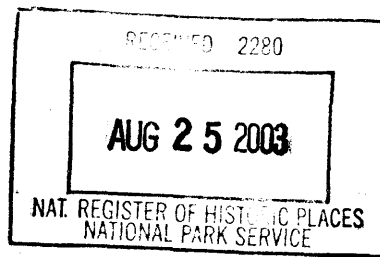


1022

**United States Department of Interior
National Park Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

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 Outlet Mound
other names/site number 47 DA 003

2. Location

street & number Intersection of Ridgewood and Midwood Avenue N/A not for publication
city or town Monona X vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Dane code 025 zip code 53716

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.)

Alicia A. Coe
Signature of certifying official/Title
State Historic Preservation Officer-Wisconsin

August 22, 2003
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 commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Outlet Mound

Dane

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
[checked] 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:)

Edson H. Beall

10/9/03

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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 previously listed resources in the count)

- Private
[X] Public-local
Public-State
Public-Federal

- building(s)
district
structure
[X] site
object

Table with columns: contributing, noncontributing buildings, sites, structures, objects, total. Values: 1, 0 total.

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

Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) RELIGION: Ceremonial site FUNERARY: Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

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.)

Name of Property

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.)

- 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.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- 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 or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHEOLOGY: Prehistory

RELIGION

Period of Significance

Circa 800 B.C. to 250 A.D.

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Early/Middle Woodland

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Outlet Mound

County Dane

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Under 1 acre _____

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

1 16 309857 4768988
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

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	Robert A. Birmingham	Date	7/18/03
Organization	Wisconsin Historical Society	Telephone	(608) 264-6495
street & number	816 State St.	zip code	53704
city or town	Madison	state	WI

Outlet Mound
Name of Property

County Dane
County and State

Wisconsin

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)

Property Owner

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

Name/title	City of Monona	date	7/18/03
Organization		telephone	
Street&number	5211 Schuler Rd.	zip code	53716
city or town	Monona	state	WI

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.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Outlet Mound
Dane County, Wisconsin

Section 7 Page 1

Description

The Outlet Mound is literally a City of Monona, Wisconsin Landmark. Occupying the highest position on a knoll overlooking the Yahara outlet, it is the only remaining intact mound of the Outlet Mound Group constructed by Native Americans beginning at least two thousand years ago. Measuring 60 ft. in diameter and 7 ft. high, it is an undisturbed and excellent representative of the type of burial mound built in southern Wisconsin during the Early and especially Middle Woodland stages ca. 800 B.C. to 500 A.D. In size, it is one of the largest mounds of the period to have been built in the Four Lakes area of Wisconsin. The mound, now located in public space in the midst of a subdivision, owes its existence to intense local and statewide preservation efforts led by the Wisconsin Archeological Society and especially to Charles E. Brown of Wisconsin Historical Society.

The Outlet Group

The Outlet Mound Group once consisted of at least nineteen mounds (Figure 1). The central part of the site was occupied by large conical mounds surrounded by smaller conical mounds and short linear mounds that are believed to have built later in time, perhaps between 500 and 800 A.D. and most likely by the descendants the original mound builders.

The group was a part of a large concentration of mound groups along the shore of the Yahara River and Lake Monona in what is now the community of Monona. Few mounds still exist, most destroyed by early farming and subsequent residential development. Surviving mounds include two of the nearby Tompkins-Brindler Mound Group, which have been landmarked and nominated to the National Register.

The Outlet Group itself was first sketched by Increase Lapham in 1850 showing 45 conical mounds in two groups in the general area (Lapham 1855). The site was visited in 1908 by Charles E. Brown, new director of the Wisconsin Historical Society museum, and subsequently described by him in 1922 in *The Wisconsin Archeologist* in an article on the mounds and camps of Lake Monona. Already some mounds had been destroyed by agriculture and road building. Brown also describes an extensive habitation area on the sloping fields between the mound group and the Yahara River. He mentions that the area had been a favorite camp for the local Ho-Chunk, who had used the site as late as 1906. In 1931 he produced a map of extant and destroyed mounds (Charles E Brown Papers, Box 22).

