

City of Madison Landmarks Commission  
 LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (1)

**I. Name of Building or Site**

(1) Common  
 Hudson Park Mound

(2) Historic (if applicable)  
 Mills Woods Mound, (47 DA-10)

**II. Location**

(1) Street Address Hudson Park,  
 Corner of Hudson and Lakeland

(2) Aldermanic District  
 16th Aldermanic District

**III. Classification**

(1) Type of Property (building, monument, park, etc.)  
 Effigy Mound

(2) Zoning District  
 C (Conservancy)

(3) Present Use  
 Park land

**IV. Current Owner of Property (available at City Assessor's office)**

(1) Name(s) Mr. Dan Stapay, Director  
 City of Madison - Parks

(2) Street Address  
 Municipal Building, Suite 120  
 Madison, WI 53710

(3) Telephone Number  
 266-4711

**V. Legal Description (available at City Assessor's office)**

(1) Parcel Number  
 0710-053-4201-0

(2) Legal Description  
 See continuation sheet

**VI. Condition of Property**

(1) Physical Condition (excellent, good, fair, deteriorated, ruins)  
 Good

(2) Altered or Unaltered?  
 Altered

(3) Moved or Original Site?  
 Original site

(4) Wall Construction  
 Not applicable

(5) On a separate sheet of paper, describe the present and original physical construction and appearance (limit 500 words).

### Legal Description

The mound is located in what is commonly called Hudson Park, which, according to the legal description is officially part of the larger Olbrich Park. For purposes of the legal definition, the parcel on which Olbrich Park is located is considered the landmark site: Part of Section 5 and 8, T7N, R10E, all land used for Olbrick (sic) Park in the W 1/2 said sections adjoining Lake Monona and vacated Lakeland Avenue.

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LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (4)

**VII.(7) Significance of Nominated Property and Conformance to Designation Criteria:**

The Mills Woods mound is located in Hudson Park on a bluff overlooking Lake Monona immediately south of Lakeland Avenue. It is the only surviving member of the Mills Woods Mound Group. This group once consisted of at least 12 birds, 3-5 quadrepeds, 5 linears and 10 conicals (Brown 1922:137-138; Peterson 1979:60). All of the other mounds have been destroyed by residential development. One bird in the group had a wingspan of 568 feet. The Mills Woods group was mapped by Peet (1898, Brown 1922:136) and, in part, by Lewis (1885, 1888 MS), but unfortunately these maps do not agree. Peterson (1979:60) questions the accuracy of Peet's representation.

The Mills Woods mound is an effigy of a long-tailed animal. A portion of the tail has been destroyed by construction of Lakeland Avenue and early maps indicate that a small portion of the tail was also damaged by recreational activities (Brown Ms-Box 22). Comparison of the present dimensions of the mound to early maps suggest that the edges of the mound were altered by landscaping. The present length of the mound is 34 meters with a maximum width of 9.3 meters. It is between 30 and 50 cms high.

City of Madison Landmarks Commission  
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (3)

**VII. Significance**

(1) <b>Original Owner</b> People of the Late Woodland Stage Effigy Mound Tradition	(2) <b>Original Use</b>  Ceremonial and Funerary
(3) <b>Architect or Builder</b> People of the Late Woodland Stage Effigy Mound Tradition	(4) <b>Architectural Style</b>  Not applicable
(5) <b>Date of Construction</b>  ca. 800-1100 A.D.	(6) <b>Indigenous Materials Used</b>  Not applicable
(7) On a separate sheet of paper, describe the significance of the nominated property and its conformance to the designation criteria of the Landmarks Commission Ordinance (33.01), limit of 500 words.	

**VIII. List of Bibliographical References Used**

Please see continuation sheet

**IX. Form Prepared By:**

(1) **Name and Title** Robert A. Birmingham, State Archeologist, and  
Katherine H. Rankin, Preservation Planner

