



Executive Summary

*"All of us who are Indian are descendants of the
Mound builders, and their blood runs in our veins."*

Donald Fixico
Distinguished Foundation Professor of History
Arizona State University
Citizen, Shawnee/Sac & Fox/Muskogee

Executive Summary

State Party:	United States of America
State, Province, or Region:	Ohio
Name of Property:	Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks

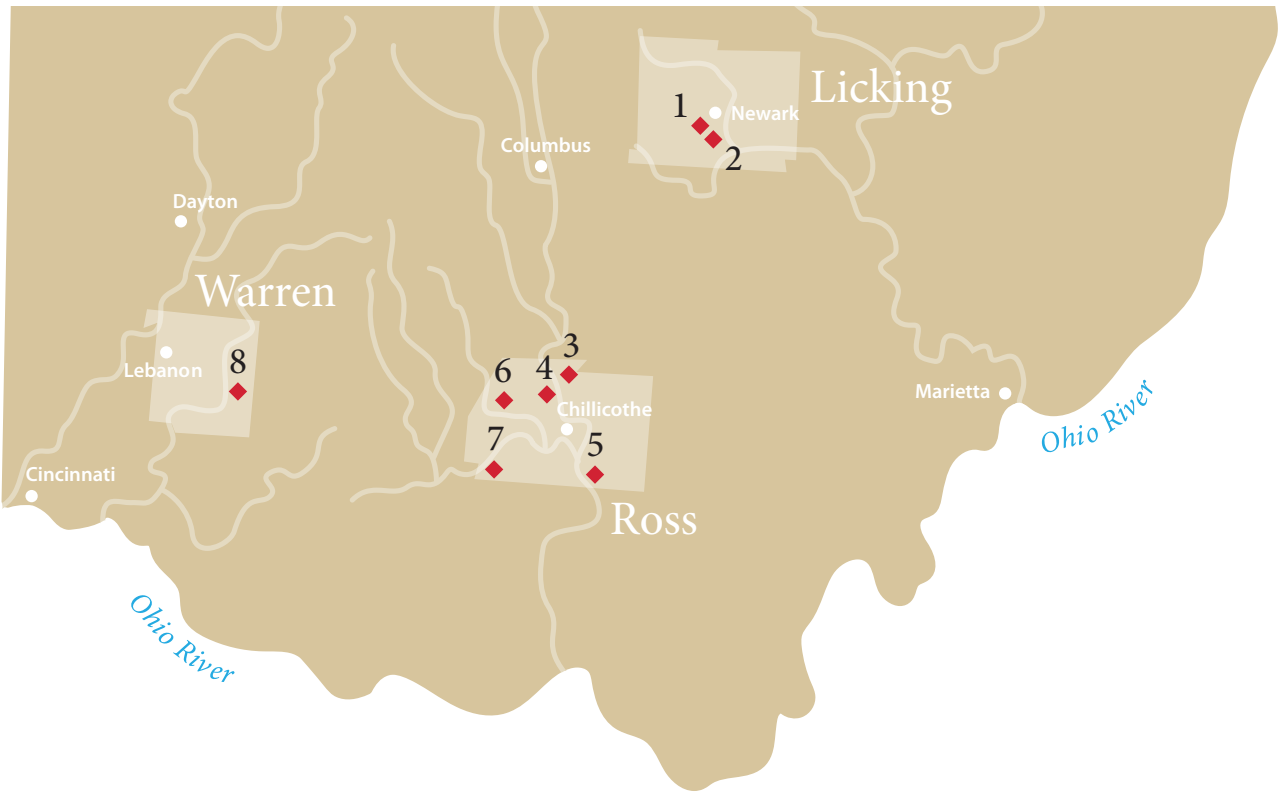
Textual Description of the Boundaries of the Nominated Properties

The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks is a serial nomination consisting of eight ancient Indigenous ceremonial earthworks built in the present-day southern half of the State of Ohio, spanning a distance of 150 kilometers.

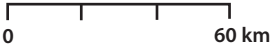
The World Heritage Property Boundary of each of the eight components lies within the publicly owned lands of Hopewell Culture National Historical Park (a unit of the U. S. National Park Service), the State of Ohio, or the Ohio History Connection. The Boundaries encompass the mounds, earthworks, and archaeological features essential to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Property. They also include margins that encompass likely archaeological resources associated with the varying degrees of degradation of some of the earthworks over time, generally 10 to 30 meters wherever possible.

