UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
STATE PARK DIVISION

August 29, 1935

Mr. J. H. Cadsby
Regional Officer
308 Glenn Bldg.
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Sir:


Enclosed is form 100532 on the Mound Bottom area, a group of mounds located in a bend of the Harpeth river approximately 18 miles west of Nashville, Tennessee.

These mounds are quite impressive in size and beautifully located. High wooded bluffs and the river close the area on three sides. The valley is open and almost entirely under cultivation. From the bluffs there are fine views of the mounds and the surrounding country. It is very accessible, being only one and half miles off of U. S. Highway 70, "the Broadway of America". All together it is an ideal setting for the mounds and an area which would lend itself to a park or monument development.

I question whether it is of sufficient importance to warrant a National monument, but believe the mounds should be preserved, probably as a state monument.

Yours very truly,

George W. Olcott
Regional Inspector

CC:

ECW /
PLANS
HISTORIAN
HISTORICAL
GWO
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BRANCH OF PLANNING
EXTENSION DIVISION

PROPOSED NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS
(From report from Regional Officers)
To be typed throughout.

Letter of transmittal: To be attached (summary and recommendation)
Name of Project: Mound Bottom
Location- (state, county, distance and direction from known city)
Tenn. Cheatham Co. 18 miles west of Nashville, Tenn.
Area - Total 470 Acres 3/4 Square Miles.

Boundaries - (description, reference to maps to be attached)
Proposed: See enclosed topographical map for boundaries
Recommended: Same

Accessibility:
Railway: N.C. & St. L. Kingston Springs Sta. 2-1/2 miles
Highway: U. S. 470 1/2 miles south of area
Airline: Sky Harbor, Nashville airport 50 miles east.
Waterway: Cumberland River - 8 miles northeast

Major characteristics - (Indicate those which are outstanding and attach additional information if necessary)

1. Scenic features- (topography, elevation, plant cover, water, etc):
   See topographical map and section 4 report of Historian
   The bottom land is all under cultivation. The bluffs and
2. Historical features - (prehistoric site, etc)
   See report of Assistant Regional Historian attached.

3. Geological features:
   Area lies on western edge of Nashville basin underlain with limestone which appears at surface in bluffs.
4. Recreational possibilities (if compatible with project)

National: None

Local: Picnicking, hiking, educational

Estimated population within a radius of 50 miles:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radius (miles)</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>500,000</td>
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<td>500</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
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5. Biological features:

Vegetative: Oak, cedar, hickory, sycamore, beech, soft maple, elm, cherry, black birch, redbut, hawthorne, laurel, dogwood, rich bottom land, rocky upland.

Wildlife: Some turkey and deer in vicinity, rabbit, squirrel. Many birds, detailed information lacking.

Need for conservation: The mounds should be preserved; gradually being worn away by cultivation.

Relative importance in comparison with areas of similar nature elsewhere: See report of Historian

Possible development - Recreational facilities (if compatible with project):

1-1/2 miles of road would have to be constructed along route of existing local road on east side of Harpeth River.

Utilities - Water supply: None at present - wells

Parking space, capacity: Good level field for parking on east bank of river. Small parking area would be developed.

Campground sites, capacity: Would not advise camping.

Light and power facilities:
Sewerage disposal facilities: None at present
Would have to install septic tanks
Capacity for handling of visitors:
Ample room to take care of any number.

Practicability of administration and protection:
Mound Bottom peninsula could be fenced across neck river protects it on three sides. Only public entrance would be across footbridge over Harpeth river. Only one road into area.

Other land uses—
Mining resources: None

Agricultural resources: Bottom land very fertile, excellent for corn etc.
Grazing: Little

Cultivated crops: Chiefly corn

Timber: Second growth, fair

Hunting & Fishing uses: Little hunting in area, fishing in Harpeth river.

