

the other villages in the area. It is estimated that as many as 200 houses may have occupied the site at a single time.

Structures on the site were built by digging a narrow trench in which log posts were set upright and interwoven with twigs. The wall was then plastered with wattle daub, a mixture of mud and grass. The exterior surface was sometimes painted, and the roofs were thatched with grass.

Houses usually were square or rectangular, containing an average of 400 square feet. A central hearth for cooking and heating was vented through a hole in the roof, and sleeping benches were constructed along the walls. Town planning is indicated by the multiple rebuilding of houses on the same plot of ground and the consistency of their orientations.

A large open area bordered by houses was kept free of debris; and the evidence indicates that competitive games, harvest rituals and town meetings were held in this plaza.

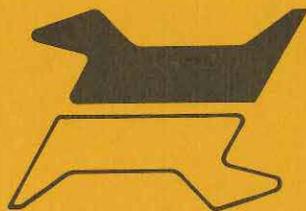
Cultivated plants, particularly corn, were essential to the support of the population at Angel Site. Animals, especially deer and wild turkey, were also dietary staples. The nearby river provided an abundant supply of fish and shellfish; and the forests and floodplains supplied nuts, fruits and other plant products.

Manufactured objects found at the site are simple, but reflect considerable skill and ingenuity in adapting native products to various uses. Raw materials included stone, bone, shell, wood, clay and plant fibres.

Although uncommon, imports included small quantities of copper from the upper Great Lakes region, fluorite and galena from southern Illinois, marine shells from the Gulf of Mexico, and Tennessee flint. A few of the pottery vessels also appear to have been brought from distant places.

The archaeological significance of Angel Mounds was first noted in print in 1875 although the site was undoubtedly known to local residents much earlier.

Private funds made possible the interpretive developments at Angel Mounds State Memorial in order that present and future generations might have a better understanding of the rich American Indian culture which preceded them and contributed significantly to contemporary life.



Division of Museums & Memorials

Department of Natural Resources

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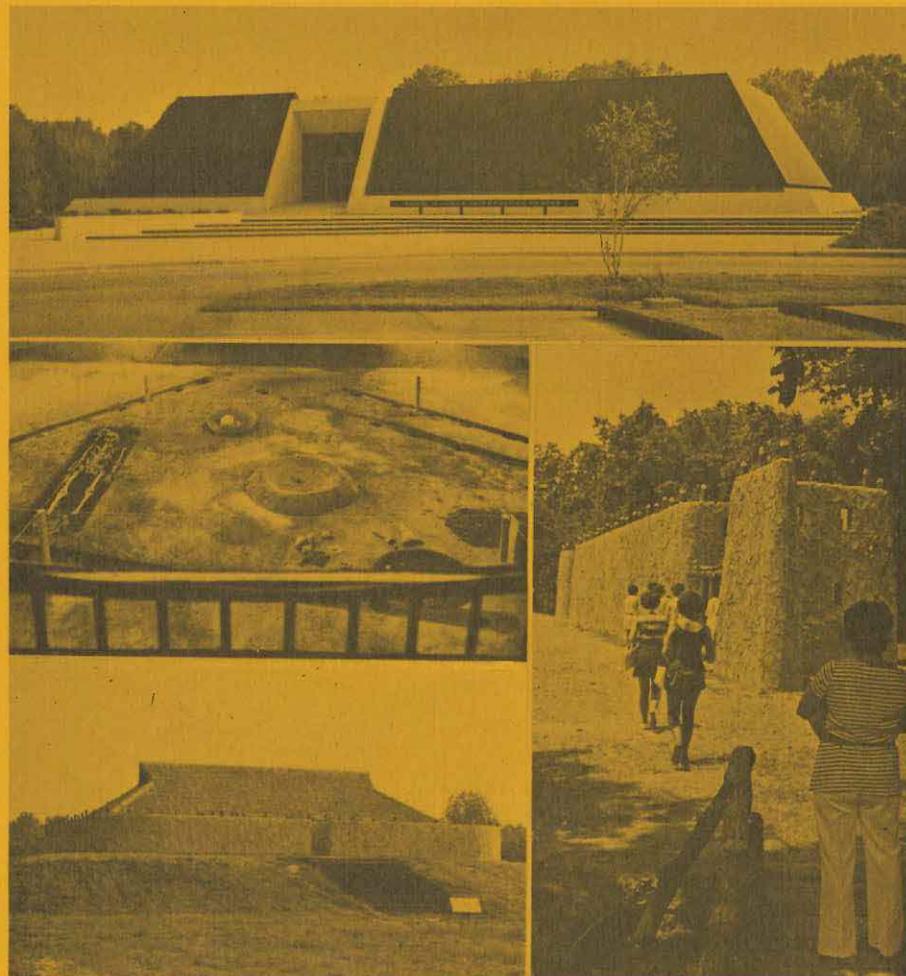
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# Angel Mounds



STATE MEMORIAL

# THE MEMORIAL

Named for the former owner of the property, Angel Mounds is the site of a large prehistoric Indian town which flourished on the banks of the Ohio River from 1300 to 1500 A.D.

Through interpretive exhibits and reconstructions of some of the structures which once occupied the area, Angel Mounds offers visitors a glimpse of the society which once dwelt there and a brief history of the archaeological investigations conducted over a 27 year period.

Passing first through the Memorial's Interpretive Center, the visitor sees a simulated archaeological excavation, exhibits highlighting the Angel Mounds culture, and artifacts from the "dig." He may then view a film on the history of the site in the Center's lecture room before proceeding to the actual site.

His path crosses a rustic bridge spanning a natural slue, and the village suddenly becomes visible beyond a thicket of trees. Here a number of buildings have been reconstructed in their original locations. These include dwellings, ceremonial structures and a section of the stockade. The largest reconstruction, a temple, also houses a museum.

Although the reconstructions are authentic in appearance, modern technology and materials have been employed to insure their durability and safety.

Most of the earth mounds at Angel Site served as elevated platforms for buildings important to the political, religious, and social life of the community. The larger mounds represent the final stages of many years of additions to earlier mounds.

The central mound (A) is one of the largest prehistoric structures in the eastern United States, occupying over four acres and measuring 44 feet in height.

In 1938 the Indiana Historical Society purchased the property in order to preserve this unique portion of the area's past. The title was transferred to the state in 1947.

For 27 years archeological investigations sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society were carried on at the site under the direction of Dr. Glenn A. Black.

The Memorial is opened daily 9-5 and Sunday 1-5 (closed major holidays.) There is an admission fee, but special fee waiver permits are available for school-conducted tours. Group tours must be scheduled well in advance to avoid overcrowding of the Interpretive Center.

The Memorial is located at 8215 Pollack Avenue, Evansville, Indiana, 7 miles east of downtown, 4 blocks south of State Road 662.

# THE INDIANS

During the approximately 200 years when a large stable community existed at Angel Site, the settlement encompassed 103 acres and had a population of as many as 1,000 individuals.

Since the site was abandoned before the first Europeans arrived in the area, the ethnic affiliation of the inhabitants is unknown. However, Angel Mounds represents a widespread cultural complex which archaeologists have termed Mississippian.

Limited on the south by the Ohio River, the town's inland boundaries were protected by a sturdy stockade, which arced around the town for a distance of 6,300 feet. Another section extended southward 1,020 feet to the west of the large central mound. Offset bastions, spaced every 120 feet, permitted defenders to shoot along the face of the wall from protected positions.

Within the stockade were many well-built dwellings, communal buildings and a ceremonial plaza. All of these indicate that Angel Site was an important regional center which exerted influence over