(2) **Organization Represented (if any)**

State Historical Society of Wisconsin and City of Madison

(3) **Address**

P.O. Box 2985  
Madison, WI 53701

(4) **Telephone Number**

266-6552

(5) **Date Nomination Form Was Prepared**

August 1, 1989

Landmark Nomination

Mills Woods Mound

List of Bibliographic References Used

- Arizigian, Constance. 1986, The Emergence of Horticulture Societies in Wisconsin. In William F. Keegan (ed.) Emergent Horticultural Societies of the Eastern Woodlands. Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Center for Archeological investigations Occasional paper No. 7.
- Brown, Charles E., 1922, Lake Monona. The Wisconsin Archeologist. 1 (4): 119-167.
- Brown, Charles E., n.d., MS, Box 22, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.
- Lewis, Theodore, 1885, 1888MS, Northwestern Archeological Survey-Lewis Notebook 24, Copy on file with the Minnesota State Historical Society, St. Paul.
- Peterson, Robert, 1979, The Wisconsin Effigy Mounds Project, I. Unpublished report on file, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison.
- Peet, Stephen D., 1898, Emblematic Mounds and Animal Effigies, Prehistoric America Vol. II, Revised Chicago Edition, American Antiquarian Office.
- Salkin, Philip, 1987, The Late Woodland Stage in Southeastern Wisconsin. Wisconsin Academy Review, pp. 75-79.

City of Madison Landmarks Commission  
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (4)

**VII.(7) Significance of Nominated Property and Conformance to Designation Criteria:**

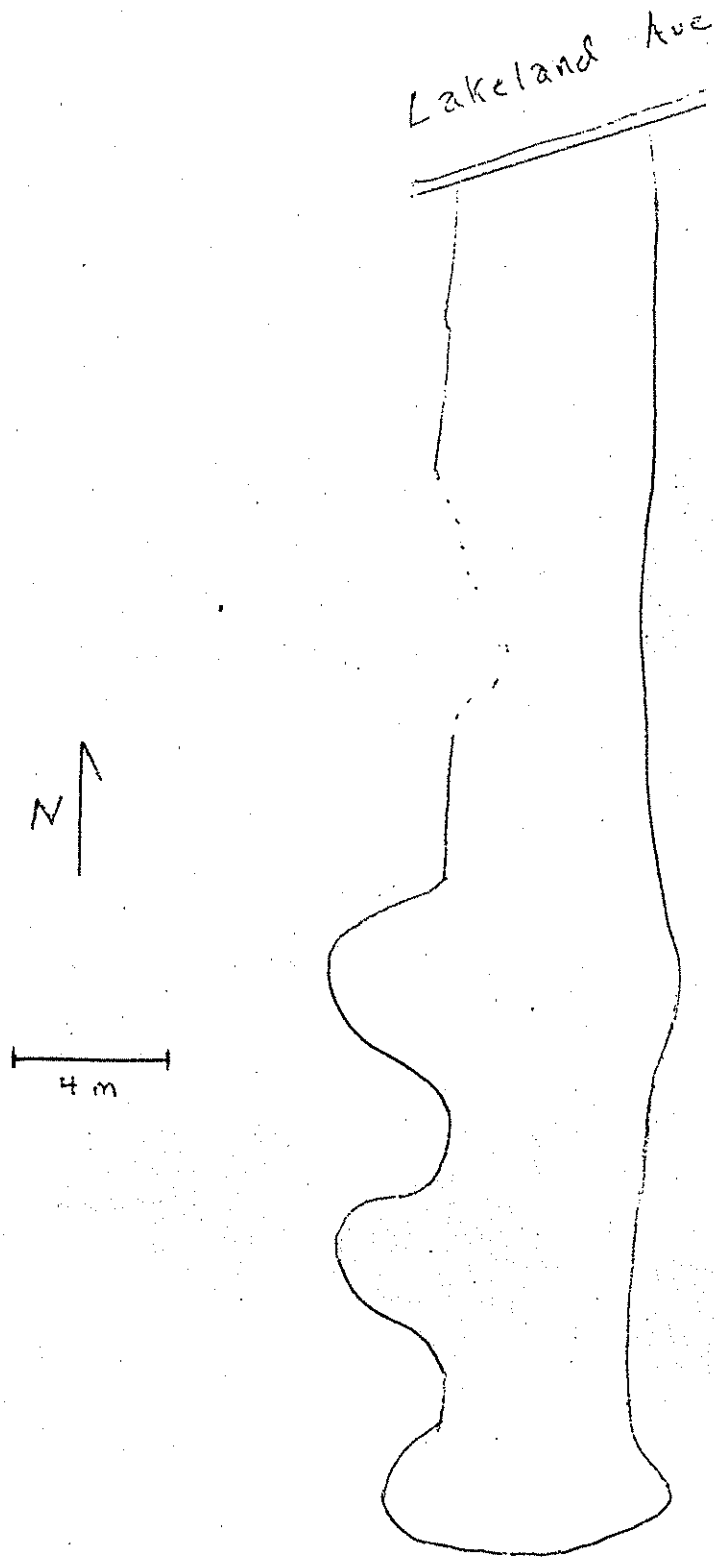
The Mills Woods mound is significant because it is the last surviving member of a very large effigy mound group on Lake Monona. Although small portions of this mound have been damaged, the mound retains sufficient integrity to provide important information concerning the Late Woodland Stage in southwestern and south central Wisconsin.

