



South Elevation



East Elevation



Mest Elevation

New Studio

Existing Garage/ADU (Shop)



North Elevation



View from Lake



View from North- Moodward Drive



View from Southwest



View from Northwest



View from lake/ neighbor to east



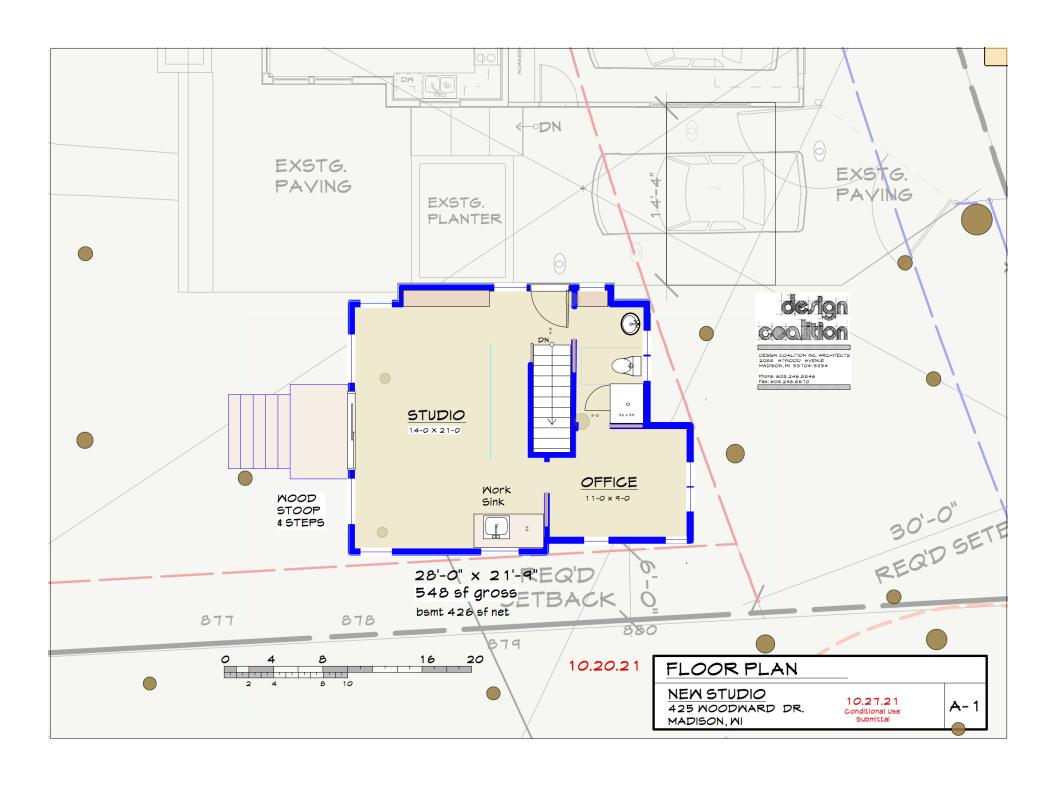
View from North East- Moodward Drive

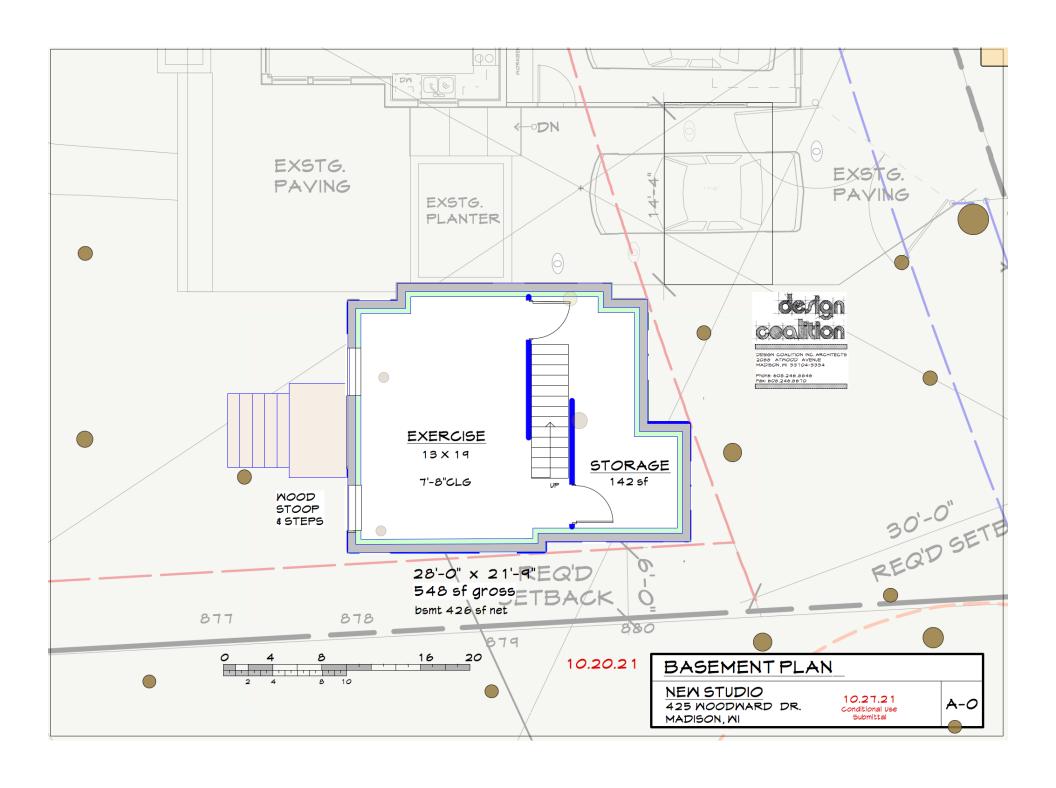


Existing ADU/ Shop /Garage









Archaeological Survey of an Area for a Proposed Small Structure Within the Woodward Shores Mound Group (47 Da-0530/BDA-0272) at 425 Woodward Dr, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

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Abstract

On July 2 and 5, 2021, an archaeological survey was conducted on an approximate 930 sq. ft. area of land at 425 Woodward Dr, Madison, Wisconsin where the landowner, Catherine Slichter, plans to build a small studio building adjacent to a garage and patio. The project area is located in the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of the NW ¼, of the SE ¼, Sec. 35, T8N R9E. It is between and just to the south of two effigy mounds of the Woodward Shores Mound Group (47 Da- 0530) but beyond the 15 ft. buffer zones around the mounds formally cataloged by the Wisconsin Historical Society as burials sites. While it is anticipated that professional archaeological monitoring of the construction of the building may be required, the purpose of the survey was to identify any obvious archaeological features in the uncatalogued part of the site, such as the presence of human burials, for the purpose of planning. Extensive shovel testing found no evidence of burials or other ancient use.

Introduction

On July. 2 and 5, 2021. an archaeological survey was conducted on an approximate 930 sq. ft. area of land at 425 Woodward Dr, Madison, Wisconsin where the landowner, Catherine Slichter, plans to build a small studio building adjacent to a garage and patio. The project area is located in the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ , Sec. 35, T8N R9E (Figure 1). The land is between and just south of two effigy mounds- a remnant of a bird and and a tailless mammal (probably a bear) of the Woodward Shores Mound Group (47 Da-0530), but beyond the 15 ft. buffer zones around the mounds cataloged by the Wisconsin Historical Society as burials sites under Wisconsin state law s.157.70 *Wis Stats*. The bird is on the property while the mammal is on the adjacent property to the east. While it is anticipated that professional archaeological monitoring of the construction of the building may be required, the purpose of the survey was to identify any obvious archaeological features in the uncatalogued part of the site, such as the presence of human burials, for the purpose of planning for the new structure.

