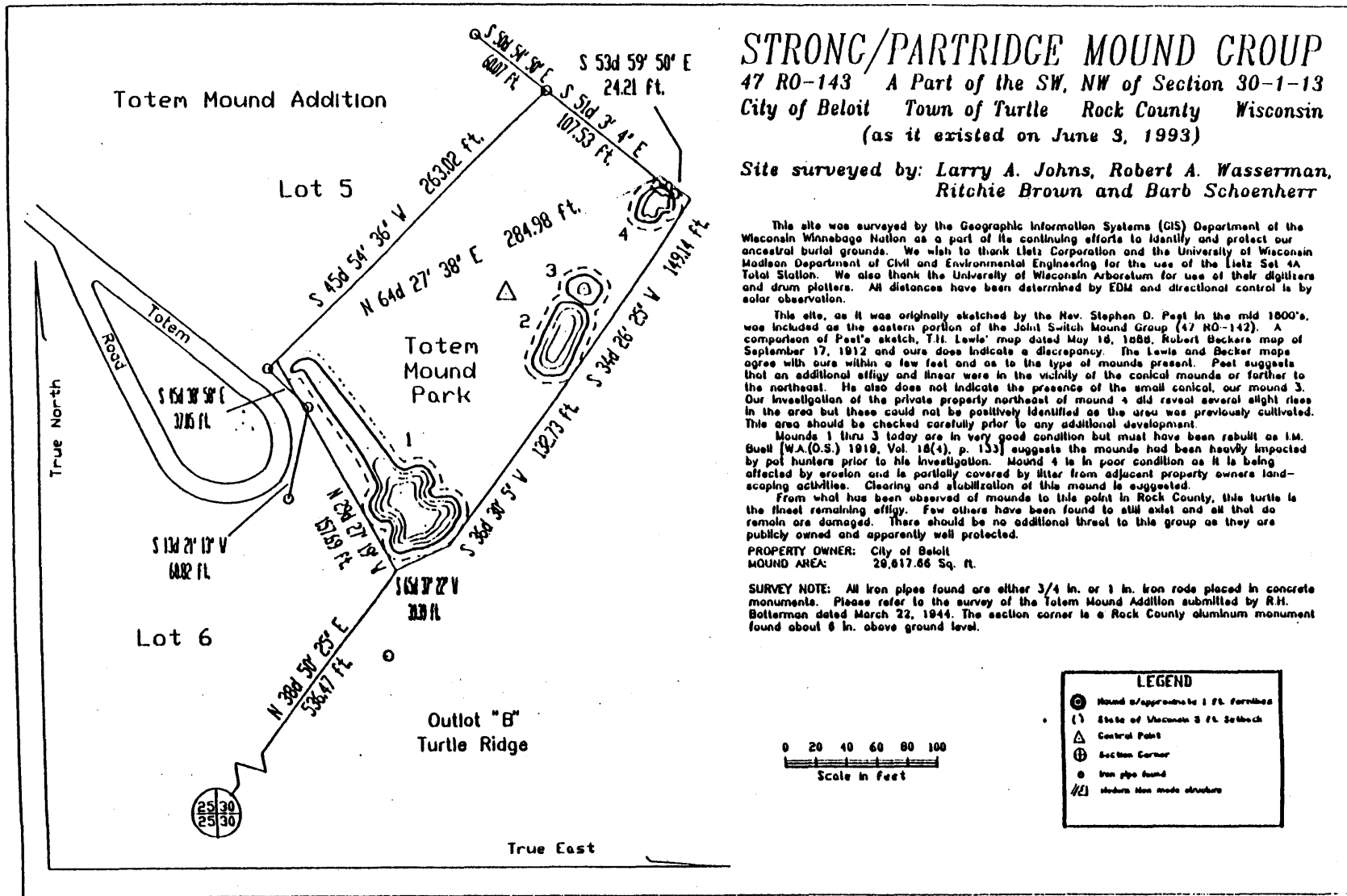


Fig. 2 1993 Site Map of Strong Partridge Mound Group, City of Beloit, Rock County, WI