

FREE, SAFE VISITS to MILWAUKEE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

RECOMMENDED BY YOUR AIA-MILWAUKEE SOCIETY



FILM free to view:

<https://vimeo.com/213013405>

Wisconsin's First Peoples. Created at College of the Menominee Nation. With archaeologist Dave Overstreet and views of his archaeological work.

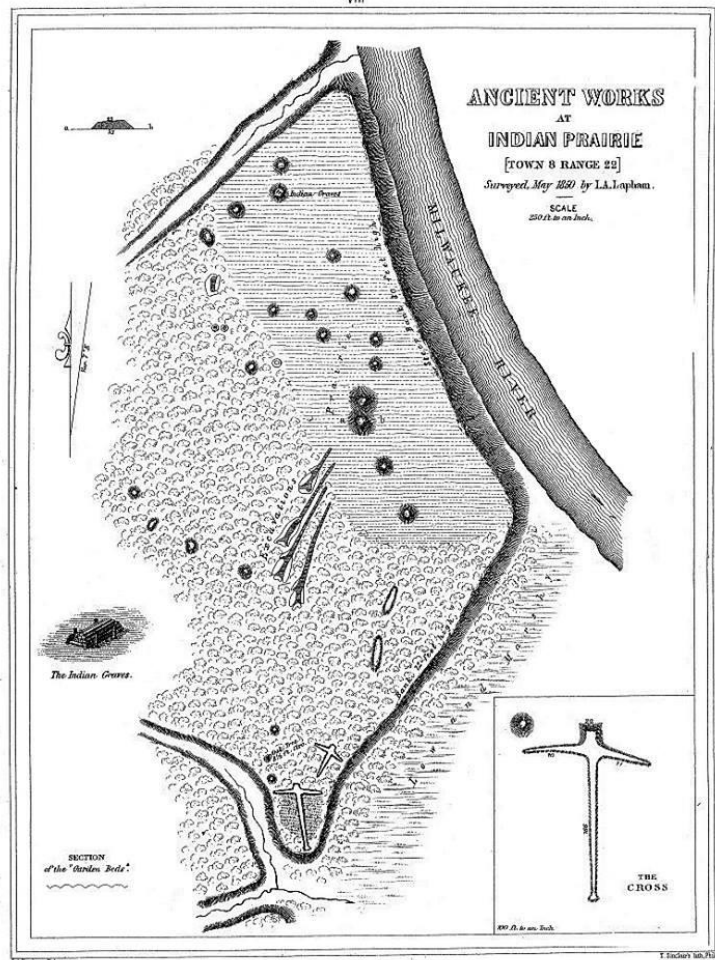
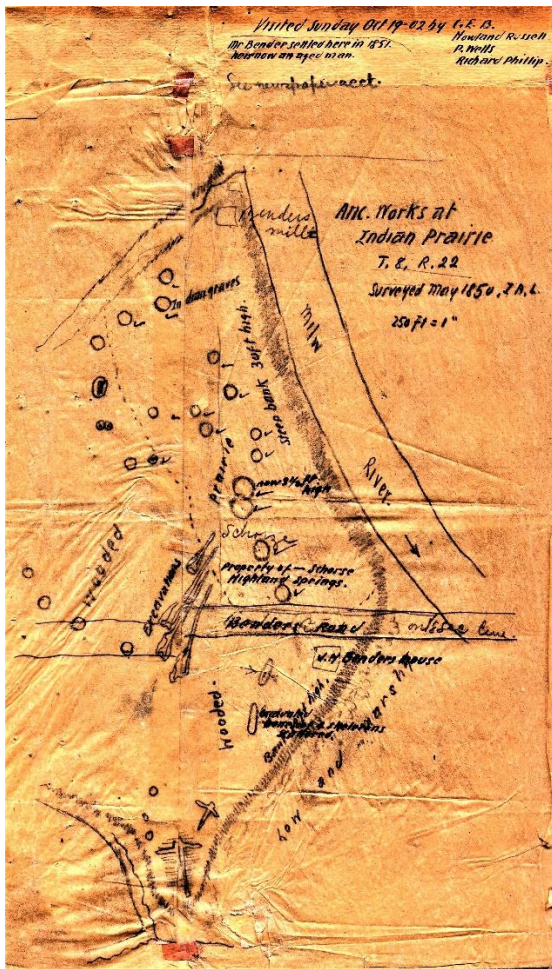
MILWAUKEE MOUND SITES



Last surviving mound in Lake Park, with marker.