Dane County once contained over 1,000 mounds that are attributable to the Late Woodland Stage (Peterson 1979:53-53). This figure includes 289 effigy mounds. Most of these were found in the Madison and Four Lakes area of the county. Approximately 200 mounds, including less than 60 effigies, remain. The Mills Woods mound is the last remaining member of a large Late Woodland effigy mound group that was once situated on the northeast shore of Lake Monona. Although the exact function and meaning of effigy mound groups is unclear, most archeologists believe that they were built by discrete social groups separated in space and/or time. In this light, the Mills Woods mound may contain the only information there is concerning a Late Woodland group that lived on or used the northeast shore of Lake Monona.

Additionally, the mound has the potential to yield important information on the Late Woodland Stage in general. For example, ceramics and other artifacts can help clarify the nature of the Late Woodland sequence. This is important, since it has recently been proposed that not all Late Woodland populations participated in the construction of effigy mounds (Salkin 1987). Charcoal and other organic material associated with ceremonial activities can provide radiocarbon dates that will further refine the temporal span of mound construction. Recently, the role of maize horticulture in Late Woodland society has been a research issue (Arzigian 1987). Since these types of mounds frequently contain burials, analysis of teeth and bone chemistry can provide insights into diet of the effigy mound people. Analysis of the features, artifacts, and interments found in this type of effigy as well as comparison of this information to other types of effigies may help further our understanding of the meaning and function of the mounds.



Mills Woods Mound looking north (above), looking south (below).



Sketch of Mills Woods Mound.