Destruction of the Outlet Group continued through the 20th century as the area was platted as a subdivision. One mound was impacted by road building and a burial exposed and subsequently recovered and documented by Brown. Several other mounds were excavated by Brown in 1931 (Charles E. Brown Papers Box 22) as the farmland became platted into suburban lots. Burial mounds were not protected by state law at the time, as they are now.

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Outlet Mound
Dane County, Wisconsin

Section 7 Page 2

In response to imminent destruction, several of the mounds were excavated by the University of Wisconsin in the 1940s and the 1950s as development proceeded. Burials were found in all excavations, some in a central pit below the mound as is characteristic of early mounds in Wisconsin. The remains were found in a number of forms, reflecting different social statuses and changes in mortuary customs through time. Radiocarbon dating of one mound spanned 10 B.C. to 590 A.D. (Bender et al: 1982) but the association of a quartzite blade "of Hopewell style" suggests a tighter range of 50 B.C to 250 A.D., the period of Hopewell influence in Wisconsin (James Stoltman, Personal Communication). Other mounds are believed to have been built during the early Late Woodland period just prior the florescence of classic effigy mound construction in the region. Pottery sherds and other artifacts in some mounds confirm that mound construction continued over many hundreds of years.

In late 1942, Brown received news that the largest mound, here called the Outlet Mound, was slated to be leveled. He and the Wisconsin Archeological Society immediately organized a fund raising campaign to purchase the mound so it could be permanently preserved. In 1944, the Wisconsin Archeological Society raised the \$1000 needed for purchase of land, the land was subsequently conveyed to the Village of Monona (Birmingham 1996).

The University of Wisconsin archaeologists excavated several areas that provide insight into the nature and age of the main Outlet Mound. In 1948 construction of a subdivision road near the mound exposed a large rectangular grave pit with eight extended burials, a bundle burial, and several other human remains (Whiteford 1948). The large grave is characteristic of those found below large conical mounds during the Middle Woodland Stage when it was customary to maintain an in-ground mausoleum covered by a wood structure or charnel house, adding new internments as people died. At some point the pit was closed and a mound built to mark its location. It is likely that the overlying mound itself had been plowed away when the land functioned as a farm. Later that same year, house construction prompted the excavation of a mound about 20 meters away from the burial pit (Mound 2 on Figure 1). Excavation revealed a single extended internment in the mound above the former surface of the ground (Brakken 1950). No artifacts were found with the burial but sherds found in the mound fill include type's characteristic of the Early and Middle Woodland Stages.

Two other mounds may be preserved from the Outlet Mound Group and will be the focus of future additions to this nomination. One is a low conical rise in a neighboring back yard and the other the possible remnant of a mound impacted by road building early in the 20th century.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

Outlet Mound
Dane County, Wisconsin

Significance Statement

The Outlet Mound is characteristic of early mound building in Wisconsin. Its location adds to the body of information regarding the evolution mound building in Wisconsin. It is one the last surviving mounds in an area near Lake Monona outlet that once had a high density of mounds and therefore it has the potential to help reconstruct the evolution of the mound building landscape. It is therefore eligible for the National register of Historic Places under criteria D.

The Wisconsin Mounds

As outlined in *Indian Mounds of Wisconsin* (Birmingham and Eisenberg 2000), mound building in southern Wisconsin and the Four Lakes region spanned several eras or stages commencing about 800 B.C. and ending *circa* 1200 A.D. During the Early and Middle Woodland Stages, large conical burial mounds like the Outlet Mound were occasionally built on waterways and lakes, typically at some prominent place. Many of the mounds of this period mark underground burial crypts apparently used for generations before being closed up and marked with an earthen mound. Groups of such mounds are believed to identify the territories of mobile bands of people who spent much of year gathering plants, fishing, and hunting. Data from early excavations of some of the mounds suggest that only important or lineages, presumably those of the band or tribal leaders and their families, were accorded mound burials.

