



**THE OHIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL**  
P.O. BOX 82012 · COLUMBUS, OHIO 43202

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Jonathan Putnam  
Office of International Affairs  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street NW. (0050)  
Washington, DC 20005

The Ohio Archaeological Council enthusiastically and unequivocally supports the nomination of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks to UNESCO for consideration for inscription on the World Heritage List.

The seven earthworks comprising the nomination, the Newark Earthworks, Fort Ancient Earthworks, and the five separate earthworks comprising Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, fully meet several of the criteria for inscription on the list. The monumental architecture of the Hopewell culture reflects a mastery of geometry, naked eye astronomy, and the use of earth as a construction medium. Moreover, these magnificent works bear a unique testimony to an ancient American Indian cultural tradition that spanned the period from AD 1 to 400. The Fort Ancient Earthworks is the best preserved example of the class of earthworks termed hilltop enclosures, and the Newark Earthworks is the best preserved example of the class of earthworks referred to as geometric enclosures. The earthworks of Hopewell Culture National Historical Park are less well preserved, but in addition to the intact subsurface archaeology at these sites, they represent the iconic sites that archaeologists have used to define the Hopewell culture. Where restorations have been undertaken, such as at Mound City and the Seip Earthworks, they have been done in strict adherence to the best available documentation supplemented by archaeological investigations to confirm the reliability of those records.

The Ohio History Connection, which owns the Newark Earthworks and the Fort Ancient Earthworks, is a private not-for-profit agency that manages historic properties on behalf of the State of Ohio, whereas the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park is a National Park, so all of these properties are assured long-term legal protection and judicious management in accordance with their status as either National Historic Landmarks or National Parks.

Finally, Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, the Ohio History Connection, and the many and varied partners working with these organizations on the preparation of the nomination dossier have demonstrated their capacity and determination to produce a nomination document worthy of the significance of these unique earthworks.

Therefore, the Ohio Archaeological Council offers its unqualified support to the nomination of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. We urge the Department of the Interior to nominate the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks at the earliest opportunity and to provide the nomination with the necessary support to maximize its chances of being successfully inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Sincerely,

Anne B. Lee  
President