The Woodward Shores Mound Group is one of 25 ancient Native American burial mound

groupings recorded for Lake Mendota, most of which were built during the Late Woodland effigy mound era between A.D. 750 and 1100 (Figure 2). Effigy mounds are earthen burial mounds built in the shapes of animals and supernatural beings long important in the beliefs of Native Americans. The Woodward Shores grouping is at the eastern end of larger mound landscape that extends along the northwest shore of Lake Mendota from the inlet of the Yahara River across the grounds of the Mendota Mental Health Institute (Figure 3).

Woodward Shore is one of the most important mound groups in Wisconsin because it best illustrates the principles of effigy mound landscapes- a world view that divides the universe into the the air, earth and water realms (Birmingham 2010: 26-29, Birmingham and Rosebrough 2017:130-131) (Figure 4). Coincidentally, an image of the group is used for an artistically rendered symbol for ancient people in the Madison area in the public installation, Forum of Origins, on State Street in downtown Madison. Many of the Woodward Shores mounds have been destroyed or damaged by residential expansion, but maps made by 19th century mound researcher T.H. Lewis (1885-1888) show a classic effigy mound group neatly segregated into birds, mammals (bear and canine /wolf/fox), long tailed water spirits, water mammals (e.g. mink, otter) and short linear mounds radiating from a large, and probable earlier conical mound. The bird and mammal mounds follow a east-west trending ridge but the water spirits, water mammal and snake-like linear mounds are oriented down the slope of a lower area to the water. The birds resemble modern Native American depictions of of eagles or the supernatural Thunderbirds. The straight winged bird mapped as part of the group seems instead to be a part of the arrangement of similar mounds partly encircling a Late Woodland village to the west called the Mendota State Hospital Group (Birmingham 2010:24-25).

Burials have been found in the mounds and in close proximity to the mounds. In 1929, Charles Brown of the Wisconsin Historical Society reported that three skeletons had been found in a bird mound on the western end of the mound group when a summer cottage had been built (Brown 1929).

Recent professional archaeological monitoring of construction of new house at the same location found no remaining evidence of mounds or burials (Hodgson 2013). The same was found to be true when construction of new houses at 501 Woodland Dr. and at 529 Woodland Dr. were monitored, the later for which a former linear mound had been previously recorded (Birmingham 2014, Schneider 2019).

However, installation of an utility line in 2014 dislocated and exposed burials from a burial pit immediately south, but beyond the cataloged area, of the existing bird mound remnant at 425 Woodward Dr. that had not been covered by a known mound (Hass 2014, 2016). The remains of four individuals were recovered along with cultural material consisting of lithics, pottery, and deer bone. There have been other instances in Wisconsin where burials have been discovered near mounds but had not been covered by earthen mounds (Rosebrough 2021). Like the 2014 discovery, archaeological investigations elsewhere within the boundaries of the Woodward Shores group found artifacts such as pottery consistent with the Late Woodland effigy mound era (Schneider 2019).

The Project Area.

The 30 ft. x 31 ft. project area is grassed over and lightly wooded land that is part of more densely wooded area that extends to the east and is bordered on the west by a large garage with a driveway and patio (Figure 5, 6). It is located between and just to the south of two effigy mounds- the remnant of a bird mound on the west side of the house and a intact mammal east on an adjacent lot. The project area is approximately 75 ft. northeast of where the burials were discovered in 2014.

Early maps show two small conical mounds in between the two effigy mounds that seem to be now covered by the garage and driveway. Currently there exists a circular depression, 10 ft. in diameter and approximately 18 inches deep, along the lot line adjacent to the mammal effigy mound on the adjacent lot to the east (Figures 4, 5). While it is feasible that the hole is from the excavation of one of the conical mounds, there are no archaeological reports of an excavation and the Slichter family, who have owned the property for several generations, report that there is no oral history of the digging of a

mound and the family has always maintained an ethic of mound preservation. Consequently, the origin and purpose of excavation is uncertain and worthy of future research.