As further detailed in the multi-property documentation form *The Late Woodland Stage in Archaeological Region 8*, mound building reached its zenith during the Late Woodland stage between 500 A.D. and 1200 A.D culminating in the spectacular earth-sculptures known as effigy mounds. This was a time of great social, ideological, and economic change. The bow and arrow was used for the first time, populations grew and expanded, new ceramics forms with intricate designs came into use and after about 800 A.D., corn was introduced into the diet. After about 1000 A.D., a new civilization, the Mississippians from southern Illinois, made its appearance, building temple mounds in the short lived town of Aztalan among other sites. The effigy mound people themselves lived in small seasonal villages, sometimes in small semi-subterranean pit-houses. Against this backdrop, over 1000 effigy mound groups were constructed in southern Wisconsin containing an estimated 15,000-20,000 individual mounds. The groups contain low earthen mounds in the shapes of huge birds and animals, as well as conical and linear forms. Wisconsin is the heartland of the effigy mound phenomena but zoomorphic mounds are also found in adjacent areas of Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. The various zoomorphic forms correspond well to birds, animals, and spirit beings that are important in the belief systems and of Native Americans in the Midwest. (Birmingham and Eisenberg 2000).

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Section 8 Page 2

Outlet Mound
Dane County, Wisconsin

The Late Woodland mound building florescence included are groups of mounds that exclusively contain conical mounds, somewhat smaller than Early and Middle Woodland mounds, and long, usually straight embankments known as linear mounds. Undated and generally unstudied as a class, these groups are nevertheless numerous, not only on the Wisconsin landscape but in adjacent areas as well, extending out to the Great Plains. Within the effigy mound region, linear mounds also are a part of many groups with zoomorphic effigy mounds with a few radiocarbon assays dating them to circa 800 A.D. It is widely believed that they appear in the early part of the Late Woodland, but the dates for the initial appearance of linear forms (as well as effigy mounds) is unknown. In Wisconsin, the largest density of linear-conical only groups by far is in the Four Lakes area centered in the Monona area.

The Outlet Mound Group once contained both conical mounds and a few linear mounds, thought to represent different periods of construction, perhaps through the early Late Woodland period. The largest is the Outlet Mound and this occupies the highest elevation. Smaller conical mounds and short linears probably represent later construction and are found at the periphery of the Outlet Mound Group. Nearby and to the east, further from the outlet of Lake Monona were very long linear and effigy mounds, called the Frost Woods Mound Group that probably represent the climax of mound building the area. Most of this group also been destroyed.

The Outlet Mound may be among the earliest of mounds built in the Four Lake region. The date at nearby mound of 10 B.C. should give an approximation of its age. As such the Outlet Mound is a representative of early mound building in Wisconsin. The Outlet Mound has been preserved and will not be considered for scientific exploration. The environment in which it was built will continue to inform scholars. For example, perhaps the camps or village of the people who built the mound will one day be identified in the vicinity, allowing for the study of the relationship between mortuary and non-mortuary areas. The Outlet Mound group was the focus of a recent paper on a proposed model for the evolution of mound building and its relationship to landscape, providing another example of important but non-intrusive study (Rosebrough and Birmingham 2003). Lastly, thanks to the efforts of Charles E. Brown, the Outlet Group was well mapped. Since the Outlet mound is a well preserved landmark of the group, it will be possible to locate the former locations of other mounds on the landscape and warn landowners and planners of possibility that grave pits may still exist at these locations, thus serving the interests of preservation..

Such studies are limited because so many mounds and mound groups have been destroyed, many times with little or no documentation. But this also makes surviving mounds on original landscapes with good documentation all the more important.

The importance of Wisconsin's ancient earthworks, of course, transcends archaeological and historical

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Section 8 Page 3

Outlet Mound
Dane County, Wisconsin

considerations. To Native Americans of many Nations, the earthworks are sacred burial places of ancestors and should be honored and respected as such. Indeed, such works are now are protected by special state laws and regulations. Through the work Monona Landmark Commission, the Outlet Mound and remaining mounds in the City of Monona have been the focus of community recognition, setting an example for the rest of the state.

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Section 9 Page 1

Outlet Mound
Dane County, WI

Bender, Margaret M., David A. Baerris, Reid Bryson, and Raymond L. Steventon
1982 University of Wisconsin Radiocarbon Dates XIV. *Radiocarbon* 24 (1):83-100

Birmingham, Robert.
1996 Charles E. Brown and the Mounds of Madison. *Journal of the Four Lake Region* Volume XIII:
17-63.

