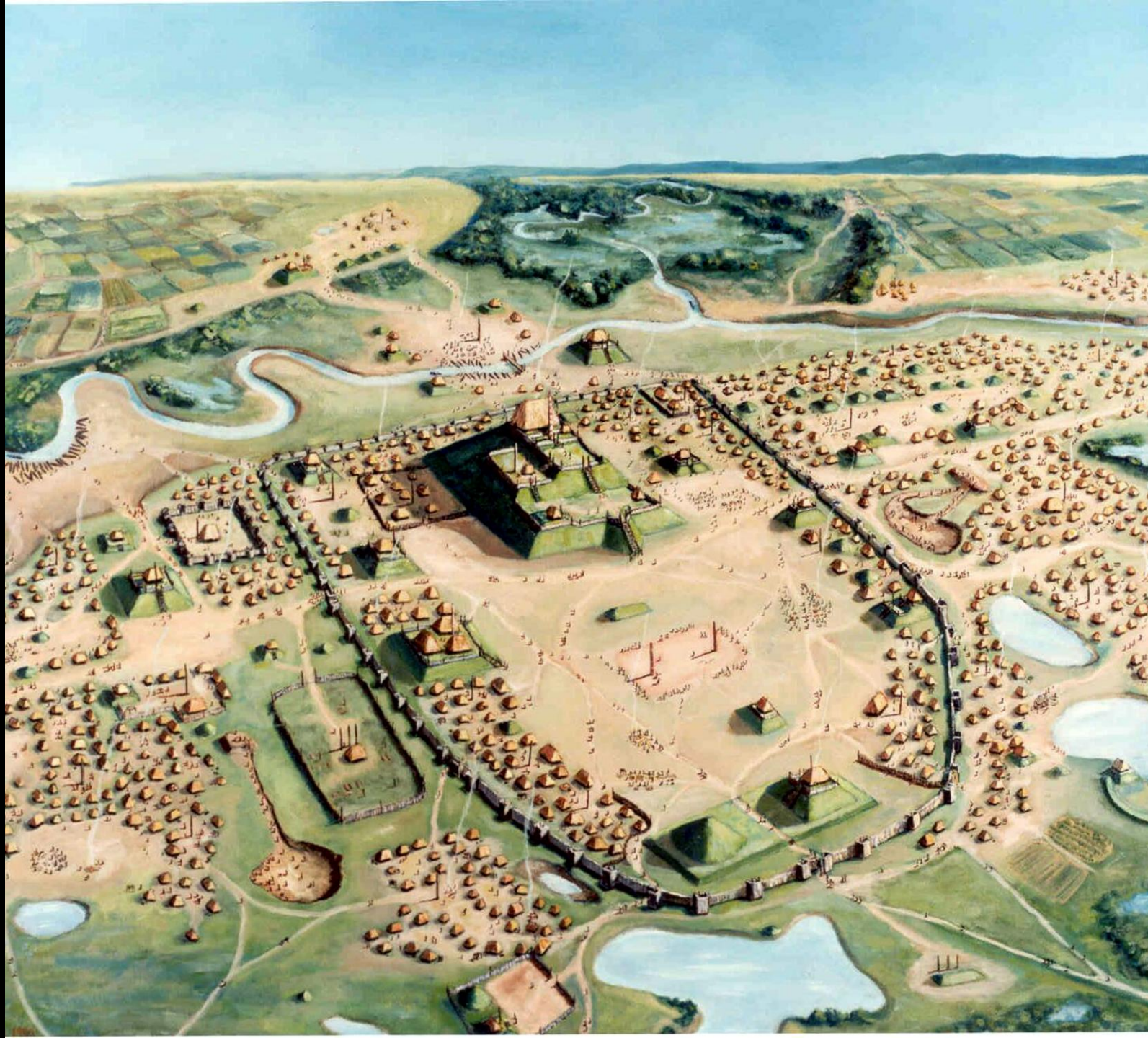





Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site

- Originally 4000 acres with 120 mounds.
- There was a population of 15 – 20,000.
- Today only 80 mounds remain, with 72 being protected on approximately 2300 acres.
- The Site is owned by the State of Illinois and managed by the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources.





Old Museum, near Monks Mound.