Lake Park Indian Mound (above): At east end of Locust Street at Lake Drive, Milwaukee. Just east of loop parking area entered from Locust at Lake Dr. in field near baseball diamond. Plaque is on top of conical mound. There is no evidence of a burial inside, from magnetic testing. Two other round conical mounds, destroyed many years ago, were on this flat overlooking the Lake. Increase Lapham recorded this and a hundred other Indian earthen constructions (mounds) in 1850s Milwaukee; the Lake Park mound is the only one remaining.

Kletzsch Park "Indian Prairie" (below) mapped by Increase Lapham (digital copy available from UW System, see below). For centuries, the flat prairie on the west side of the Milwaukee River, what you see when you drive into Kletzsch Park, had a large agricultural village that was part of the trade and travel network of rivers and Lake Michigan, with Milwaukee Bay a main port. Over centuries, a number of earthen architecture features that we call mounds were built on this hospitable location --conical, ring-shaped, flat-topped, linear, and several "intaglio" figures carved into the earth as if coming from underground. Some had burials, others not. Nearly all have been destroyed since Lapham's time, none can be seen by visitors now. But let your imagination put in the family homes (wigwams or square wood and thatch houses), the plaza where everyone gathered for trading and community observations, the landing place on the river, and stretching far around the town, cornfields with hand-built ridges and ditches like plowed fields. Note: Some of the mounds shown on the maps below are in a residential area today and are not accessible to visitors. The park itself is open to the public but no features are visible above ground so you will have to use your imagination here!



1850 Map by Lapham, Wisconsin Historical Society (right)
<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM100488>



INCREASE LAPHAM <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/Antiquities/>

THE ANTIQUITIES OF WISCONSIN, AS SURVEYED AND DESCRIBED.

BY I. A. LAPHAM, CIVIL ENGINEER, ETC.,

ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

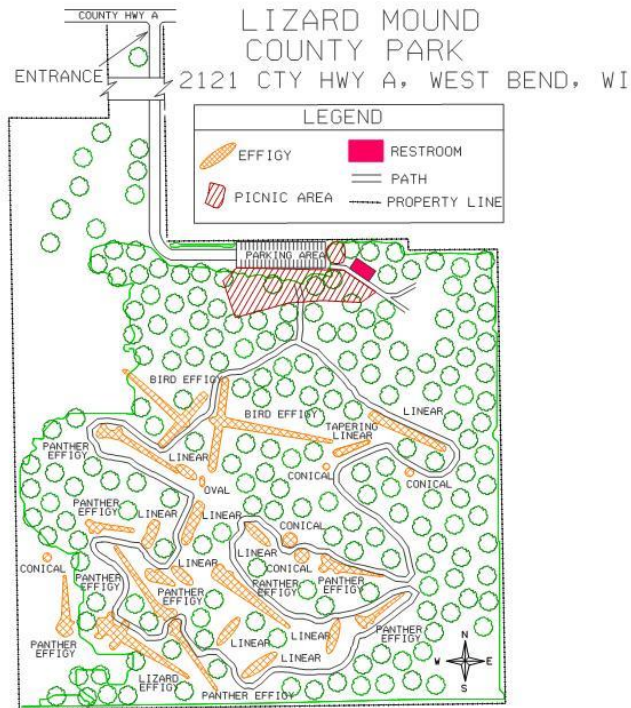
PUBLISHED BY THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,

WASHINGTON D.C., JUNE 1855

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LIZARD MOUNDS

Lizard Mound County Park is north of West Bend, Wisconsin on County Trunk "A", one mile east of State Highway 144. The park contains 28 effigy mounds, one of the best-preserved effigy mound groups. A self-guided anthropological nature trail winds around the park, clearly identifying each mound. Some are long linear, some circular, a number are in the shapes of birds, lizards or perhaps underwater monsters, or big cats ("panthers"). Effigy mounds, some with burials, most not, were built in southern Wisconsin from about 400-1000 CE, although their descendants continued to build mounds. Ample parking and toilet by parking area.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lizard_Mound_County_Park

