

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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common Forest Hill Cemetery  
Mound Group

(2) Historic (if applicable)  
Cemetery Woods Group

II. Location

(1) Street Address Speedway Road  
Sections 15 and 35 Forest Hill

(2) Ward (available @ City Clerk)  
11th Aldermanic District

III. Classification

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

(2) Zoning District  
C-Conservancy

(3) Present Use  
Cemetery

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

(1) Name(s)  
City of Madison

(2) Street Address  
704 E. Gorham Street

(3) Telephone Number  
266-4711

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

(1) Parcel Number  
0709-214-0501-9

(2) Legal Description Sec 21,  
T7N, R9E, E 1/2 of NW 1/4 and W 1/2  
of NE 1/4 of Sec. 28.

VI. Condition of Property

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

(2) Altered or Unaltered?  
Altered-partial restoration

(3) Moved or Original Site?  
original site

(4) Wall Construction  
Does not apply

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

City of Madison Landmarks Commission  
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (2)

**VI.(5) Describe Present and Original Physical Construction and Appearance:**

The Forest Hill Cemetery Mound Group once consisted of seven mounds: a line of six mounds made up from northeast to southwest of three linear mounds, two panther effigies and another linear. A short distance to the southeast of the center of this line was a single flying goose effigy. Expansion of the cemetery caused the destruction of the first three linears in the line sometime after 1905. The head and a portion of the neck of the goose were destroyed in 1886 in grading of the Illinois Central right-of-way. According to a letter written by Charles E. Brown in 1928 all of the mounds had been dug into by relic hunters, but Brown does not specify the amount of damage done. The mounds have been resorted and today no traces of the vandalism remains. The head of the goose has not been restored. No professional excavation was done in these mounds.

Although the mounds are surrounded by the graves of recent Madisonians, none of them have had burials intruded into them.

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 LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (3)

**VII. Significance**

<b>(1) Original Owner</b> People of Effigy Mound Tradition	<b>(2) Original Use</b> Burial Ground
<b>(3) Architect or Builder</b> People of Effigy Mound Tradition	<b>(4) Architectural Style</b> Does not apply.
<b>(5) Date of Construction</b>  A.D. 500-A.D. 1000	<b>(6) Indigenous Materials Used</b>  Does not apply.
<b>(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.</b>	

**VIII. List of Bibliographical References Used**

1. Brown, Charles E., 1915 Lake Wingra. The Wisconsin Archeologist, Vol 14, No. 3, pp. 108-109.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

**IX. Form Prepared By:**

**(1) Name and Title**

John R. Halsey, Associate Curator of Anthropology

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

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

**(3) Address**

816 State Street

**(4) Telephone Number**

262-9566

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

March 10, 1975

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

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

The surviving mounds of the Forest Hill Cemetery Mound Group are among the finest existing examples of effigy mounds left in the city of Madison. For definition and clarity of form they are excellent. It is especially fortunate to have most of the goose effigy preserved as this was always a rare form. The extent to which these effigy mounds might owe their extraordinary state of preservation to restoration is unknown. It does not seriously differ from mounds which have never been plowed.

After a tragic beginning when three of the mounds were destroyed by insensitive cemetery expansion, these effigy burial mounds which were probably erected between A. D. 500 and A. D.1000 have coexisted with the graves of hundreds of 19th and 20th century Madisonians without further disturbance. Although they are surrounded by recent interments, the mounds have not had recent burials intruded into them. Located as they are in the midst of Madison's most historic cemetery, these remnants of the Effigy Mound Tradition seem as likely to survive as any archeological or historical sites in the state.