THROUGH THE COLLECTIVE RECOGNITION OF THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS
EXPRESSED WITHIN THE PRINCIPLES OF THE
CONVENTION CONCERNING PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

CAHOKIA MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE

HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A
WORLD HERITAGE SITE
AND JOINS A SELECT LIST OF PROTECTED AREAS
AROUND THE WORLD WHOSE OUTSTANDING NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
FORM THE COMMON INHERITANCE OF ALL MANKIND

DECEMBER 14, 1982



Late Woodland A.D. 700 Emergent Mississippian A.D. 800-1000 Mississippian Period A.D. 1000 - 1400

Cahokia's Location

- Being situated near the confluence of the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois Rivers, these “highways” gave Cahokia access to the resources located along their drainage systems.
- The broad expanse of floodplain, called the **“American Bottom,”** with its numerous streams, lakes, sloughs and marshes, provided many resources, such as fish, waterfowl and aquatic flora and fauna. These wetlands had developed in former channels of the Mississippi. The fertile soils of the floodplain also were important for agriculture.



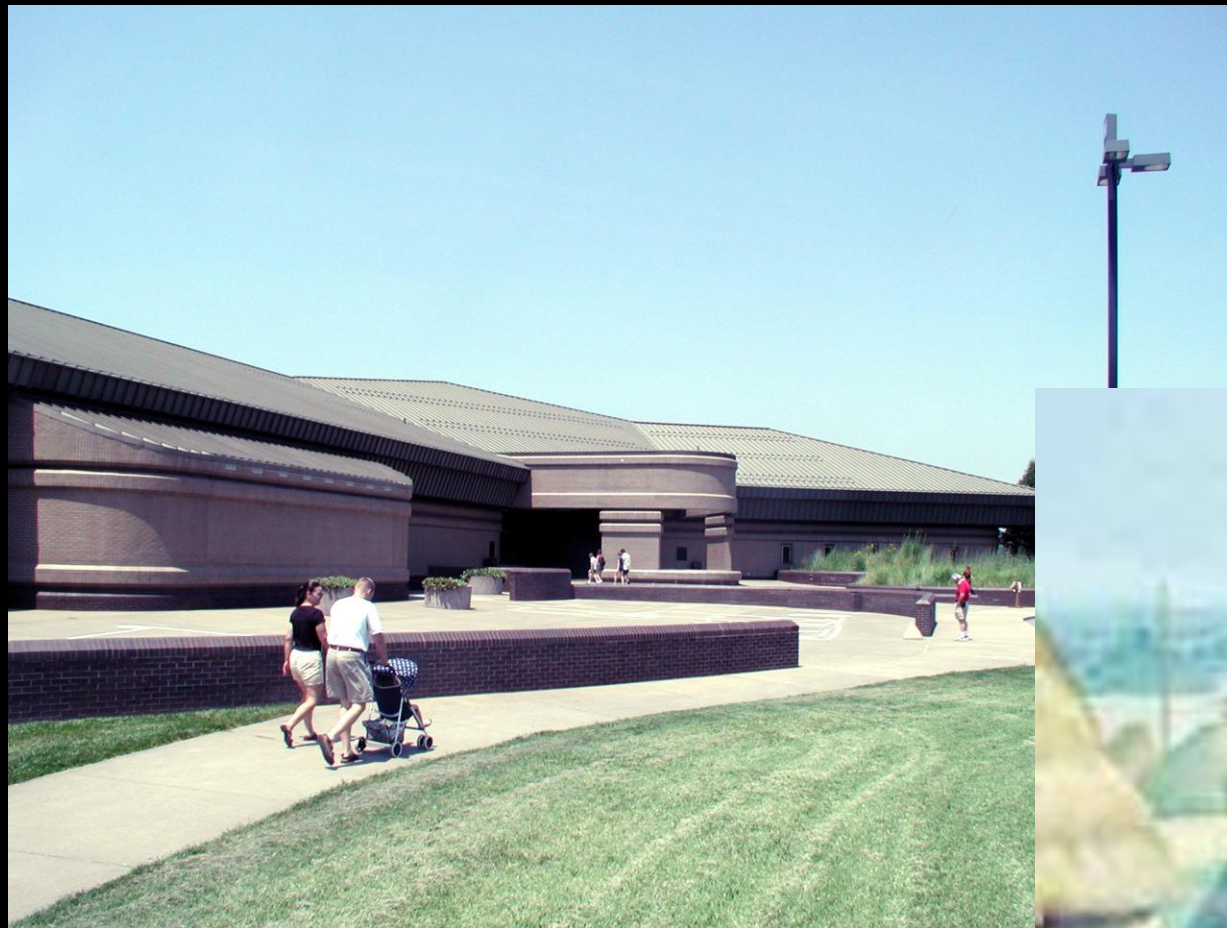


A PLANNED CITY

City planning began as early as 900 AD with the construction of the first terrace of Monks Mound.