Birmingham, Robert A. and Leslie Eisenberg
2000 *Indian Mounds of Wisconsin*. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison.

Brakken, Charlotte T.
1950 Preliminary Investigations at the Outlet Site. *The Wisconsin Archeologist* New Series (31) 2.

Brown, Charles E.
1922 Lake Monona. *The Wisconsin Archaeologist* New Series (1)4.

Brown Charles E.
1889-1946. Papers. Wisconsin Historical Society Archives, Madison.

Lapham, Increase
1855 *The Antiquities of Wisconsin*. Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, U.S. Government
Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Rosebrough, Amy and Robert A. Birmingham
2003 Effigy Mound Landscapes of Wisconsin. Paper presented at the Society for American
Archaeology Conference, Milwaukee

Whiteford, A. H.
1949 A Report on Outlet Site on Lake Monona. *The Wisconsin Archaeologist* New Series 30 (1).

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Section 10 Page 1

Outlet Mound
Dane County, WI

The Outlet Mound is preserved in a small public space defined by intersection of the roadways, Ridgewood and Midwood Avenues that completely enclose the mound.

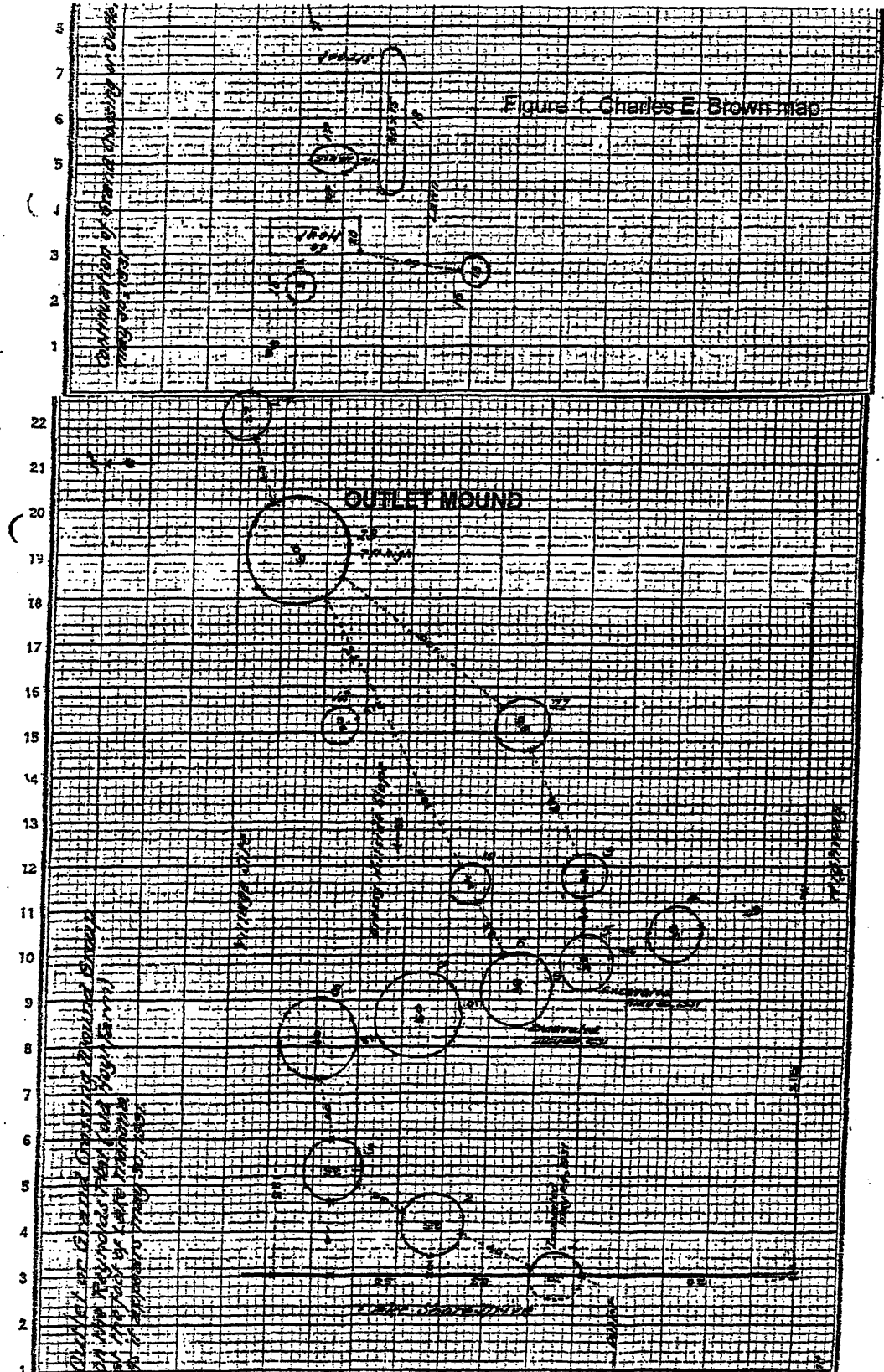
Justification: The roadways around the mound economically define the significant area.