Power Resources: None

Irrigation Resources: No need
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Railways:</td>
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<tr>
<td>State:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipalities:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total alienated lands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Mining claims: |
| Grazing permits and withdrawals: |
| Power permits: | Total permit acreage | None |

| National forest lands: |
| Public domain: |
| Reclamation projects: |
| Indian lands: | Total public lands | None |

| Total acreage | 470 A |

| Land values: |

| History of project: | See section 10 of historical report |

| Local attitude: | None has been developed |

| Persons interested: | Dr. T. Hugh Young - Nashville |
|                     | Dr. Walter F. Pond - State Geologist |

| Itinerary (Sheet to be attached): Area visited August 15, 1935 |

| Bibliography: | See Historical Report |

| List of photographs, maps and printed information submitted: (Sheet to be attached) |

| Note: All maps which are specially prepared by the Regional Offices should conform to one of the following standard sizes: |
| Letter size - 18" x 24" - 24" x 36" |

| 100532 |
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
STATE PARK DIVISION
August 30, 1935

Mr. J. H. Gadsby
Regional Officer
308 Glenn Bldg.
Atlanta, Ga.

Subject: Indian Mounds
Mound Bottom, Tenn.

Dear Sir:--

In response to your letter of August 6, 1935 requesting an investigation of the area at Dr. H. E. Rothrock's request, I visited this area in company with Inspector George W. Olcott on August 15.

My report on this area is submitted together with Mr. Olcott's report.

Very truly yours,

C. L. Johnson
Assistant Regional Historian
REPORT

of

PRELIMINARY HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION

of

MOUND BOTTOM, TENNESSEE

by

C. L. JOHNSON
Assistant Regional Historian
Region Four

Date: August 30, 1935
I LOCATION

Mound Bottom, Tennessee is in Cheatham County on the Harpeth River. It can be reached from U.S. No. 70 (from Nashville) paved, from the Atlantic Coast to Little Rock, Arkansas. From this highway there is a poor local road north to Mound Bottom. The distance from the highway is about 4 miles.

II THE HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE SITE

With exception of the Pinson group, south of Jackson, Tennessee and possibly one or two others, this group of mounds is one of the best preserved and most interesting in Tennessee. It does not, however, compare with the Moundville, Alabama group or the Macon, Georgia group. It is probable that this mound group is about the same age as the Moundville group. The latter group, according to Dr. Sterling of Smithsonian, was built probably "not much more than a century before the first coming of the whites."

III THE NATURE, EXTENT, AND CONDITION OF HISTORIC REMAINS

The land is privately owned and is part of a farm of 200 acres owned by a Mr. Taylor. He is mercenary, peculiar and suspicious and the gentlemen from Nashville advised against taking writing material, cameras, probes or anything calculated to make him refuse admittance to the area. Consequently my report is entirely from memory, with the aid of a report on the area furnished me by Dr. T. Hugh Young an amateur archaeologist who with a friend of his, Mr. Blackmire and a representative from the State Geologist's office accompanied us on the trip.

There were originally about fourteen mounds in Mound Bottom, but as all of them have been cultivated, some of the lower ones have been levelled by the plow. Only ten are plainly visible now. The enclosed photostat of a survey of Mound Bottom shows most of these mounds and their arrangement. These mounds are similar in location and arrangement to several other mound groups in the south. The general plan being a large mound (usually referred to in all cases as The Temple Mound) surrounded by smaller mounds in a circular pattern. These mounds are located in an elbow of the river. The river provided protection and furnished mussel shells which were pulverized and mixed with clay to make pottery. (A fragment of pottery picked up here shows the crushed oyster shell in it.)

The largest mound is almost square and about 20 feet high with the sides sloping at an angle. The base covers about an acre. The other mounds are small and irregular as result of erosions due to cultivation.

Copies of newspaper articles enclosed describe the mounds and
work done here. Complete field notes made by Dr. Cox, former archaeologist for Tennessee, (deceased) are available.

Much is made locally of the carving on the bluff near the mounds and it is possible that it may have some unknown significance. See location on Photostat.