Aligned to the Cardinal Directions.

Offset by only five degrees east of north.



Excavations done by Southern Illinois University
Edwardsville prior to construction uncovered:
over 80 prehistoric structures, several hundred
pits and other features.

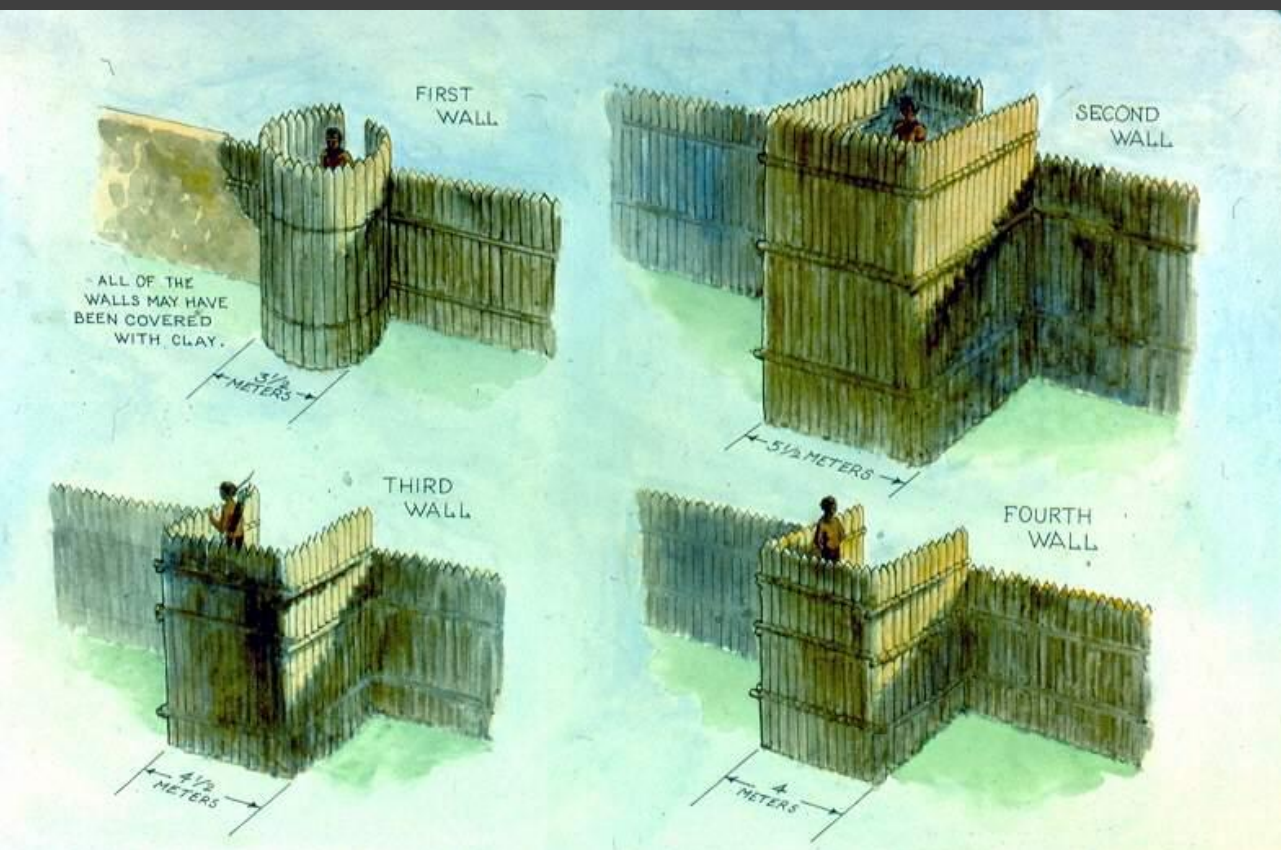




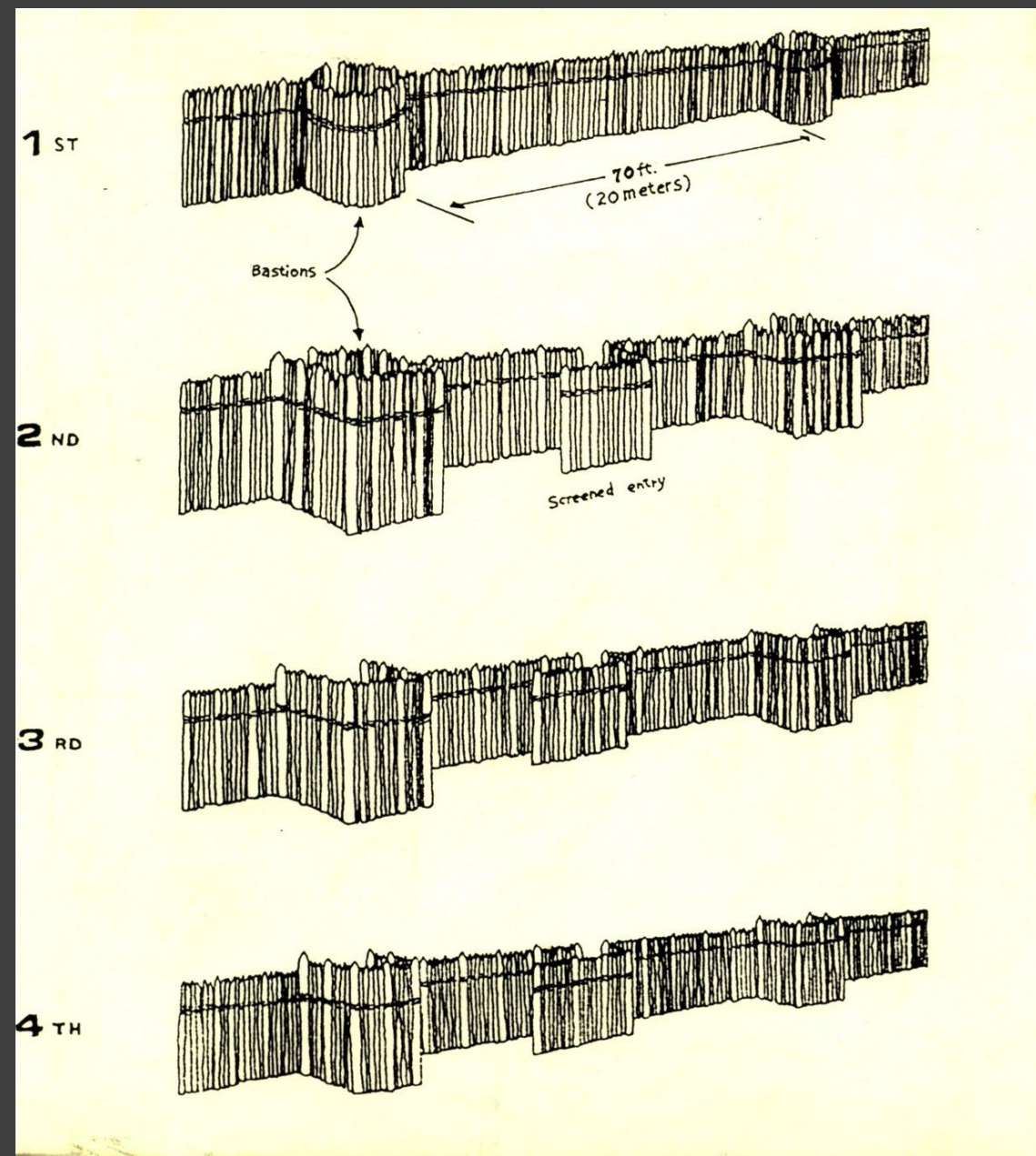
- Agricultural system based on cultivation of corn, pumpkin, squash, sunflower, lambs quarter, may grass, little barley, marshelder, erect knotweed, etc.



CAHOKIA
II MS2/5
N PALISADE
N 363-365
E 460-461
LEVEL 2A
26 JULY '06



- Stockade (Palisade)
- Built between A.D. 1175 - 1275
- 2 miles long
- Built 4 times
- Bastions for warriors to stand on







Part of Cahokia Tri Notch Point Collection

EXTENSIVE TRADE OF MATERIALS AND ITEMS

Over 20,000 shell beads found at Cahokia. Made from welk shells, which are from the Gulf of Mexico.