HUDSON PARK MOUND

47 DA-10

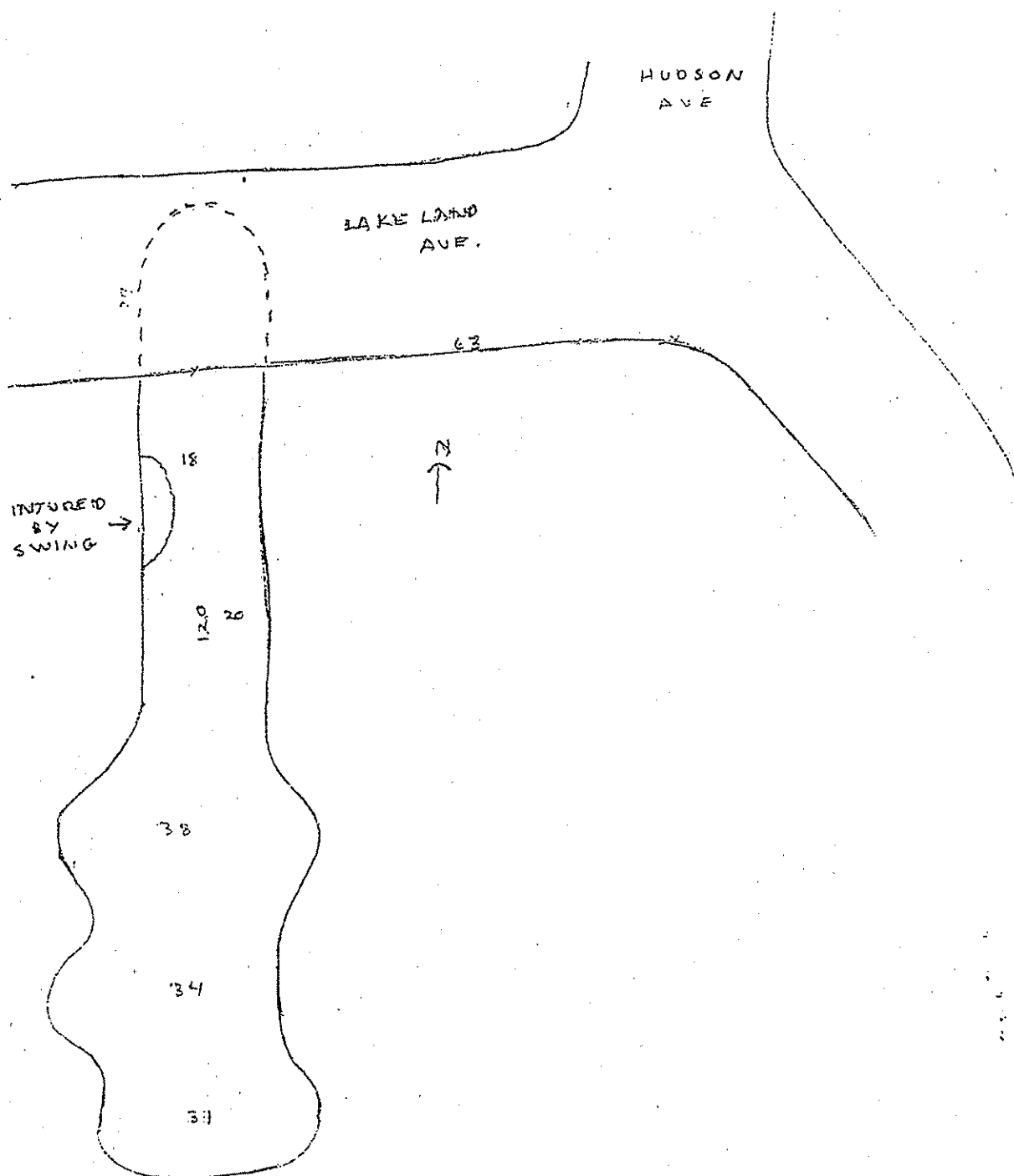
SURVEYED BY C. E. BROWN

SEPT. 20, 1921

CHARLES E. BROWN PAPERS

BOX 22

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



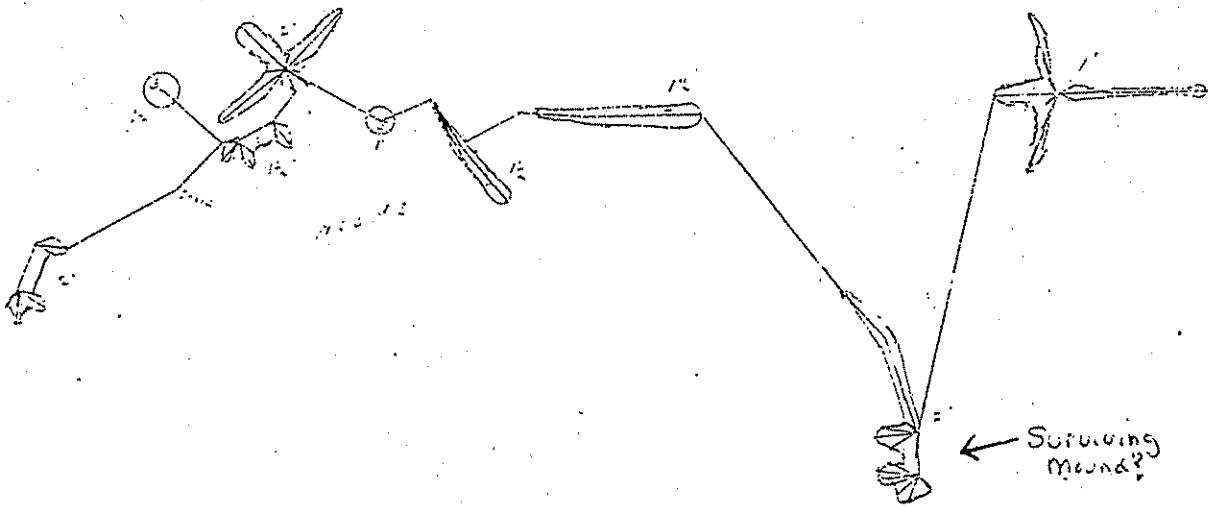
47 DA-10

Flint Lake mounds. N. side of L. Monona.  
On NE 1/4 of 7 and NW 1/4 of 8 - 7-10.  
Dane County, Wisconsin.

Surveyed by T. H. Lewis. Aug. 9, 1898.

Scale 1:2000.

NORTHWESTERN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
PAPERS - MAP NO. 10  
MINN. STATE HIST. SOCIETY



L A K E

GROUP OF MOUNDS  
AT MILL WOODS

SURVEYED BY STEPHEN PEET

NOV 2 P. 50.

FIG. 46

47 DA-16