The narrow neck of land across the loop made by the Harpeth River was probably once protected by a wall of earth. Evidence of this wall is still plainly discernible. In this respect this site resembles to a small extent that at Old Stone Fort near Manchester, Tennessee. A separate report on the latter site will be made shortly.

IV THE SCENIC QUALITIES OF THE AREA

From the maps enclosed it will be observed that the shape of Mound Bottom is that of a pear. The land is nearly flat sloping to the river with about 40 feet drop from the center. Across the river on the north and east precipitous bluffs 200 feet high enclose the area. The bluffs are narrow ridges which also slope on the back side and are well wooded. From these bluffs Mound Bottom, surrounded almost entirely by the river, is very beautiful. The view includes land for miles on the south and west and the Pack Mound Group on U. S. Highway No. 70. The setting is beautiful and if the bottom was taken out of cultivation and the mounds preserved the area would be well worth seeing.

V TOPOGRAPHY

See maps and articles enclosed.

VI TYPE OF WORK REQUIRED

There is much work which could be done by E.C.W., but supervision by a competent archaeologist is not only advisable but essential on any work attempted toward preservation or restoration of the mounds.

The area was rather systematically excavated by Dr. Cox and it is doubtful if further excavation would reveal much, but a few test pits should determine the value of further work of this kind. Dr. Cox's field notes would be invaluable in this work.

VII HISTORICAL WORK DONE LOCALLY

The work done by Dr. Cox mentioned above and described in articles enclosed is all that has been done on the area.
Mound Bottom

August 30, 1935

VIII ARCHAEOLOGICAL POSSIBILITIES

Discussed above and sufficient to warrant investigation by a competent archaeologist. Dr. T. M. N. Lewis, recently appointed state Archaeologist, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee would probably be glad to cooperate with the National Park Service in any work done at this place. I have written him asking to what extent the state could cooperate in furnishing supervision for archaeological work in the Tennessee State Parks and his opinion as to the archaeological possibilities of this area and others under consideration.

IX THE VALUE OF THE AREA

While it does not compare with other mound groups in the south as to size and number of the mounds, the group is well preserved considering the fact that they have been cultivated for many years, and is one of the best groups in Tennessee.

X HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

This area has had no local sponsorship for its being made into a park, although many people are interested in it and much archaeological work has been done there. My attention was called to this area by a letter to this office written by Dr. H. E. Rothrock, Geologist, State Park Division saying that Mr. Hugh D. Miser, of the United States Geological Survey had suggested that this area should be preserved as a public reservation. The Regional Officer requested an investigation.

XI CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1- With the improvement of about 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) mile of road and construction of a small foot bridge the area would be easily accessible to large numbers of people from U. W. Highway No. 70. It is only about 15 miles from Nashville, Tennessee.

2- The beauty of the natural setting is most attractive and far superior to that found in a large number of parks in the region.

3- Mr. Taylor, owner of Mound Bottom, in 1930 wanted $30,000.00 for his 200 acre farm. Only half of his farm would be valuable to a park located here. It is not known what price he would wish for the needed land.

4- A park at this place in addition to including Mound Bottom should include the ridges \(\frac{3}{4}\) on the north and east, perhaps 400 or 450 acres in all. See proposed area on map enclosed.
Mound Bottom
August 30, 1935

5- The land would probably have to be purchased out right. The extent to which the State of Tennessee or local or private interest would cooperate is unknown.

6- Investigation as to purchase price and cooperation available from various sources should be made. The area would make an ideal State Park. Across the river recreational development could be made on the ridges and on the banks of the river which would not detract from the mound group.

7- If the land can be acquired at a satisfactory cost the area fully justifies development and preservation. It is probably not of national significance but would make an ideal State Park project.
CARVING TOPPING TENNESSEE BLUFF PUZZLES SAVANTS

(By B. Y. DeWitt)

What is it?

If you can answer, you are ahead of the wisest savants of all the land, attending the American Association for the Advancement of Science, meeting in Nashville.