Part of the Chunkey Stone Collection found at Cahokia.



Mica found at Cahokia Mounds

Major Sources for Minerals and Exotic Materials





Twin Mounds:

Fox Mound on the right and Roundtop Mound on the left. They appear to be a Mortuary complex, with a building on Fox Mound and burial in Roundtop. Both mounds were built upon a large shared platform of soil.



Borrow Pits are where the soil was borrowed to build the Mounds.

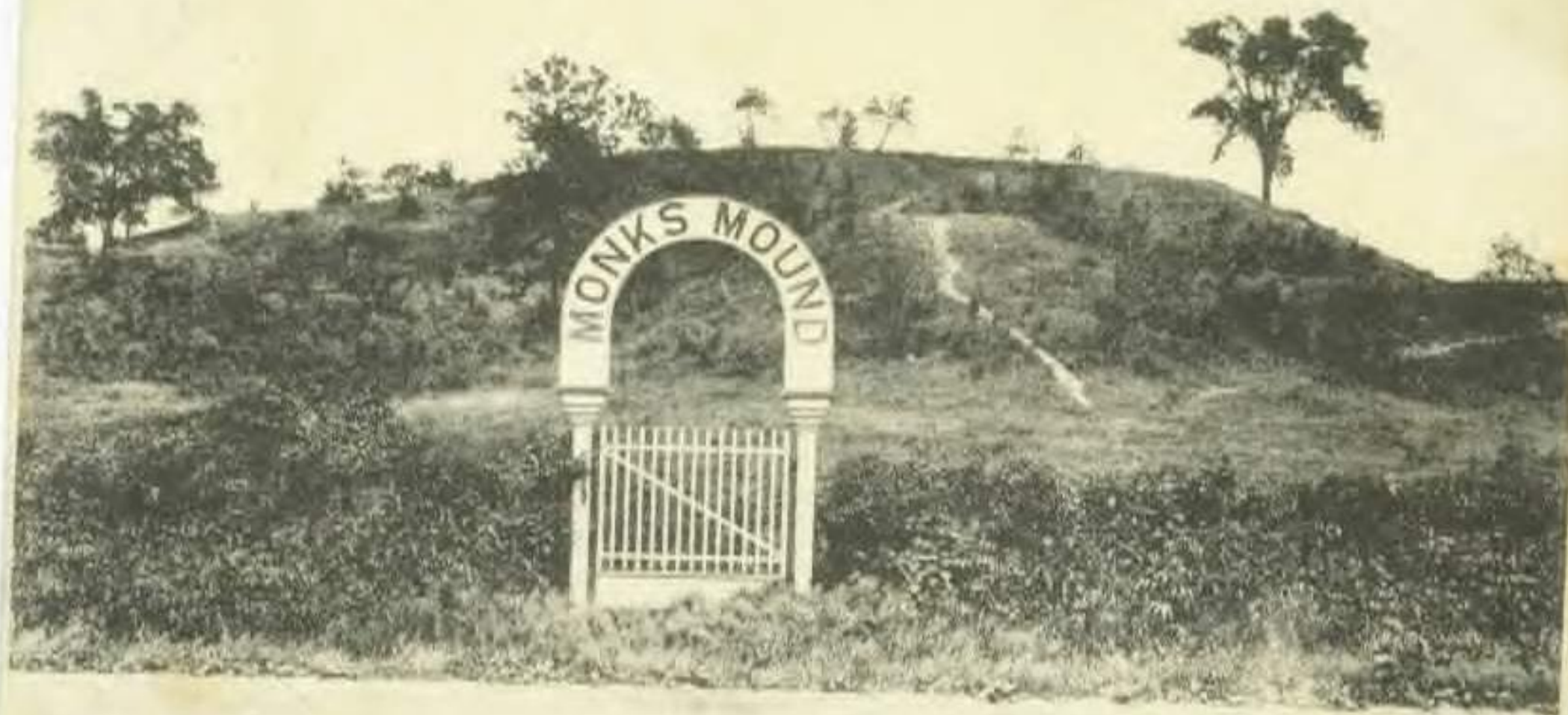


Sandstone Cahokia Birdman tablet. Crosshatching is symbol of Lower World. Bird is symbol of Upper World. Man is the symbol for the Middle World. Found in 1971 on east side of Monks Mound.