The Buffer Zone surrounding each component includes other parts of the contiguous state or federal land, and in some cases extends into surrounding private or other public property that is protected by local designations, or committed to long-term compatible land use. The Buffer Zones are designed to protect the existing character of the rural or suburban surroundings, and maintain viewsheds important to the Property's Outstanding Universal Value.

ID #	Name of the Component Part	County	Coordinates of the Central Point		Area of Nominated Component of the Property (ha)	Area of the Buffer Zone	See Map on Page...
1		Licking	40.053657°	82.446061°	43.2	30.3	30
2		Licking	40.0412328°	82.430119°	20.2	16.5	31
3		Ross	39.384791°	82.979155°	22.7	80.4	33
4		Ross	39.3764891°	83.003989°	13.1	34.0	34
5		Ross	39.298561°	82.918490°	26.0	30.4	35
6		Ross	39.360984°	83.093372°	69.5	59.9	36
7		Ross	39.237470°	83.219824°	56.2	107.3	37
8		Warren	39.40336°	84.092549°	69.8	203.0	39
Total Area (in hectares)					320.7 ha	561.8 ha	

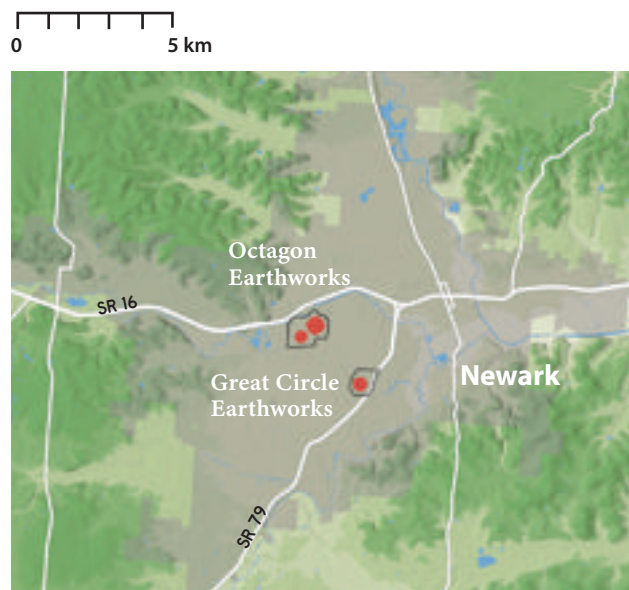
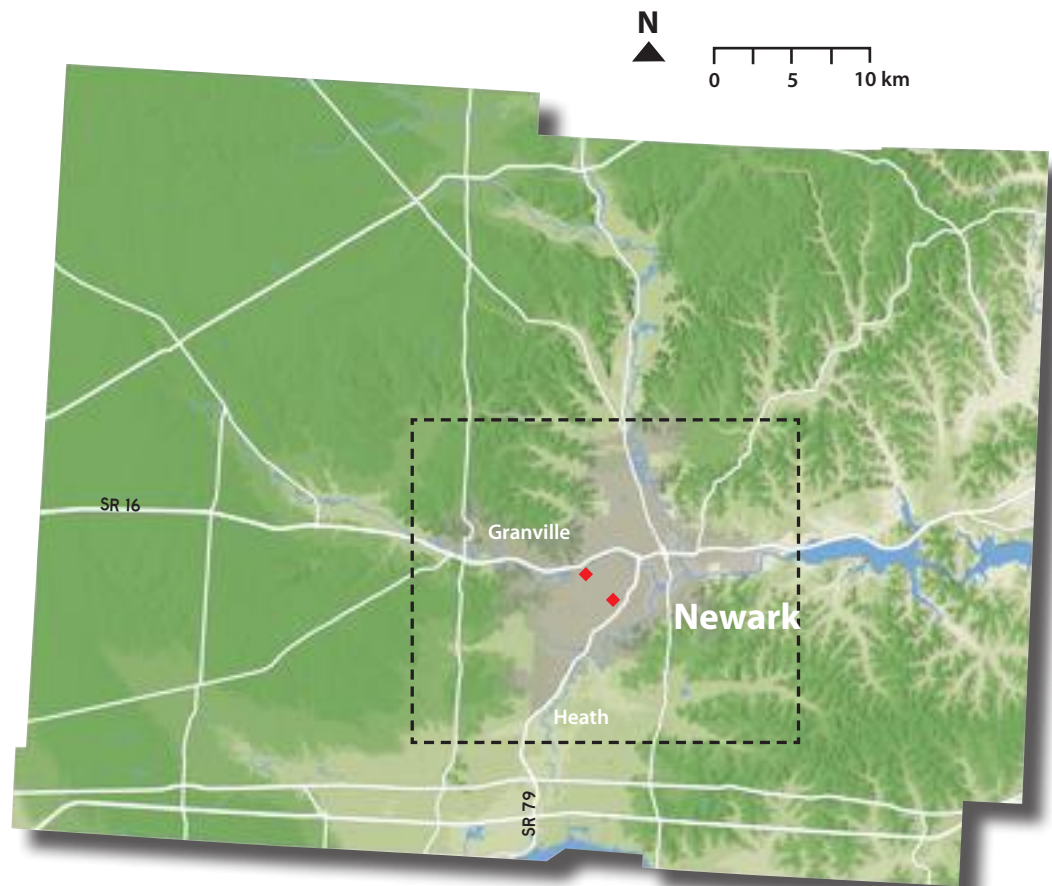


