

**WOODLAND  
COMPLEXES IN  
NORTHEASTERN IOWA**

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Woodland complexes in northeastern Iowa by Wilfred D. Logan

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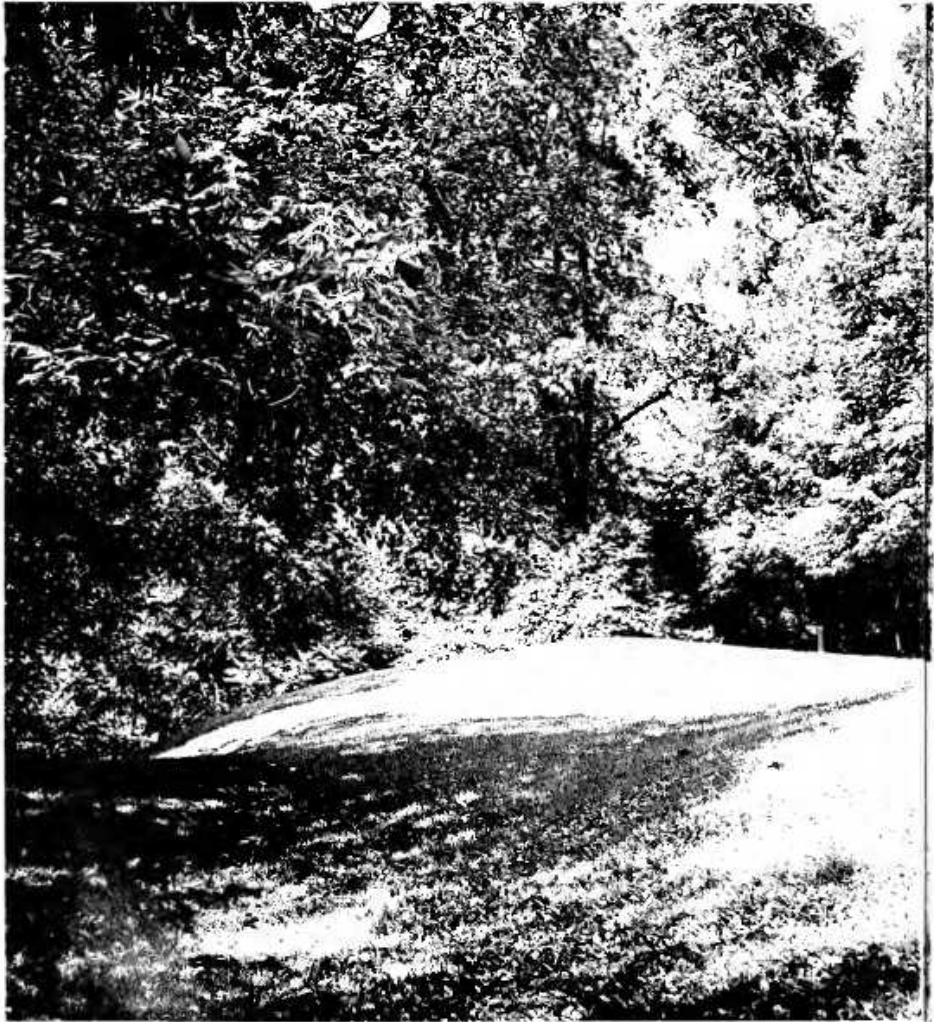
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**WILFRED D. LOGAN**

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Conical burial mounds at Etigy Mounds National Monument.

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WILFRED D. LOGAN

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## FOREWORD

The prehistoric inhabitants of any unit of the National Park System did not exist in isolation. All such groups took part in the complex events of culture history in the regions in which they lived. This archeological report, which includes a study of the Indians who once inhabited Effigy Mounds National Monument, encompasses a good deal more than those people who lived within its boundaries.

This book, written by Wilfred D. Logan, an archeologist with many years of experience in the National Park Service, increases our understanding of the peoples whose burial mounds are preserved within the national monument and other sites in the surrounding locale. The volume presents data, not heretofore analyzed, from a large number of excavations in northeastern Iowa, and systematizes the material to develop a background against which to view the Effigy Mounds and the people who built them.

The study owes much to the vision of two conservation-minded amateur scientists—the late Charles R. Keyes of Cornell College,

Mount Vernon, Iowa, and the late Ellison Orr of Waukon, Iowa. Their efforts, between the years of 1933 and 1937, are reported herein, providing a vast body of information in the form of notes and artifact collections derived from their excavations. National Park Service archeologists carried on major excavations at Effigy Mounds in 1950 and 1952, and the bulk of the mounds remaining in unexcavated state form a valuable scientific bank for the future.

This report, then, is an analysis of the results of the research of Keyes, Orr and others, and serves to place the remains of the national monument in a definite prehistoric context in the Upper Mississippi Valley. By so doing, the author presents a more complete understanding of the people who used the area, both in terms of their development from earlier occupants, and in terms of their relationship, at any given time, to their neighbors living in the Middle West during the centuries before Europeans first visited the river valleys of our Nation's midlands.

Gary Everhardt  
*Director*  
*National Park Service*



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15. *Woodland Complexes in Northeastern Iowa*, by Wilfred D. Logan. 1975.

\*These publications are no longer available from the Superintendent of Documents, but may be ordered by title and parenthetical code number by writing to: National Technical Information Service, U. S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22151.

