
Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site (United States of America) No 198 Bis

1 Basic data

State Party

United States of America

Name of property

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site

Location

Collinsville (Illinois), some 13 km north-east of St Louis (Missouri)

Inscription

1982

Brief description

Cahokia Mounds, some 13 km north of St Louis, Missouri, is the largest pre-Columbian settlement north of Mexico. It was occupied primarily during the Mississippian period (800-1400), when it covered nearly 1,600 ha and included some 120 mounds. It is a striking example of a complex chiefdom society, with many satellite mound centres and numerous outlying hamlets and villages. This agricultural society may have had a population of 10-20,000 at its peak between 1050 and 1150. Primary features at the site include Monks Mound, the largest prehistoric earthwork in the Americas, covering over 5 ha and standing 3 m high.

Date of ICOMOS approval of report

11 March 2016

2 Issues raised

Background

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (iii) and (iv) in 1982. The area of the property at the time of inscription was stated as 591 ha, while the corrected number of hectares for the property is 541: the nomination dossier contained a typographical error, which is not related to this modification request.

The dossier also included a map dated 30 June 1981. The map contained another error relating to the south-east corner of the property. It indicated the properties acquired by the State of Illinois in 1979, but incorrectly included a small triangular section whose boundaries are Harding Ditch and Black Lane. The land acquired in fact follows the north-east / south-west line of Harding Ditch towards Black Lane, thus excluding the triangular section (modification no. 1).

Furthermore, the 1981 map left off a small sliver of land along the eastern boundary of the site, containing the access road for the large central tract of land (area of 54;2 ha). This small and narrow strip (0.06 ha) had a different parcel identification number, which led to the cartographer leaving it off by mistake (modification no. 2).

Modification

Modification no. 1 does not reduce the actual size of the property. It is merely the correction of a cartographic error on the original map. Modification no. 2 includes an access road which has always formed part of the property from the outset. The increase in size of the property is only marginal.

The revision proposal presented in the request for the minor modification of boundaries thus accurately reflects the land owned by the State of Illinois when the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1982. The correction does not change the total area of the property declared at the time of inscription (and does not at the present time concern the additional land acquired by the State of Illinois since the date of inscription).

As clearly stated, the boundary correction is more an informational than a substantive issue, as it is the result of a cartographic error. The areas in question are on the boundaries of the site, are minimal in size and affect neither the structures nor features of the property. They have no impact on the legal protection or management arrangements of the property, which thus fully retains its Outstanding Universal Value.

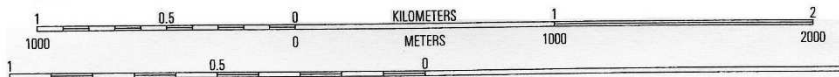
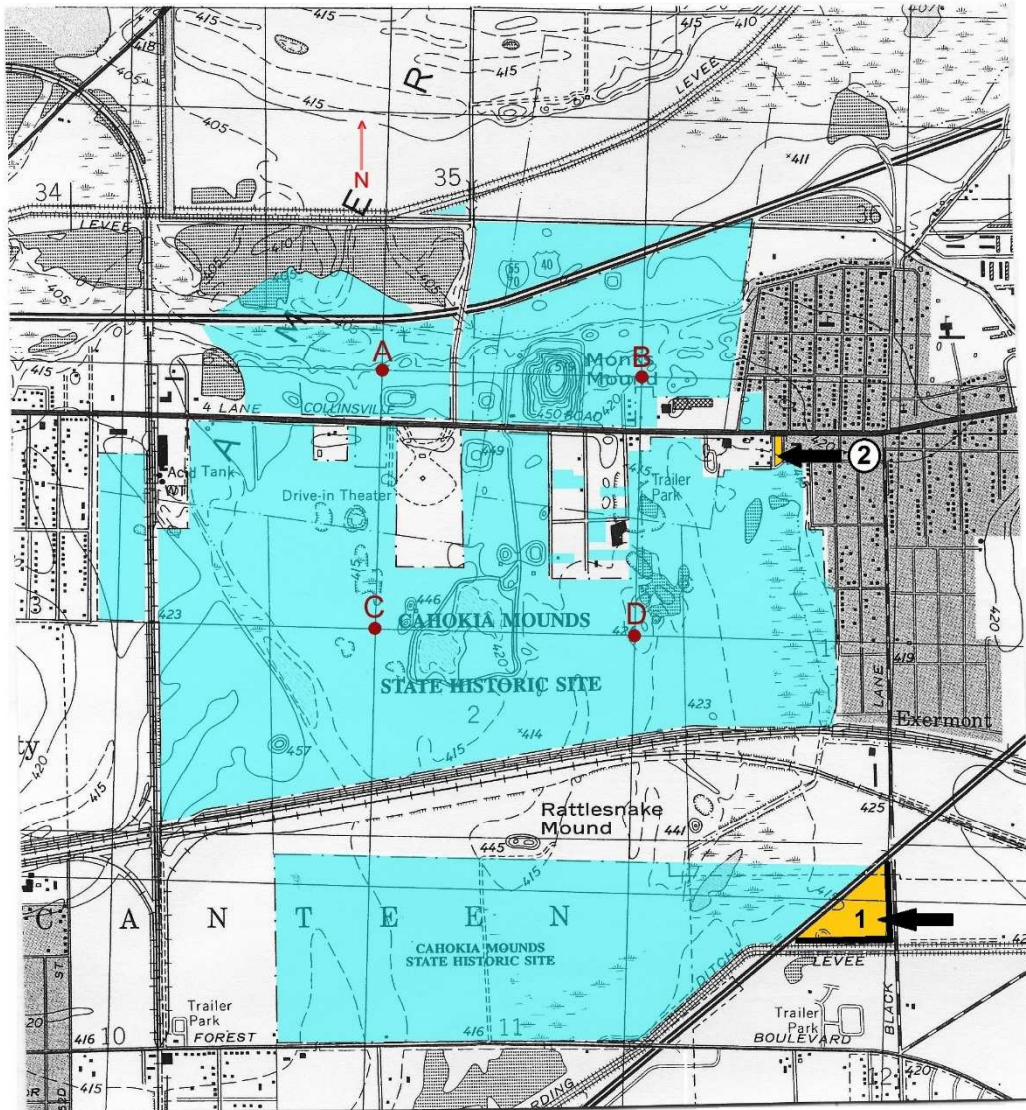
3 ICOMOS recommendations

Recommendations in respect of inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposal of a minor modification to the boundaries of the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, United States of America, be **approved**.

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site

World Heritage Boundaries - Identified Locations of discrepancies



A - UTM 15/4283000N, 15/755000E C - UTM 15/4282000N, 15/755000E
B - UTM 15/4283000N, 15/756000E D - UTM 15/4282000N, 15/756000E

Map showing the revised boundaries of the property