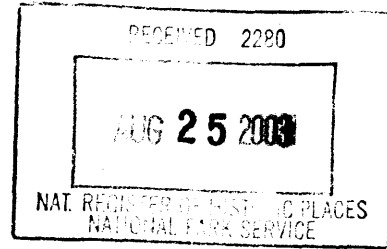


1023

**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 Tompkins-Brindler Mound Group  
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number [REDACTED] N/A not for publication  
city or town [REDACTED] X vicinity  
state Wisconsin code WI county Dane code [REDACTED] zip code [REDACTED]

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally statewide X locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Alicia L. Gou August 14, 2003  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer-Wisconsin

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

Name of Property

County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 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:)

*E Beall*

10/9/03

*for*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (check as many boxes as apply)

\_\_\_ private  
 public-local  
 \_\_\_ public-State  
 \_\_\_ public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only one box)

\_\_\_ building(s)  
 \_\_\_ district  
 \_\_\_ structure  
 site  
 \_\_\_ object

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

contributing	noncontributing
	buildings
1	sites
	structures
	objects
1	0 total

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

The Late Woodland Stage in Archaeological Region 8

**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

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.)

Tompkins-Brindler Mound Group  
Name of Property

Dane  
County and State

Wisconsin

## 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

Late Woodland 500 A.D. to 1200 A.D.

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

Late Woodland

### Architect/Builder

N/A

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Tompkins-Brindler Mound Group

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:**

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

Name of repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property

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

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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**

<b>name/title</b>	Robert A. Birmingham	<b>date</b>	12/15/02
<b>organization</b>	Wisconsin Historical Society	<b>telephone</b>	(608) 264-6495
<b>street &amp; number</b>	816 State Street	<b>zip code</b>	53706
<b>city or town</b>	Madison	<b>state</b>	WI

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

Tompkins-Brindler Mound Group  
Dane County, Wisconsin

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Boundary description



Boundary Justification

This boundary economically encloses the preserved mounds and their environmental context.

Tompkins-Brinkler Mound Group

Dane

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

**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.)

<b>name/title</b>	City of Monona	<b>date</b>	12/13/02
<b>organization</b>		<b>telephone</b>	(608) 222-2525
<b>street&amp;number</b>	5211 Schluter Rd.	<b>zip code</b>	53716
<b>city or town</b>	Monona	<b>state</b>	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.

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Section 7 Page 1

Tompkins-Brindler Mound Group  
Dane County, Wisconsin

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. The mounds were once part of a larger group that extended along the drumlin to the southwest. The southwest part of the group was called the Nichols group and was separated from Tompkins-Brindler [REDACTED]. Combined, the original Tompkins-Brindler/Nichols group contained at least 14 linear mounds and one conical mound, although some mounds had already been destroyed [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] The Nichols group and some mounds from the Tompkins-Brindler group were subsequently destroyed [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]  
Tompkins-Brindler mounds disturbed a burial, probably from a mound remnant, and the remains later reburied with Native American ceremony.

As mapped in 1990 by the Office of the State Archaeologist, the two surviving mounds are 200 ft. and 210 ft. long, although the end of the latter has been truncated by cultivation. Both are about 10 ft. wide and about 3 ft. high. The longest mound in the original group was 225 ft. long. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. To the south of the mounds, the drumlin has been heavily disturbed. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Although there remains some possibility that features related to the original group exist, this would have to be determined with extensive archaeological research in the future. Both mounds have been slightly damaged by looters at some distant time but are otherwise in good condition. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Section 8 Page 1

Tompkins-Brindler Mound Group  
Dane County, Wisconsin

**Significance Statement**

The Tompkins-Brindler Mound group is a remnant characteristic of a large class of mound groups consisting of linear and conical mounds for which there is little information. Its location and arrangement adds to the growing body of information regarding the evolution and meaning of one the most curious phenomena in ancient North America, the effigy mounds. Moreover, the mounds are among the few surviving mounds [REDACTED] once had a high density. It is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion D.

**Context**

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 [REDACTED] typically at some prominent place. One remaining mound [REDACTED] in diameter and 7 ft. high. 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 the year gathering plants, fishing, and hunting. Data from early excavations of some of the mounds suggest that only important or high status people, presumably the 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 ceramic 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, Late Woodland people constructed over 1000 effigy mound groups 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



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Section 8 Page 2

Tompkins-Brindler Mound Group  
Dane County, Wisconsin

Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. The various zoomorphic forms correspond well to birds, animals, and spirit beings that are important in the belief systems of Native Americans in the Midwest. One view is that they functioned as burial places and ceremonial centers that linked together groups of people into a larger social identity. The effigy mound ceremonials seemed to have involved symbolic recreations of the cosmos represented by the major forces of nature – sky, earth, and water. Some scholars have argued that this broader social identity gave rise to some of the modern Native American nations (Birmingham and Eisenberg 2000).

A part of the Late Woodland mound building florescence 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. Largely 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 the 10<sup>th</sup> century, but the initial appearance of linear forms (as well as effigy mounds) is unknown. Significantly, however, there is a single radiocarbon date (770 A.D.) from a linear mound at the Rehbein Site that also produced pottery that predates classic effigy mound wares (Mead 1979).