<http://www.wisconsinmounds.com/LizardMoundCountyPark.html>

Map: <https://www.co.washington.wi.us/uploads/docs/lizardmap2013-rev.pdf>



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MAN MOUND

The Man Mound near Baraboo, WI is a great day trip and quite impressive. (Also a bit creepy). Bring a step ladder to get the best view because it is quite large. (Thanks to AIA Milwaukee member RoseMary Oliveira for the suggestion!) Here is a link to the county site: [Man Mound Park | Sauk County Wisconsin Official Website](#)



OTHER MOUNDS AROUND THE STATE

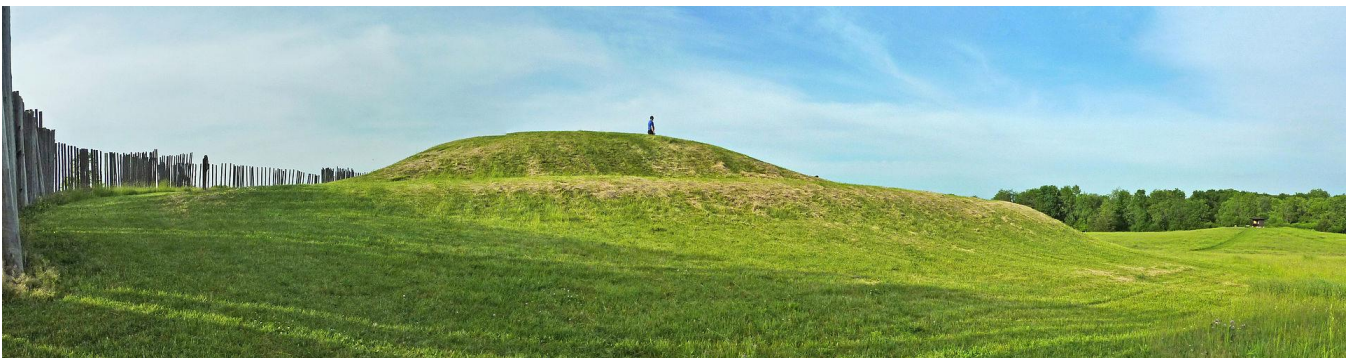
There are mounds on the Beloit College campus: <https://www.beloit.edu/logan/about-the-museum/indian-mounds/>

and on the UW-Madison campus: <https://lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu/native-americans-and-the-preserve/#:~:text=A%20total%20of%2011%20mound,Lake%20Mendota%20or%20Lake%20Wingra.>

AZTALAN

Southeast of Lake Mills exit I-94 at Lake Mills, onto Hwy. 89, turn onto Hwy. B, at village of Aztalan crossroads turn onto Hwy. Q south to Park.

Vehicle entrance requires a Wisconsin State Parks permit, or purchase online or by calling 1-888-305-0398 daily 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



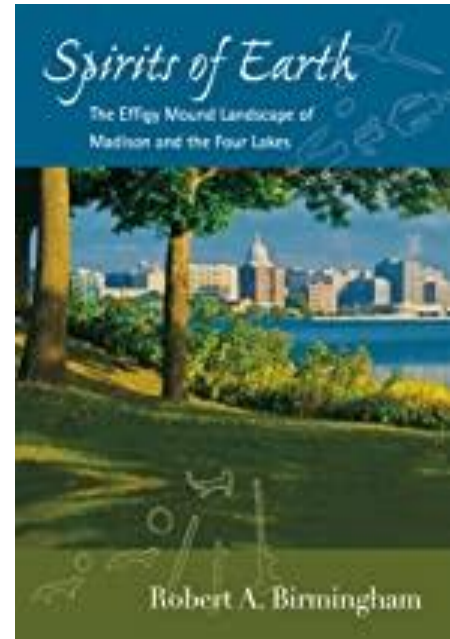
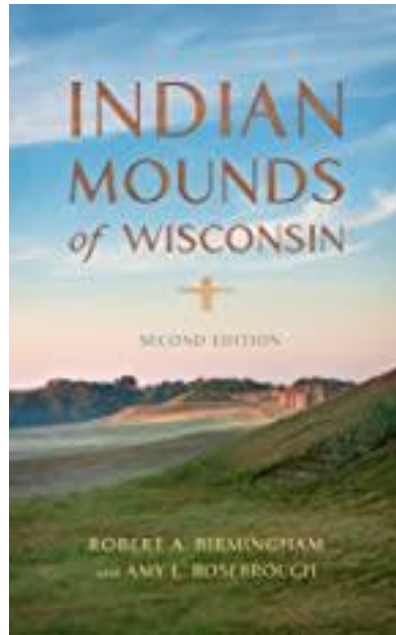
You can download a PDF file on the site:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/534aed86e4b0d28409c42ee8/t/5ccce3279e9eea00010db72a/1556931376606/Walking+Tour+of+Aztalan+2019.pdf>