Series Components



National Map Sources	United States Geological Survey, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), National Atlas, Natural Earth Data, United States Department of Agriculture FSA, United States National Park Service, ESRI Imagery Sources: DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community.
State & County Map Sources	All of the above, plus: Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio GIS Database, Ohio Geographic Reference Information Project (OGRIP) 2021, U. S. Geological Survey 2021, National Hydrography Dataset, 3D Elevation Program 1-Meter Resolution Digital Elevation Model, U. S. Topographic Data.
Local & Earthwork Map Sources	All of the above, plus: Ohio History Connection, U. S. National Park Service, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Google Earth, Ohio LiDAR Database, U. S. Forest Service, Licking County Auditors 2019 Parcel Data, Ross County Auditors 2019 Parcel Data, Warren County Auditors 2019 Parcel Data, various definitive survey and archaeological plans of individual earthworks.

Licking County





Octagon Earthworks

Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks



Above Grade

WH Boundary

WH Buffer

WH Boundary Center Coordinate

0 300 m



0 200 m

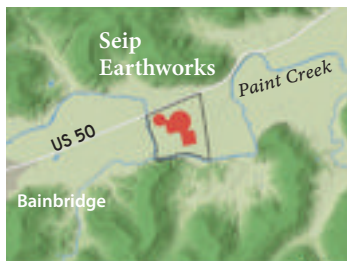
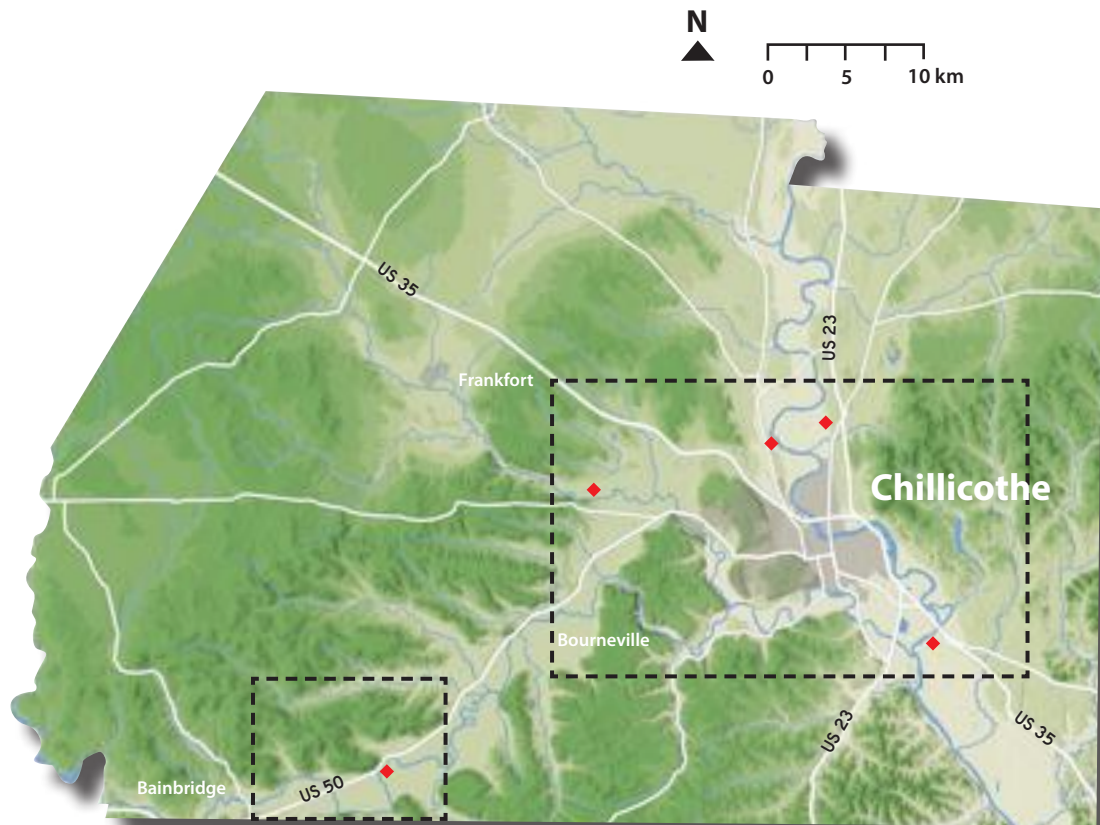
Above Grade
Depression/
Ponds/Pits