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Outlet Mound
Dane County, WI

Section Additional Information Page 1



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Outlet Mound
Dane County, WI

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Figure 2. Outlet Mound

Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

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Outlet Mound
Dane County, WI

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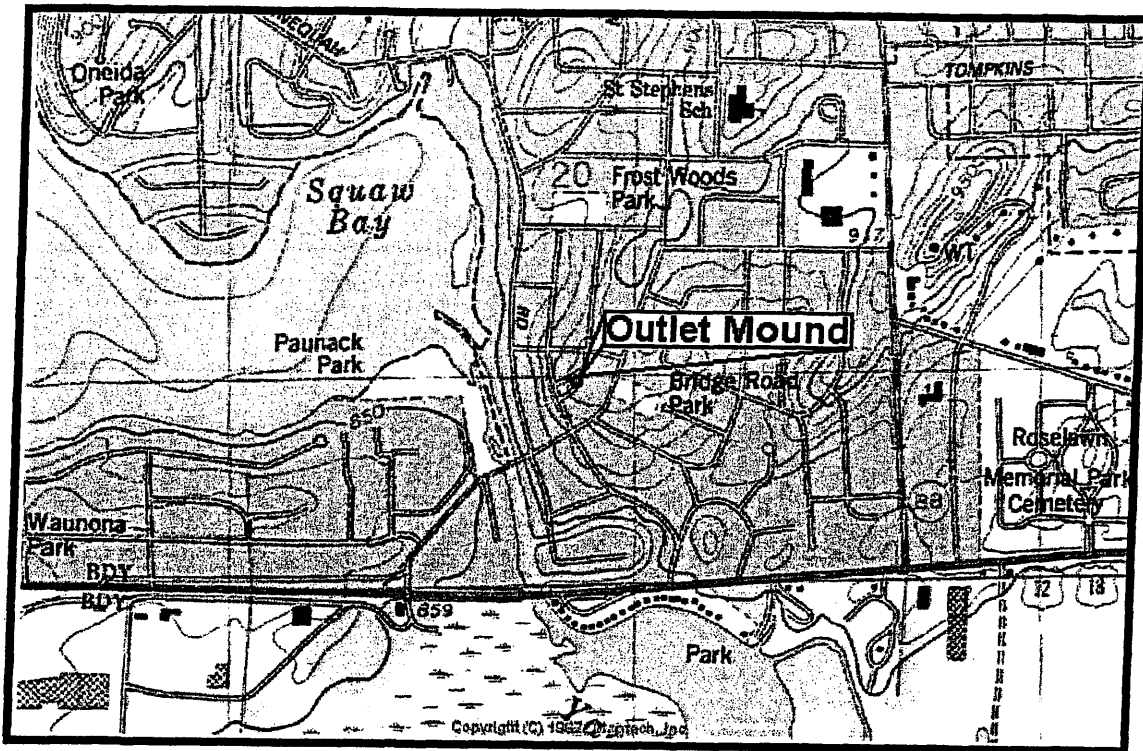


Figure 3. Location of Outlet Mound.