## PREFACE

This publication could be considered an archeological antique. I say this because the research was begun in 1951 and completed in 1958. I do not intend to indulge in archeological reminiscence here, but I believe the circumstances should be understood because many years have passed since I last considered the problems of archeology in the upper Mississippi Valley.

In the years intervening, many new techniques have made their impact on the field of American archeology. When this work began, scholars, of necessity, were still seeking to develop local culture sequences (culture sequence, here, may be read as "ceramic sequence," or at best, "sequence of artifact complexes"). Before this work was completed, my intimate personal involvement with the environment of the Mississippi River Valley and its surrounding uplands (to say nothing of long discussions with David A. Baerreis and Warren L. Wittry) had caused me to ponder at length the relationships between man and the land. These factors, in turn, led to the beginnings of soils analyses of mounds at Effigy Mounds National Monument, carried out by Wayne Scholtes of Iowa State University. Such work only whetted my appetite for more sophisticated studies. However, money and time limitations, as well as the research emphasis of the period decreed that many investigative techniques now commonplace were not employed. Hence there were no exhaustive analyses of soils and pollen; no studies of forest and faunal succession,

searches for flint and clay sources and the like—in other words, no exhaustive study of the full gamut of the landscape of primitive man. Presentation of the data, likewise, follows certain conventions of the period in which this study was written: hence the inconsistency in providing scales for certain artifact illustrations—such then was simply not considered terribly important.

Furthermore, at the time this study was accomplished, archeologists were not so interested in processual studies as in culture history. The study reflects this bias. The years have changed my own interest. North-eastern Iowa is a field ripe for processual studies, and were I to work there today, I would so direct my research.

In the two decades since the study was done, manuscript copies have been circulated among scholars, but the basic data have never been presented to a wide audience in systematized form. There are many exciting studies possible within the identical collections presented here, and if I could do it over today, I would adjust my approach to the data considerably. I cannot, therefore, resist reminding the reader of Robert Browning's words from *Andrea del Sarto* (1855) on the work of the artist, equally applicable to the scientist:

"Ah but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for."

W. D. L.

September, 1974  
Denver, Colorado

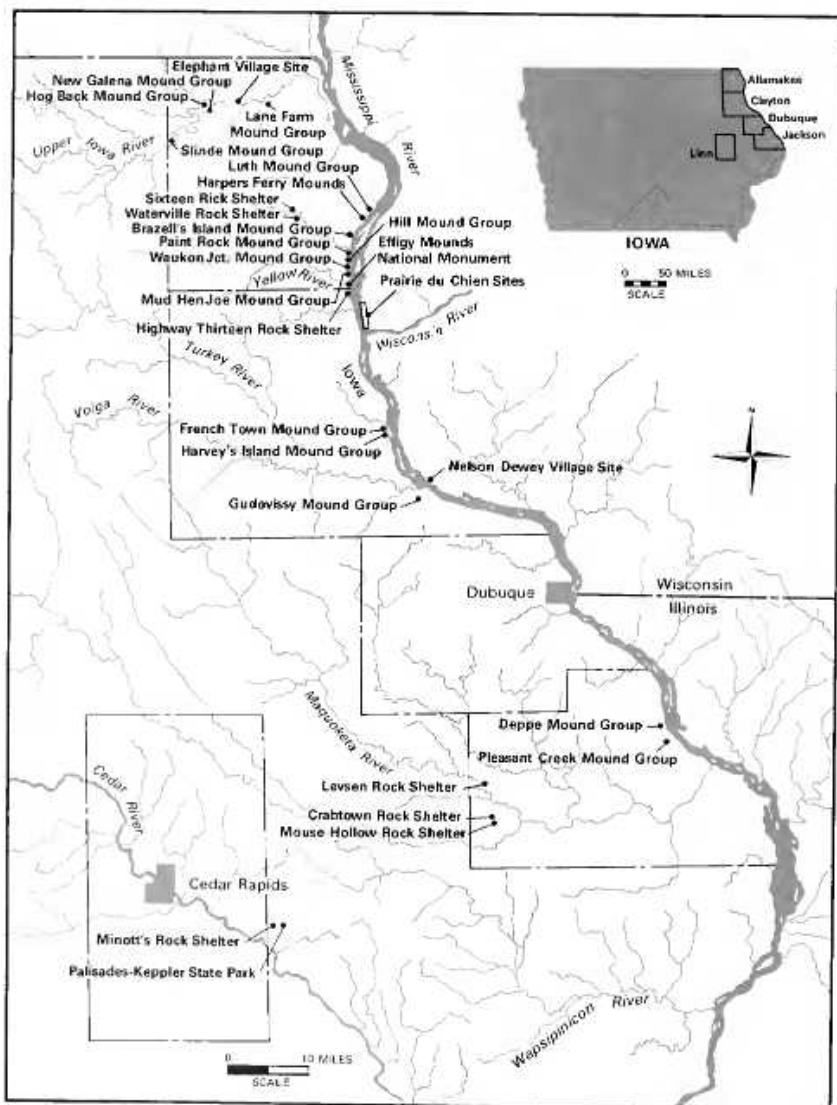


Figure 1. Northeastern Iowa, Mississippi Valley, and southwestern Wisconsin, showing location of sites referred to in text.