Since linear mounds of various sizes are also frequently found in the zoomorphic effigy mound groups, they are believed to be of symbolic importance in the cosmology of the Effigy Mound builders. Winnebago Nation of Nebraska historian David Smith (1999) suggests that they are representations of snakes. Indeed, many types of linear mounds are tapered, looking very much like straightened snakes. Snakes figure prominently in versions of Winnebago-Ho-Chunk creation stories where they staked the corners of the world to keep it from spinning out of control. Significantly, the Snake Clan is one of the lower division clans in the Winnebago/Ho-Chunk social structure. In the linear and conical groups, Robert Hall (1993:44) sees linear mounds as representations of the long tail of the water spirit, an important spirit being in the belief systems of many different Native American groups. In both cases, the symbolism is viewed as representing the lower world (earth-water in Native American cosmology). Curiously, however, many of the linear mounds in linear-conical mound groups occupy the top of landscape (along with conicals), as is the case in the Tomkins-Brindler Group. This is a place that is usually occupied by sky oriented birds in classic zoomorphic effigy groups.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3

Tompkins-Brindler Mound Group  
Dane County, Wisconsin

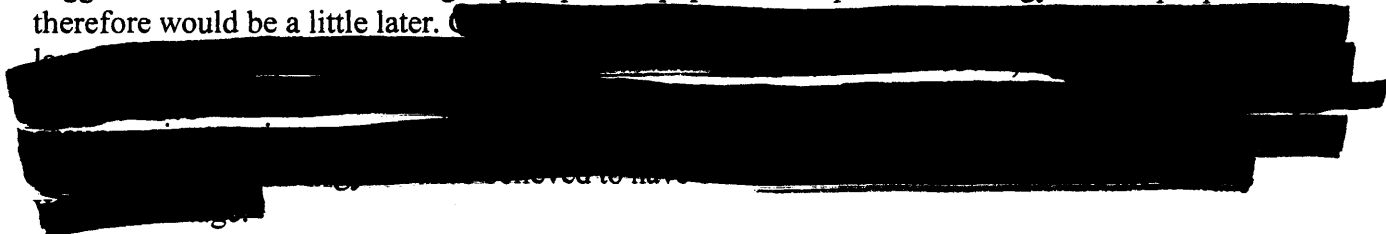
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There has been some suggestion that effigy mounds in general and linear mounds in specific are astronomical markers for celestial events such as the solstices and equinoxes. The use of astronomical references, in particular the tracking of the movements of the sun, moon, stars, and planets, is well documented in the ritual life of ancient Native American societies. Thus far, however, the evidence for Wisconsin mounds is equivocal (Birmingham and Eisenberg 2000).

On the basis of current evidence, two hypotheses can be presented accounting for mound groups like Tompkins-Brindler. One is that the mound groups consisting exclusively of linear and conical forms are transitional between the earlier conical mound groups dated to between 800 BC and 400 A.D. and the much more naturalistic classic effigy mound groups dated to between 800 and 1100 (Stevenson et al 1997), but encoding the same concepts. Robert Hall (1993:44) proposes that conical mounds represent the upper world and linear mounds, the lower world of earth and water.

A second hypothesis is that these groups are contemporaneous with other effigy mounds and simply represent a regional variation of mound forms. Recent studies have in fact identified important regional differences (Birmingham and Eisenberg 2000). Birds are far more common in the western part of the state, as are forms known as bears. Long tailed animal forms, thought to be representations of water related spirit beings are most common in the eastern part of the state. According to present information, linear mound groups appear to be especially common in south central Wisconsin, but this needs verification.

The questions concerning the chronology and meaning of the linear mounds can be addressed by further non-intrusive research. Regional analysis of the types of mound groups and analysis of specific mound landscapes will surely lead to productive insights. For example, in support of the first hypothesis, Robert Boszhardt (personal communication) of the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center has detected a difference between effigy mounds along the Mississippi River and those along drainage in upland areas away from the river. In the latter case, the groups contain only zoomorphic forms. He suggests that the inland mound groups represent population expansion of effigy mound people and therefore would be a little later. (



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Tompkins-Brindler Mound Group  
Dane County, Wisconsin

Section 8 Page 4

This seriation implies changes in Late Woodland mound building through time and this is supported by other evidence. [REDACTED] there are examples of mound groups that are primarily linear and conical mounds on prominent landscapes that include a zoomorphic effigy, usually off to the side or at an end as though it were added in on-going ceremonial activity (McLachlan 1914). One prominent example is on a very high elevation [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Here, a long line of conical and linear mounds is terminated by a single animal effigy mound (WHS Archaeological Site Inventory). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. These could represent a symbolic unification of cosmological concepts (upper and lower worlds) and even the symbolic unification of the two parts or moieties of the society of mound builders, concepts that seem to be elaborated with construction of the classic effigy groups (Birmingham and Eisenberg 2000).

Finally, careful intra-site mapping and analysis of remaining mounds represented by the Tompkins-Brindler could help determine if such groups or individual mounds have celestial or astronomical orientations, or whether, as seems to be the case here, the mounds simply follow the natural landscapes upon which they were built.

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 considerations. To most Native Americans, the earthworks are sacred burial places of ancestors and are honored and respected as such. Indeed, such works are now protected by special state laws and regulations. The Tompkins-Brindler mounds were officially catalogued as a burial site. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] During Wisconsin Historic Preservation Week 2002, the commission arranged for a well attended ceremony dedicating a historic marker at the group. Participants included city and state officials as well as representatives from several Native American nations.

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Continuation Sheet**

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Tompkins-Brindler Mound Group  
Dane County, Wisconsin

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