The original soils of the project area are classified as McHenry Silt loam (USD1978 43-44). The soil profile includes a seven inch dark gray- brown silt loam Ap (plow zone) surface layer although it appears that the property has never been plowed. Instead it was found that a dark brown 11-12 inch thick natural A soil horizon exists here that covers a lighter colored compact silty clay loam B soil horizon that extends to a depth of 33 inches, according to the soil description. A light yellow- brown sand loam C soil horizon is found below that.

Methods and Results

Nine shovel I tests were placed within the 30 ft. x 31 ft. (9.1 x 9.4 meters) project area (Figure 5). These were were closely but rather irregularly spaced due to the presence of trees, tree roots, and large pile of firewood. However, the coverage is believed to be sufficient to detect graves or burial pits if present. The tests were approximately 15 inches (38 cm) in diameter and excavated through the A zone to depths of 13 to 15 inches (33-38 cm) into the compact B soil horizon sufficient to easily examine the lighter colored soil for disturbances that would be expected if burials were present. Back dirt was screened for small objects. No evidence of burial pits or human remains was found. The few recovered artifacts are modern: brick fragments and a piece of tar paper, all from the A soil horizon.

Conclusion

No evidence of burials, human bone, or other archaeological features and artifacts were found during the archaeological investigation. Consequently, it is my professional opinion that the proposed construction will not affect burials or other archaeological deposits associated with the Woodward Shores Mound Group. However, although the shovel test survey coverage was extensive, it is still only a sample. As a further precaution, it is recommended that a professional archaeologist be present

during the initial grading for the new structure in the event that a very small area containing human remains was inadvertently missed.

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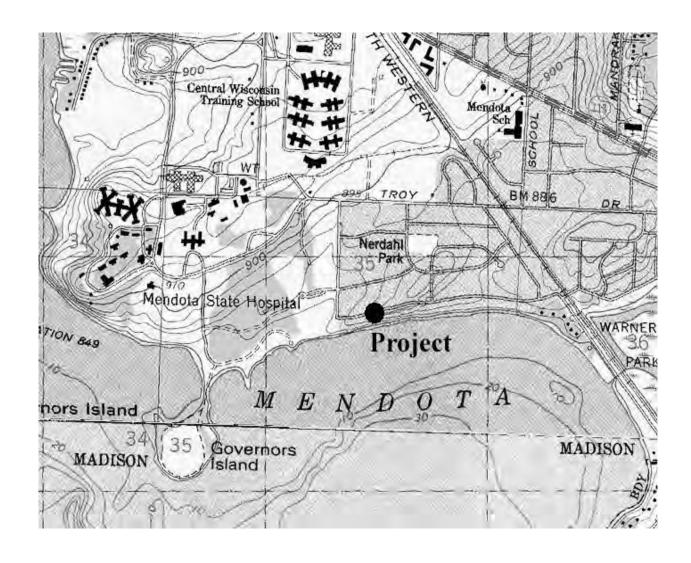


Figure 1: USGS Waunakee quadrangle showing location of project area.

