

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Indiana
COUNTY: Sullivan
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: MAY 12 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:	Merom Site and Fort Azatlan (site 12Su3)
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION *Not Merom*

STREET AND NUMBER: Gill Township, Sec. 7, T7N-R10W, Merom Quad. The site is within circular area 5 mi. in diameter, center of which is town of Merom, Ind.			
CITY OR TOWN: Merom <i>wic</i>		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 7th	
STATE: Indiana	CODE: 18	COUNTY: Sullivan	CODE: 153

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Cemetery
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Multiple Private and Public	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:

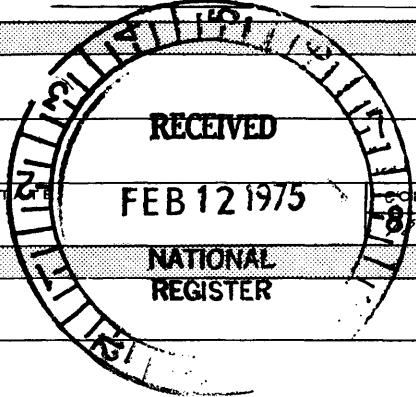
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Sullivan County Courthouse	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Sullivan	STATE: Indiana
	CODE: 18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Indiana Archaeological Survey - continuing survey -	
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Indiana University - Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology	
STREET AND NUMBER: 9th & Fess Streets	
CITY OR TOWN: Bloomington	STATE: Indiana
	CODE: 18

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 12 1975	FOR NPS USE ONLY
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

- Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

- Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

- Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

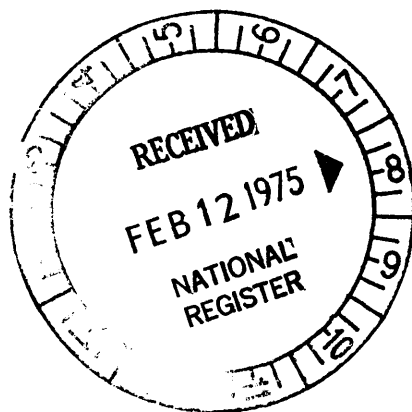
Fort Azatlan is an aboriginal hill-top "fortress" situated on top of an upland spur projecting northwestward and then northward. This projection is widest at its southeast end and narrows markedly at its northern extremity. The site is elevated over 100 feet above the Wabash River bottoms to the west and is bounded by steep ravines on every other side except the southeast. It is entered from the southeast over more or less level terrain connecting the spur to the body of the upland. The entrance to the fort passes through a protective earthen embankment which traverses the neck of the projection. A discontinuous earthen wall runs along the periphery of the spur.

Near the entrance the walls are reported to be about 1 1/2 feet high and the circumference of the site to be about 2450 feet (Putnam 1871). The enclosed area is reported by Collett(1871) to be about 3 acres and by Lilly (1937) to be about 5 acres.

Putnam (1871) reported 45 more or less circular depressions, 5 mounds, and 3 stone box graves within the fort. The depressions are said to vary from 10-30 feet in diameter. One is reported to be 5 feet deep. Putnam hypothesized that most of them were house pits. The largest mound reportedly is nearly 50 feet in diameter and thought to have been 10 feet high at the most. Burials were found in the 2 mounds opened by Putnam.

Various people have conducted unsystematic excavations at the site (Collett 1871; Cox 1879; Putnam 1871). Such activities, plowing, and erosion have greatly altered its features. In 1937 Lilly reported that the mounds and depressions had almost disappeared and that the embankments were much reduced. A 1973 inspection of the site corroborates Lilly. At that time the area was covered with grass and weeds.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input checked="" 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/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <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 | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

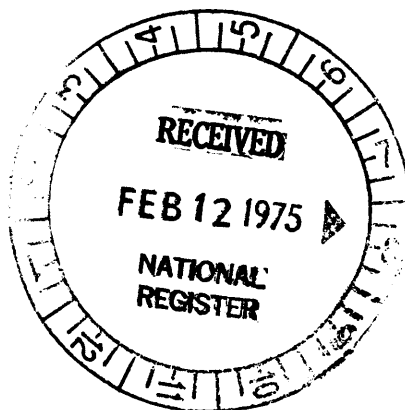
No satisfactory archaeological work has occurred at Fort Azatlan. Our knowledge of the site depends upon brief reports of past unsystematic explorations. These indicate that the site was utilized for defensive, habitation, and burial purposes.

The stone box graves and shell tempered pottery recovered from the site indicate a Mississippian component postdating A.D. 1000. However, at this point we are not certain whether the embankments, mounds, and depressions were all constructed by the Mississippian occupants. At least some of these features may have been constructed by earlier Woodland people.

Whether single or multicomponent, the site is quite important. Not only are so-called hill-top forts uncommon in Indiana but this is the only example known from the Wabash Valley. Fort Azatlan is a unique site for the area and must be excavated if we are to adequately comprehend the settlement system of which it was a part. Excavation could provide much needed information pertaining to the functions and cultural affiliation of the site and the cultural dynamics of the area. The area in question is on the frontier of Mississippian expansion.

Fort Azatlan is one of Indiana's well known sites and should be protected.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Collett, John. 1871. Geology of Sullivan County, Indiana. In: Second report of the Geological Survey of Indiana made during the year 1870, by E. T. Cox. pp. 238-239. Indianapolis.

Cox, E. T. 1879. Antiquities. In: Eighth, ninth and tenth annual reports of the Geological Survey of Indiana made during the years 1876-77-78, by E.T. Cox. pp. 127-128. Indianapolis.

Lilly, Eli. 1937. Prehistoric antiquities of Indiana. pp. 48-51. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society.