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Occupied from about 1050 CE to 1200, it was the northeast outpost of Cahokia, the largest nation in precontact North America between those years. Aztalan at the headwaters of the Rock River controlled trade from SE Wisconsin down the Rock into the Mississippi at Cahokia (where St. Louis MO is today), the hub of transport in North America a thousand years ago. Wisconsin's native nations, descendants of the Effigy Mound builders of about 400-1000 CE, opposed the armed intruders whose palisaded town lies below a ridge with earlier mounds, some with burials.

Additional Sources



Aztalan: Mysteries of an Ancient Indian Town, by Robert A. Birmingham and Lynne Goldstein

Indian Mounds of Wisconsin, by Robert A. Birmingham and Amy L. Rosebrough

Spirits of Earth: The Effigy Mound Landscape of Madison and the Four Lakes (Wisconsin Land and Life)
by Robert A. Birmingham

TRIMBORN FARM



Trimborn Farm is Milwaukee County's only historic park. The site is the heart of the lime manufacturing business begun by Werner Trimborn, a German immigrant, in 1851. The Greek Revival house and the Stone Barn (one of the largest intact barns of its type in Wisconsin) are on the National Register of Historic Places. This view is from the top of the lime kilns - the oldest and largest in Milwaukee County. The park is open from 10:00am to 10:00pm daily, with the buildings open for guided tours only, booked in advance.

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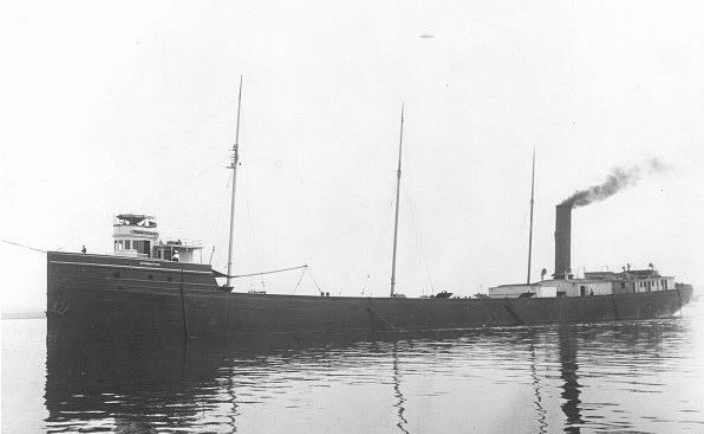


See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trimborn_Farm and <https://www.trimbornfarm.com/history>

LAKESHORE SHIPWRECKS

Numerous historical shipwrecks are marked by interpretive panels along the lakeshore in and around Milwaukee. A good example is the Appomattox wreck just off Atwater Beach in Shorewood, which is marked by an interpretive panel on the bluff. The buoy over the wreck can be seen from shore.

Historical Collections of the Great Lakes
Bowling Green State University



Appomattox wreck: <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/NationalRegister/NR2226>

If you are interested in more information about the Appomattox, you can find it here: <https://wisconsinshipwrecks.org/shipwrecks> or here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Appomattox

Visit a shipwreck near you -- these markers are all over the state and once clicked on their locations (GPS and map) are revealed:

<https://www.wisconsinshipwrecks.org/Attraction/ByAttractionType?attractionType=Historic%20Marker>

If you are interested in Great Lakes maritime archeology you can consult: <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS4070>, www.wmhs.org or <http://www.wuaa.org/>

(Thanks go to Kevin Cullen, Neville Museum in Green Bay, and James Heinz, AIA Milwaukee member, for these Web resources!)