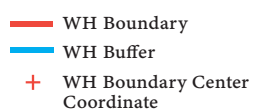
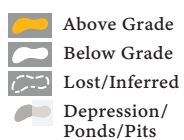
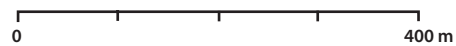
WH Boundary
WH Buffer
WH Boundary Center
Coordinate

Great Circle Earthworks

Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks

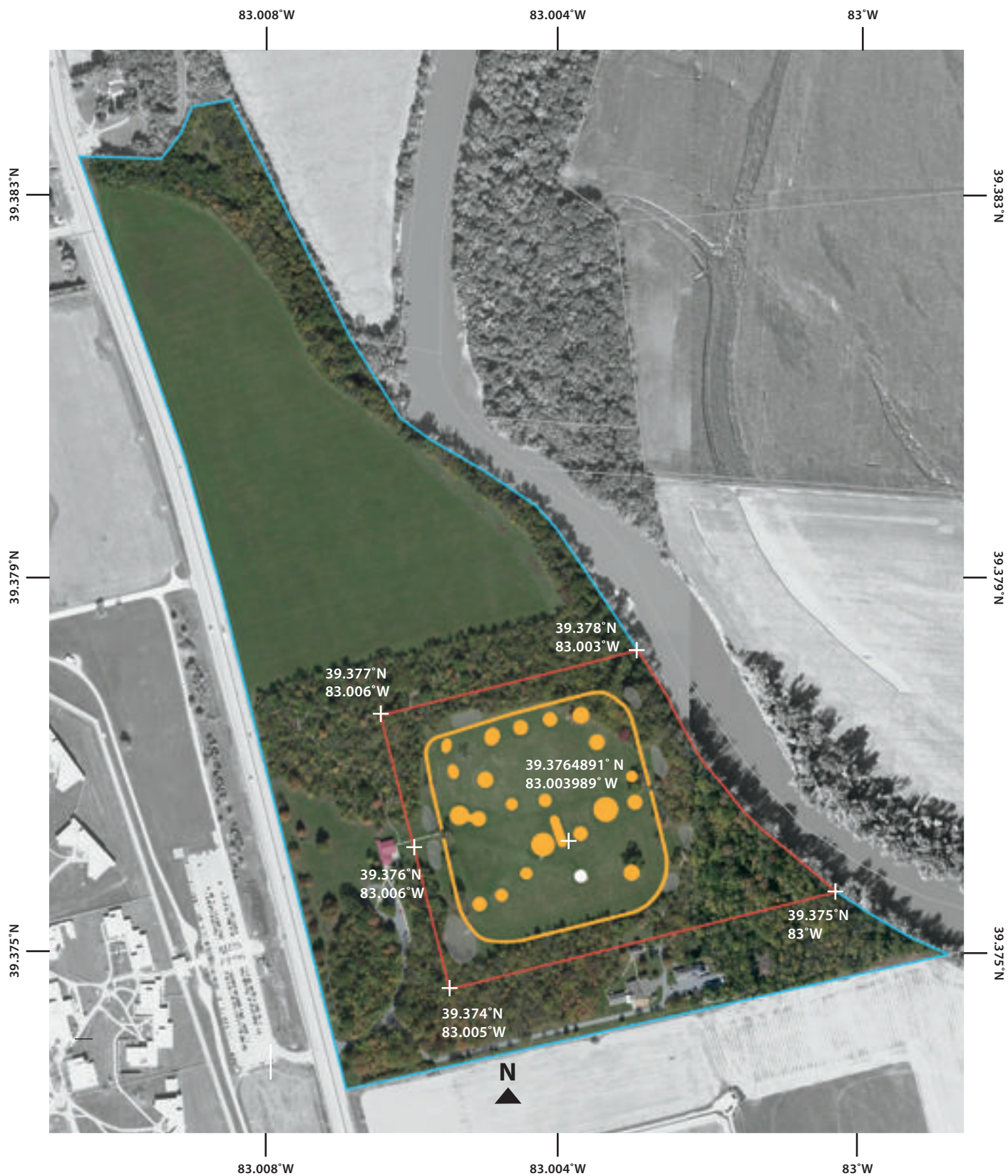
Ross County





Hopeton Earthworks

Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks

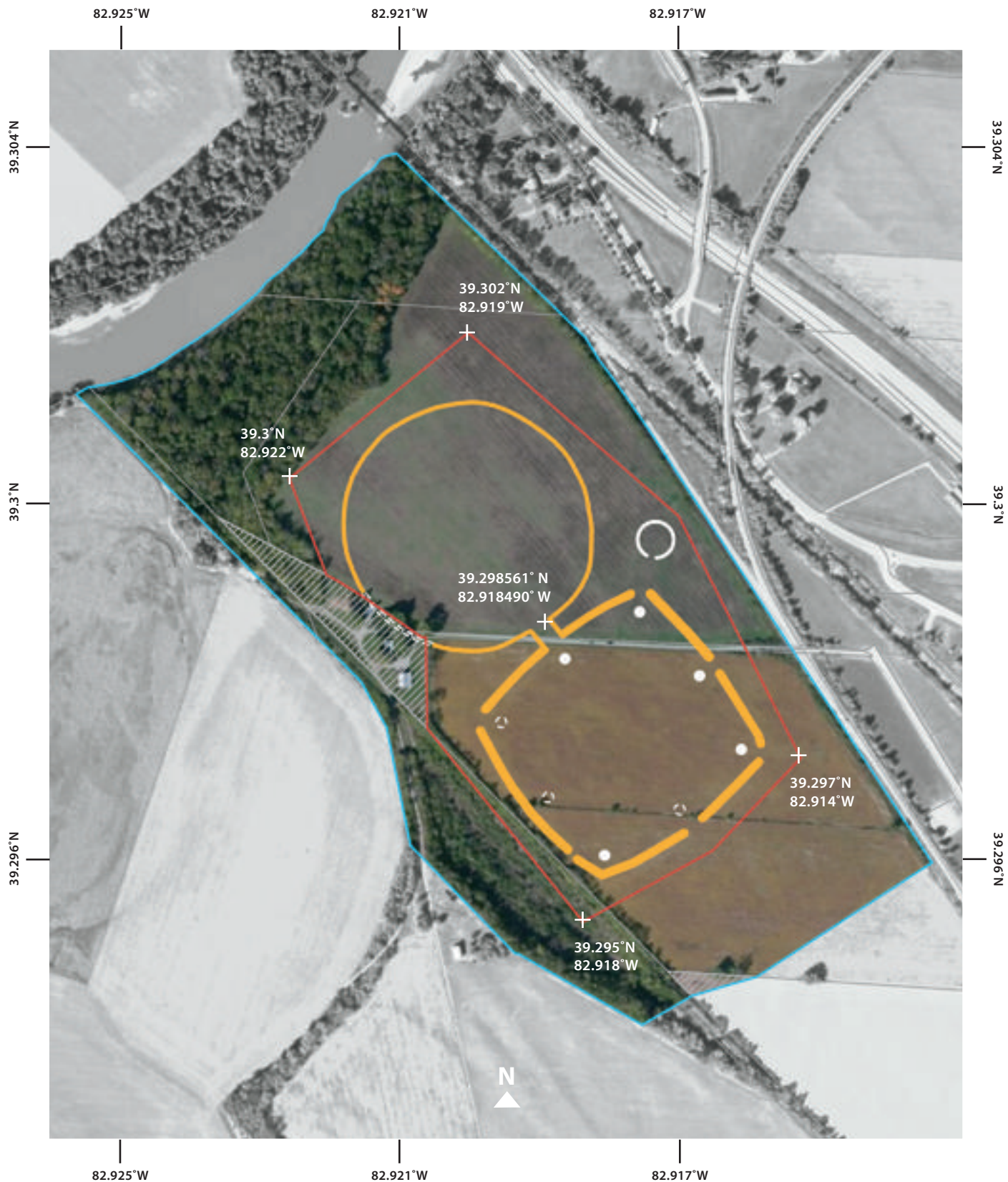


Mound City

Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks

- Above Grade
- Below Grade
- Depression/Ponds/Pits
- WH Boundary
- WH Buffer
- WH Boundary Center Coordinate

0 300 m



- | | | | |
|--|---------------|--|--|
| | Above Grade | | WH Boundary |
| | Below Grade | | WH Buffer |
| | Lost/Inferred | | Private Land within
NPS Authorized Boundary |
| | | | WH Boundary Center
Coordinate |









High Bank Works

Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks



Hopewell Mound Group

Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks

-  Above Grade
-  Below Grade
-  Lost/Inferred
-  Depression/Ponds/Pits
-  WH Boundary
-  WH Buffer
-  Private Land within NPS Authorized Boundary
-  WH Boundary Center Coordinate

0 500 m



0 400 m

- Above Grade
- Below Grade
- Lost/Inferred
- WH Boundary
- WH Buffer
- Private Land within NPS Authorized Boundary
- WH Boundary Center Coordinate

Seip Earthworks

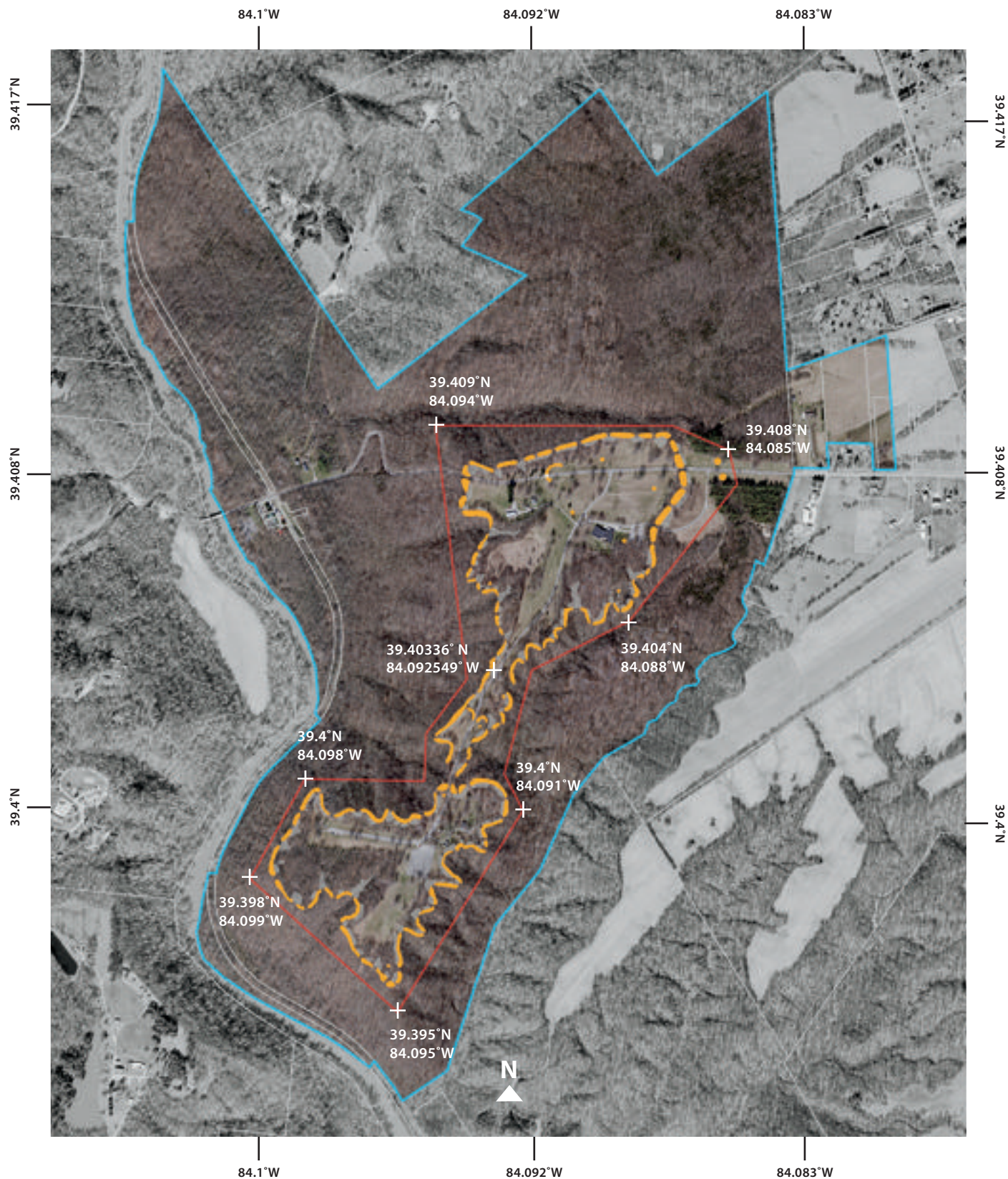
Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks

Warren County



0 5 10 km





0 500 m

- Above Grade
- Depression/Ponds/Pits
- WH Boundary
- WH Buffer
- WH Boundary Center Coordinate

Fort Ancient

Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks

**Criteria Under Which
Property is Nominated**

The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks are nominated under the following criteria:

The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks are Masterpieces of Human Creative Genius.

The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks bear a unique testimony to the tradition of the Indigenous Hopewell culture of two millennia ago.

**Draft Statement of
Outstanding
Universal Value**

The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks are a series of eight monumental Indigenous earthen enclosure complexes built along the central tributaries of the Ohio River in east central North America between 2000 and 1600 years ago. The eight components extend across a distance of 150 kilometers in southern Ohio, and the largest of the individual works encloses 55 hectares. Conceived and designed as ceremonial centers, these immense earthworks are the finest and most representative surviving expressions of the cultural flowering and distinctive genius of an Indigenous tradition now referred to as the Hopewell culture.

Their enormous scale and complexity is evident in precise geometric figures as well as hilltops sculpted to enclose vast, level plazas. Huge squares, circles, and octagons are executed with an astonishing precision of form, technique, and dimension, consistently deployed across a wide geographic region. There are alignments not only with the sun's cycles, but also with the far more complex rising and setting patterns of the moon.

These earthworks served as ceremonial centers, built by dispersed, non-hierarchical groups whose way of life was supported by a mix of foraging and farming, and who developed sophisticated knowledge of astronomy, geometry, and earthen construction. These sites were the foci of a continent-wide sphere of influence and interaction, and have yielded exceptionally finely crafted ritual objects fashioned from exotic raw materials obtained from distant places.

Criterion (i)

The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks are highly complex masterpieces of landscape architecture. They are exceptional among ancient earthworks worldwide not only in their enormous scale and wide geographic distribution, but in their geometric precision (such as circles greater than 300 meters with less than 0.25 meter variance, and a standard unit of measure) and in their astronomical breadth and accuracy (such as encoding all eight lunar standstills over an 18.6-year cycle). These features imply high-precision techniques of design and construction and an observational knowledge of complex astronomical cycles that would have required generations to codify. The series includes the finest extant examples of these various principles, shapes, and alignments, both in geometric earthworks and in the

pre-eminent surviving hilltop enclosure. They reflect the pinnacle of Hopewell intellectual, technical, and symbolic achievement—an autochthonous monumental architectural tradition of extraordinary power and grandeur. They remain tours-de-force of landscape architectural design and engineering; their scale, precision, complexity, and extent is unmatched anywhere in the world.