(see continuation sheet)

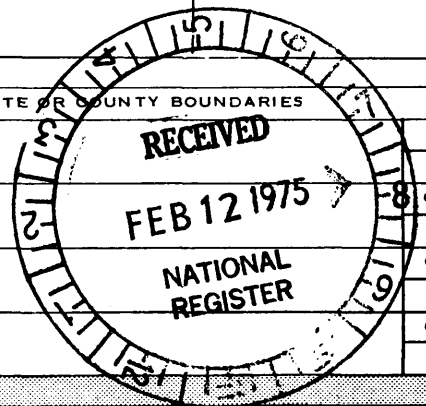
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	0 0 0	0 0 0		39° 3' 45"	87° 34' 13"	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



16/450680
4323650

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Curtis H. Tomak, Curator of Collections

ORGANIZATION: Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology DATE: Oct. 25, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: Indiana University
9th & Fess Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Bloomington STATE: Indiana CODE: 18

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Name: *Joseph D. Cloud*

Title: Indiana State Liaison Officer

Date: February 3, 1975

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

Arnet A. Groually
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/12/75

ATTEST:
Ronald M. Huenberg
Keeper of The National Register
Date: 5/19/75

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

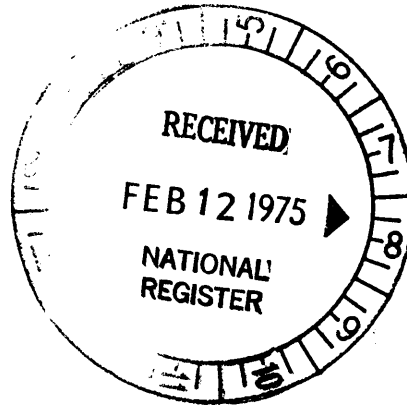
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Indiana	
COUNTY Sullivan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 12 1975

(Number all entries)

9. (Bibliographical References) continued.

Putnam, Frederic W. 1871. Ancient fortifications on the Wabash River. Bulletin of Essex Institute, Vol. 3, No. 11. Salem, Mass.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Indiana	
COUNTY Sullivan	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 12 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: **Merom Site and Fort Azatlan (12Sul3)**
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Gill Township, Sec. 7, T7N-R10W, Merom Quad. Site is
in circular area 5 mi. diameter, center of which is town of Merom, Ind.**

CITY OR TOWN:

Merom

STATE:

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY:

Sullivan

CODE

153

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: **1871 Ancient Fortifications on the Wabash River, Bulletin of Essex
Institute, Vol. 3, No. 11, pp. 148-55. Salem, Massachusetts.**

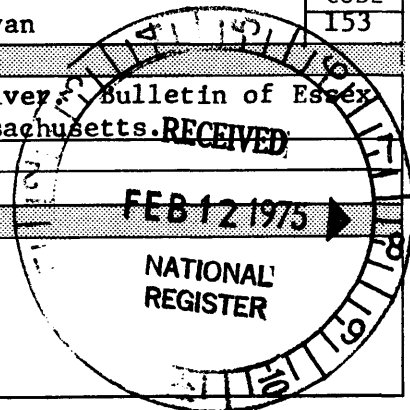
SCALE: **not to scale**

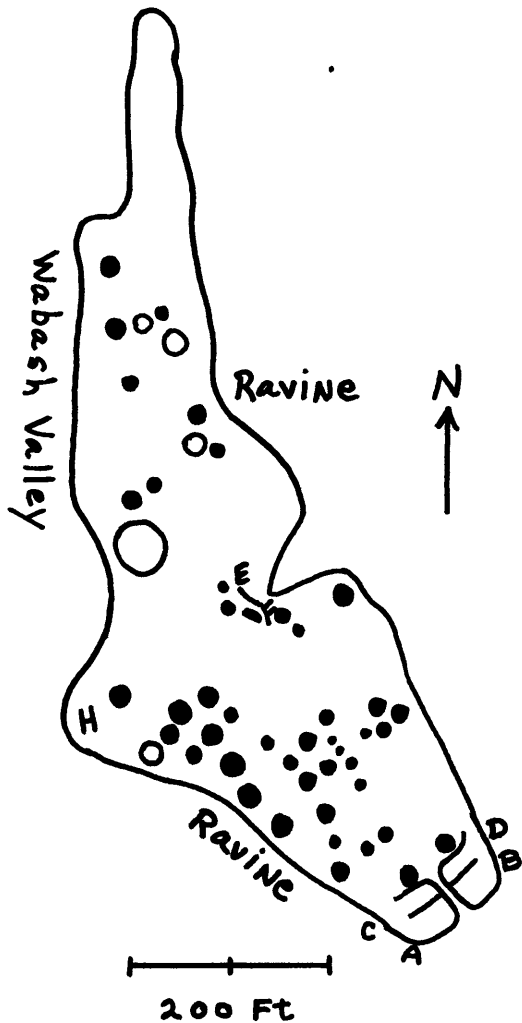
DATE:

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.





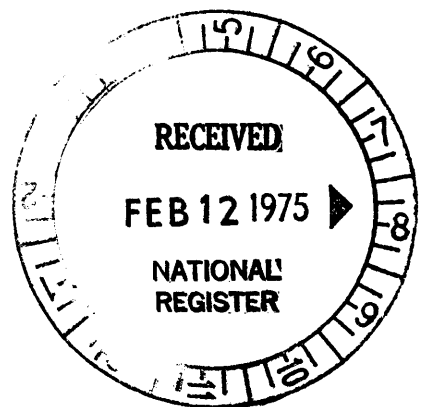
O Mound

● Depression

A-B + C-D Wall through which the entrance passes

E-F Double embankment

H Stone box graves



Fort Azatlan at Merom, Indiana

Map modified from Putnam (1871)