1873 Monks Mound



RICHARD J. ECHART

MONKS MOUND, COLLINSVILLE, ILL.

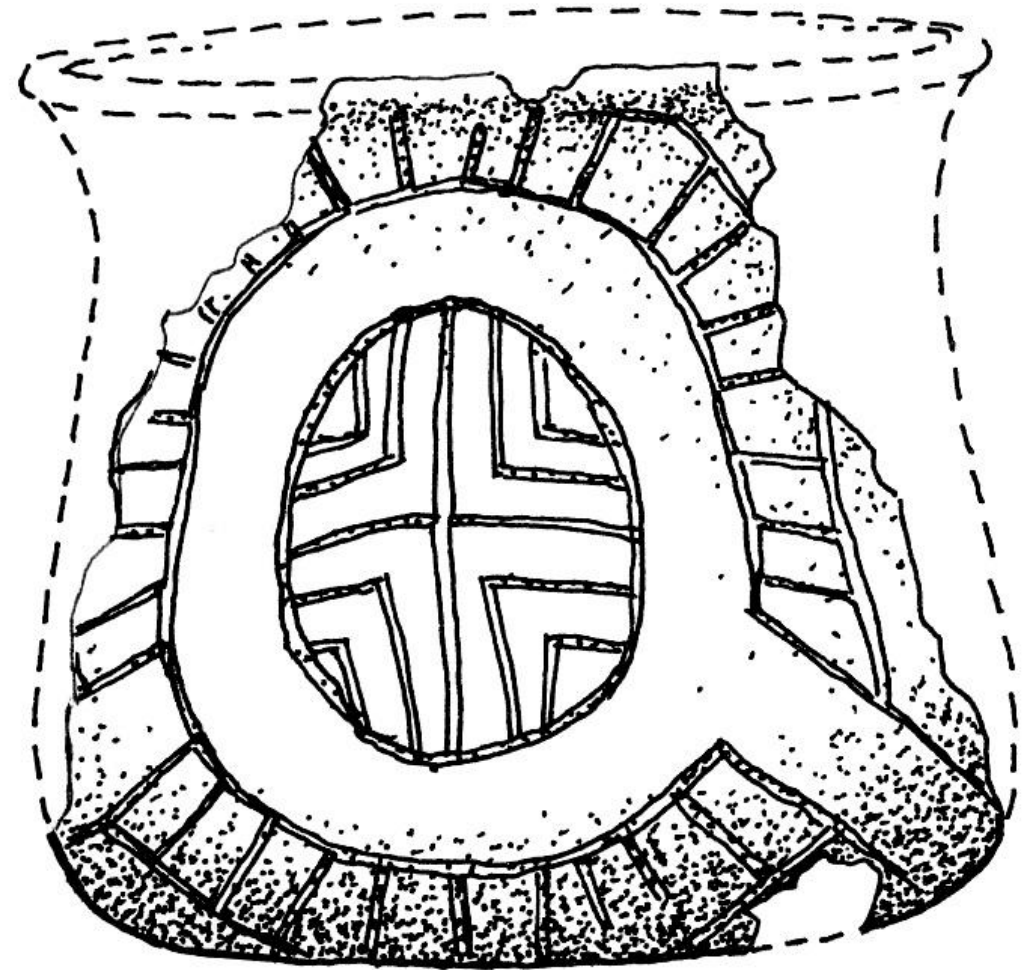
1910 Monks Mound



Earthwatch Dig



America's Woodhenge built from A.D. 1100 -1200



Woodhenge Beaker found in 1960's



Woodhenge reconstruction in 1985.
The posts were 15 – 20 inches in diameter and stood about 20 feet high.

Repairing Woodhenge 2022





Cahokia's Demise



- The end of Cahokia came gradually, beginning in the 1200s as population slowly declined. It was still the biggest community around, but it seems to have changed into more of a ceremonial center. By the mid- to late-1300s, it had been abandoned. The descendants of the Mississippians are likely some of the Central Siouan speaking groups, such as the Osage, Omaha, Ponca, the Caddoan, Muskogean, Algonquian, Kansa, Illiniwek, Missouria.



- We hope you will find time to visit Cahokia when you are in the Southern Illinois or the St. Louis area. The grounds are open every day from dawn until dusk. Check our web site (www.cahokiamounds.org) or Facebook to confirm the schedule and hours or call 618-346-5160.