Criterion (iii)

The complexity of these earthwork sites bears exceptional testimony to the unique characteristics of their builders, who lived in small, dispersed, egalitarian groups, between 1 and 400 CE, among the river valleys of what is now southern and central Ohio. Their economy was a mix of foraging, fishing, farming, and cultivation, yet they gathered periodically to create, manage, and worship within these massive public works. The precision of their carefully composed earthen architecture, and its timber precursors, reflected an elaborate ceremonialism and linked it with the order and rhythms of the cosmos. The continent-wide reach of this culture's interactions is evident in raw materials brought from as far away as the Rocky Mountains, a distance of over 2,500 kilometers. Mica, copper, obsidian, and other exotic materials were formed into beautiful ritual objects, spectacular offerings of religious icons and regalia. The quantity, diversity, and aesthetic quality of these artifacts have few equals in the history of American Indian artistry. The earthworks in this series, together with their associated artifacts and archaeological remains, offer the finest extant testimony to the nature, scope, and richness of the Hopewell cultural tradition.

**Statement of
Integrity**

Within the Boundary of this 320.7-hectare serial Property are all the attributes necessary to convey and sustain its Outstanding Universal Value. These include the earthwork walls, gateways, ditches, ponds, and in situ archaeological remains. The series is of sufficient size to ensure the complete representation of the features and values that convey the Property's significance, through the inclusion of the largest and best-preserved examples of each major geometric form found among Hopewell earthworks, as well as the most important hilltop enclosure. In addition, all of the components are complete and in good condition, with the ability to convey their large forms and the relationships among them. There is a 561.8-hectare Buffer Zone around the nominated components to protect the attributes that sustain their Outstanding Universal Value. The Property does not suffer from adverse effects of development and/or neglect, as each site is managed as a public park in rural or low-density suburban settings. The curated artifacts in site-based collections also help support the understanding of the attributes, providing extensive evidence of the creative genius and sophisticated knowledge and skills of the earthwork builders, and giving ample testimony to the domestic as well as the ceremonial places and practices of the Hopewell culture.

**Statement of
Authenticity**

The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks are authentic to an extraordinary extent, given the long time that has elapsed since their construction, in terms of their locations and settings, forms and designs, materials and substance, and spirit and feeling. The locations for all the components are unchanged; the settings for the earthworks are still predominantly semi-rural or are in low-density residential districts buffered for most of their perimeters by parkland. In form and design, the earthworks' enclosure walls and mounds remain mostly intact. Seip, Hopewell, Hopeton, and High Bank reveal sub-surface portions of their forms clearly in high-resolution remote-sensing data, indicating intact sub-surface remains of the base layers of wall and building construction. The predominant materials and substance of the earthworks are likewise authentically preserved in the intact forms of Fort Ancient and the components at Newark, and in the in-situ archaeological remains at all the other sites. The respectful management and presentation of the eight components helps to convey the uncanny grandeur of these gigantic enclosures, their scope and beauty, and their geometrical and astronomical precision. Their spiritual resonance with contemporary American Indian Woodland traditions also supports a vivid authenticity of spirit and feeling.

**Requirements
for Protection &
Management**

All of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthwork components are protected as national or state parks and do not suffer from adverse effects of development or neglect. The standing structures, the landscape features, and the archaeological resources necessary to convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated serial Property are in good to excellent condition. Detailed management plans are in place for all eight earthwork sites, following the established policies and legal requirements of their respective governmental owner agencies, the Ohio History Connection and the U. S. National Park Service, whose local representatives work closely together to provide consistent and coordinated management for the series. All features and elements within the Boundary of the nominated Property are closely monitored on a regular basis by professional expert staff from the two owner agencies. Regular maintenance and periodic conservation programs ensure that the sites, features, and resources will be sustained in a superior state of conservation into the future. Rigorous federal, state, and local protective measures are also in place to ensure the continued conservation and protection of the nominated Property. The Property is not under any major environmental threats or developmental pressures.

**Name & Contact
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Official Local
Institution/Agency**

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