All that can be told definitely is that the sketch represents an outline carving on the flat top of a huge rock jutting out from the pinnacle of a more than 200-foot perpendicular bluff on the bank of Big Harpeth river, immediately overlooking the valley in which are situated, a mile and a half apart, two similar groups of "Indian mounds," among the most remarkable in the entire United States.

Carving on Summit

The nearer of these groups is reared in "Mound Bottom" a level area of a square mile or more almost surrounded by a loop of the river. The chief of these mysterious monuments are about 400 yards from the foot of the bluff that, on the opposite shore of the clear, blue Harpeth, bears the mystic carving on its summit. Between the mounds and the bluff, there is, in the level field, a burial ground of yet undetermined extent, but where exploration has gone far enough to show that thousands of the inhabitants of this once teeming city are sleeping. So long have they been interred, that their rock-lined graves are opened, the bones crumble on exposure to the air.

Looking directly down upon this graveyard, and the 14 mounds of the "Bottom" group with a clear sweep across the Harpeth valley to the second group, on a more elevated area a mile and a half away, the carved pinnacle unquestionably is in some manner related to the life and activities of the people who built the mounds.
22 Inches Long.

The main figure, which is still very distinct, is about 22 inches in length. Its outlines are cut into the fact of the smooth top of the rock, in straight lines or symmetrical curves. In some places the grooves are yet near a quarter of an inch deep.

Adjacent to the narrow end of the design are still to be traced various fragmentary lines, but so obliterated by the weathering of the stone that no definite design can be found, nor it, is certain whether they were once a part of the main pattern.

The figure has its side parallel with the edge of the bluff, and toward the mounds in the valley. The two small designs, like miniature snowshoe tracks, have their tapering points in line with the two chief mounds.

A party of some 15 archaeologists and anthropologists from the scientists attending the great international gathering in Nashville, escorted by P. E. Cox, state archaeologist of Tennessee, visited Thursday, the twin mound groups, which are about 30 miles from Nashville and five miles from Kingston Springs on the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis railway. They spent the great part of the day studying these remarkable monuments, and climbed a by-path to the summit of the bluff, to examine the queen carving.

Included in the expedition were such authorities as Dr. Truman Michelson, ethnologist, Bureau of Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Carl E. Guthe, Museum of Anthrology, University of Michigan; Dr. Edward Sapir and Dr. Fay-Cooper, University of Chicago; L. C. Strong, professor of mammalian genetics, University of Michigan, and C. E. Keeler, research fellow, Harvard Medical school. No higher authorities are to be found in matters connected with the evident antiquity of the carving, the best of them could make only imaginative conjectures in regard to the significance of the hieroglyphics. That they were in some way associated with the mounds and their builders, none questioned.

NOTE: Clipped from Nashville, Tennessean, Friday Evening, December 30, 1927.
ARCHAEOLOGISTS VISIT OLD INDIAN MOUNDS

Traces of Vanished People Are Studied in Harpeth River Bottoms.

The relics of a vanished people who have left their memorials in the form of Indian mounds were examined by members of the archeologic section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science following the Thursday morning session of the anthropology group. The trip, which was made under the auspices of the state society, included visits to both the Pack and Bottoms group of mounds that are located in Cheatham County near Kingston Springs.

The party was led over the lowlands and bluffs of the Big Harpeth river by Dr. P. E. Cox, state Archeologist. Dr. Cox is familiar with the territory, having been associated with the late W. E. Meyer of the Smithsonian Institution in the first investigation of the Pack group. He was also the only director of the Bottoms group of mounds.

Standing high above its companions in the Pack Group, stood the Temple mound, which claimed the attention of the scientists. This type of mound, which is generally considered as an ancient house of worship, is a structure about thirty feet high, built in the form of a truncated pyramid. The ancient temple covers above an acre of territory and is perfectly level on top.

South of the great Temple mound is a level area that scientists say was possibly the plaza of this ancient city. Surrounding this outstanding mound is another group somewhat smaller in size, and beyond them lies the burial grounds for thousands of graves whose bodies lie so close to the ground that a plow will uncover the graves that have been found there. In cases where the graves have been excavated, nothing of value has been found and the ancient bones almost immediately crumbled into dust.

After leaving the Pack group, the scientists went farther on to inspect the Bottoms mounds that lie in the rich Harpeth Valley. Just previous to crossing the river, Mr. Cox led his group up the high bluff which juts out over the river at a height of about 200 feet. On the smooth surface, which time has worm on the rocks, lie characters which even this distinguished group could not decipher.

From this vantage point, they had a bird's-eye view of the Bottoms mounds, as well as the Pack group in the background. A close-up of the Bottom mounds reveals that in this case the temple mound was not as large as in the other group. Surrounding it were possibly fourteen smaller mounds, and in the surrounding territory the usual burrying grounds were located. Traces of fortifications were easily visible, while part of the way is the swell of the earthen embankment which once enclosed the Pack Mounds.

Strange and puzzling is the fact that in these mounds, as in no others, relics are a rarity. In the excavations made by Mr. Meyer in the second largest Pack group only four baked alters were found. Mr. Cox found that by boring with an earth auger that a baked clay pathway extends from the Temple mound to the bottom of the burial ground.
The opening of graves have likewise revealed silence as to trinkets or others articles used by the Indians. In a search of the plowed land around the mounds and over the graves the scientists discovered one small arrowhead. A thin flint axe was also found in the fork of one of the trees where previous excavation had been carried on. Due to the lack of articles in the mounds the scientists had no solution to offer as to how this ancient city lived or was destroyed.

Members of the party included Dr. E. Sapir, University of Chicago; T. Michelson, University of Chicago; Carle E. Guthe, University of Michigan; Keith Harrison, High Point College; M. C. Crew, Austin High School; C. E. Keeler, Harvard Medical School; L. C. Strong, University of Michigan; W. S. McClain, Cookeville; Miss Helen Holstetter and Thirza Mossman, Kansas State Teachers College.

NOTE:

Clipped from Nashville Banner, Dec. 30, 1927.
ARCHEOLOGISTS \SPECT ANCIENT INDIAN MOUNDS IN \SATHAM COUNTY

Visit of Scientist Delegates Made Under Auspices of Tennessee Society

Scientists attending the great A. A. A. S. meeting in Nashville this week may forget more or less of the papers they have heard read and the discussions in which they have participated; but some 15 members of the Archeologist section will never cease to remember the trip which they took Thursday, under the auspices of the Tennessee Archeonological Society, to the Indian mounds in Cheatham County, Tennessee.

These mounds, situated about 30 miles from Nashville and four or five miles from Kingston Springs, are in two groups along Big Harpeth river and in many respects are among the most notable and remarkable prehistoric monuments in the United States.

P. E. Cox, State Archeologist, of Tennessee, personally conducted the party. Dr. Cox was associated with the late W. E. Meyer, representative of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, in the first investigation of the "Pack" group of this area—its being so designated in honor of the owner of the farm where the mounds are located. And in 1926, he directed this only exploration that has yet been made of the other group, known from their location in a fertile bottom of Harpeth river as the "Bottom Mounds." Dr. Cox was therefore able to explain to his companions all that is known of both these remarkable relics of a vanished people.

The party left Nashville after the adjournment of the Anthropological section of the A. A. A. S. at 10:30 o'clock, Thursday morning, and devoted the rest of the day to the expedition. The trip was made in one of the big buses of the Nashville Railway & Light Company, out the Charlotte pike and into Cheatham county on State Highway No. 1.

"Pack" group was first visited. Chief among the numberous mounds clustered here is what is commonly called "Temple Mound," from the usually accepted theory that principal mounds of this character were the site of ancient houses of worship. It is in the form of a truncated pyramid, its base covering about one acre, its height between 20 and 30 feet above the ground above it, and its top perfectly flat.

South of this mound is an area of perhaps six or eight acres, evidently once quite level, and constituting what must have been the great plaza of the city, where the people congregated for their sports and ceremonials.

The other mounds of the group are of varying size, their original height having no doubt been much reduced by the cultivation to which since before the memory of the present generation, they have been subjected.
Burial Ground

In the fields near these mounds are burial grounds whose extent has not yet been determined. The graves are in the level land, and at present are so close to the surface that the plow may uncover their stone casings. Like the graves of the Cherokee Indians who later occupied this territory, they are made by lining the sides of an excavation with flat stones set on edge, and covering the vault thus formed with thin stones.

As the road reaching the other group was not hard-surfaced, it was necessary to abandon the six-ton bus for the time being, the men of the party making this portion of the trip in a light truck, while a car was procured for the two women included. After a circuitous trip of about three miles, the ford of Big Harpeth at "Mound Bottom" was reached, and a wagon was in waiting to carry the explorers over. Before crossing, however, Mr. Cox led the members up an arduous ascent to the top of the precipitous bluff on the north side of the river, where, at the highest point—200 feet or more above the stream—a jutting rock has its flat top inscribed with strange designs, cut in the stone, that so far have defied all efforts at interpretation.

This rock commands a magnificent view of all "Mound Bottom", the chief earthworks being about 400 feet distant. The Pack group is also seen clearly, near two miles away.

The mounds in the bottom, some 14 in number, are similar in arrangement to those in the other group. The "Temple Mound" is not quite so large, but its sides, about 20 feet in height and sloping at an angle of 45 degrees, are very straight and symmetrical, notwithstanding the cultivation to which both summit and slopes are subjected.

The land where this cluster of mounds is found comprises perhaps a square mile, enclosed within a bend of the river, which recurves on its course so that only a narrow rocky neck connects the bottom field with the land outside. Traces of a fortification across this neck are visible.

For much of the way, there also may be traced the swell of an earthen embankment which once walled in the Pack Group area. This wall probably was two miles or more in length.

Burial grounds similar to those of the Pack section are found about the mound area in the Bottom.

Shy At Utensils.

Inexplicable, and differentiating these mounds from all other similar remains in the country, is the absence of specimens of the handiwork of the people who built and used them. Fragments of pottery, more or less perfectly baked, have been fairly numerous where excavations have been made. And Mr. Meyer, uncovering the whole interior of the second largest mound in the Pack group, found four baked clay altars, the chief one near four by eight feet in size. These, after being photographed for the Smithsonian Institution, were recovered with earth where they stood.
Archeologist Cox found, by borings with an earth auger, that a baker clay paved walkway, four to ten feet in present width, and now several feet beneath the surface of the field, extends from the Temple mound in the bottom to the chief burial ground, approximately 500 feet distant.

But no weapons or trinkets of any consequence have been discovered. In nearly 100 graves opened by Mr. Cox, practically nothing was found but bones so old that they crumbled. In almost every instance, when exposed to the air.

Flint arrowheads or flint articles of any kind, are scarcely ever seen. The scientists comprising Thursday's party spent much time searching the plowed land about the mounds and over the graves, with the result that one small arrowhead was discovered. A thin flint ax was found where someone had laid it in the forks of a large tree growing in the midst of the previously excavated graves.

To have built the huge earthworks in these two groups with such crude utensils as these early people possessed, must have required a teeming population of tens of thousands, toiling for many years. How they lived and later were swept away without leaving more numerous relics of their handicraft, is a mystery for which none of the distinguished scientists viewing this vast city of the dead had no solution to offer.

The party was composed of E. Sapir, professor of Anthropology, University of Chicago; T. Michelsohn, Ethnologist, Bureau of American Ethnology and professor of Anthropology, University of Chicago; Carl E. Guthe, Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan; Keith Harrison, High Point College, High Point, N. C.; M. C. Crew, Austin High School, Chicago; C. E. Keeler, research fellow, Harvard Medical School; L. C. Strong, Associate Professor of Mammalian Genetics, University of Michigan; W. S. McClain, Archeologist Cookeville, Tennessee; Miss Helen Hostetter and Miss Thirza Mossman, of the faculty of Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas.

NOTE:

This article was clipped from the Nashville Tennessean, Friday Morning, December 30, 1927.
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
STATE PARK DIVISION

August 26, 1935

Dr. T. M. N. Lewis
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee

My Dear Sir:-

In a recent conference with Dr. Jones, State Geologist of Alabama, he referred me to you in regards to archaeological problems in Tennessee and assured me of your interest and cooperation.

When in Knoxville recently, I tried to contact you but failed. Information on the following would be appreciated.

1- The extent to which the state could cooperate in furnishing supervision for archaeological work undertaken in state parks.
2- The archaeological possibilities of Mound Bottom, Tennessee (Cheatham County, on Harpeth River near Kingston Springs) I am familiar with Dr. Cox's work there and have read his field notes.
3- The archaeological possibilities of the Old Stone Fort Area. (Two miles from Manchester, Tennessee)

Thanking you for this information.

Yours very truly,

J. H. GADSEY
Regional Officer

BY

C. L. Johnson
Assistant Historian

CC: ECW
Reading
Historical Historian
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
STATE PARK DIVISION
August 30, 1935

Dr. T. Hugh Young
1104 Bennie Dillon Bldg.
Nashville, Tenn.

My Dear Sir:

Enclosed is your copy on Mound Bottom which you so kindly loaned us. Thank you for your kindness in going to Mound Bottom and in letting us have this material.

Yours very truly,

J. H. GADSBY
Regional Officer

BY

C. L. Johnson,
Assistant Regional Historian

CC: /
State Park ECW  
Attn: Mr. Lee  
National Park Service  
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Indian Mounds,  
Mound Bottom, Tennessee  

Gentlemen:

Submitted herewith are two copies of the Inspector's and Historian's report on the area known as Mound Bottom, Tennessee.

In our opinion, it is a crying shame that some way is not found to preserve such areas rather than to accept such parts of cut-over and cast-off plans for State Parks as is too often the case.

Yours very truly,

J. H. Gadsby  
Regional Officer.
Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of September 4, 1936, with which you submitted a form report on "Indian Mounds" or "Mound Bottom" in Tennessee.

We are in agreement with your opinion that this area is not of national monument caliber, and that it is worthy of preservation by the State or local agencies. You are authorized, at your discretion, to send a copy of this report to the Tennessee State Park authority, for his information.

Sincerely yours,

{Sgd} C.L. Wirth
Conrad L. Wirth.
Assistant Director.
Memorandum for Mr. Taylor:

I note in the attached material a reference to one or more large Indian mounds in the valley of the Harpeth, which might be flooded should the proposed flood control projects in the Cumberland River basin materialize.

Present information does not permit exact identification, but it is possible that the area referred to is known as "Mound Bottom". This area was given a high rating by a committee of archeologists of the Smithsonian Institution in 1954. Careful study of the archeological remains in this and other areas to be affected by the project should be made if possible, and preferably well in advance of the execution of the project, so that any archeological excavation projects that appear desirable can be executed before the area is inundated.

I understand there is some possibility of a cooperative arrangement between the Interior Department and the War Department looking toward the systematic study of the recreational possibilities of flood control projects over the entire country. Historical and archeological considerations in a number of cases, confirm the importance of some sort of clearance of such projects through the Park Service before they are executed. The Tennessee Valley Authority has employed a staff of archeologists to excavate the mound areas affected by the dams and other projects in that valley. The same situation developed at Lake Meade and as a result of work done by the Park Service, we now have the Overton Museum at Lost City, Nevada. It is my understanding that the Santee River project, in South Carolina, for which I believe funds have recently been allocated, will flood the area occupied by a number of plantations and in the process destroy or remove several interesting and important early plantation houses.

Should the possibility of clearing such projects through the National Park Service reach the stage of active negotiations, we will be glad to provide further data on the importance of such review from historical and archeological considerations.

(SGD.) RONALD F. LEE
Acting Assistant Director.