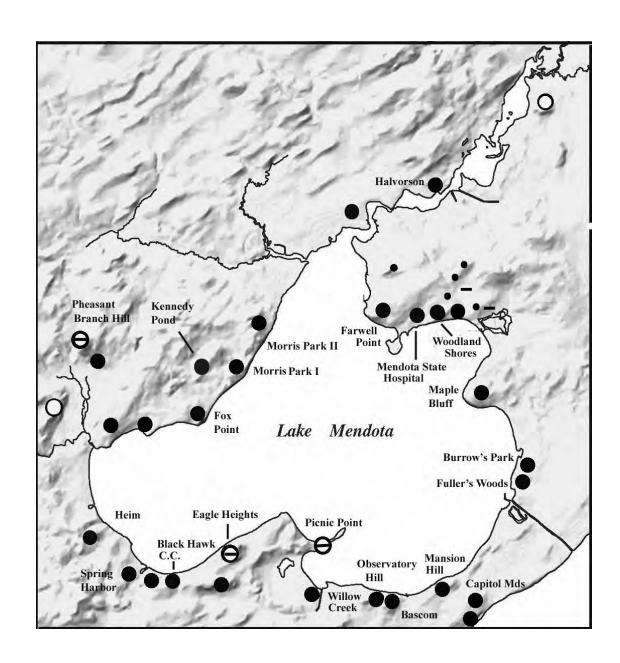


Figure 2: Mound groups and mounds of Lake Mendota.

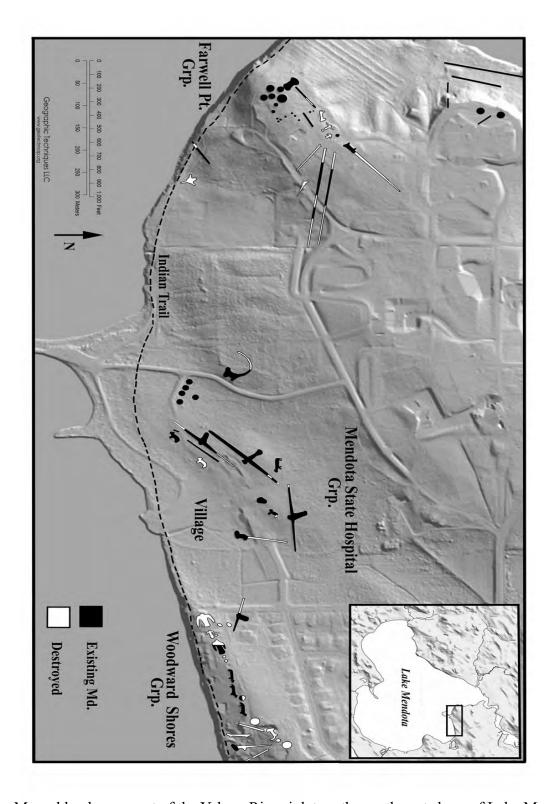
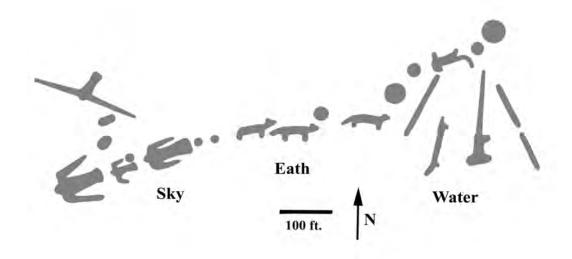


Figure 3: Mound landscape east of the Yahara River inlet on the northwest shore of Lake Mendota.



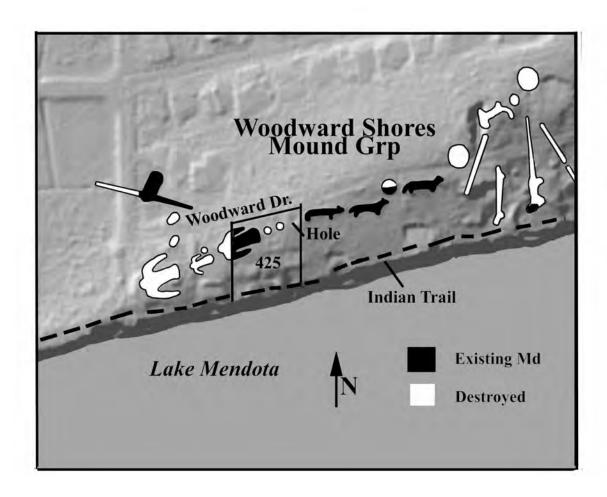


Figure 4 Above, map of the Woodward Shores Mound Group and symbolism of the mounds; below, Dane County LiDAR image showing the mound group and the lot at 425 Woodward Dr.

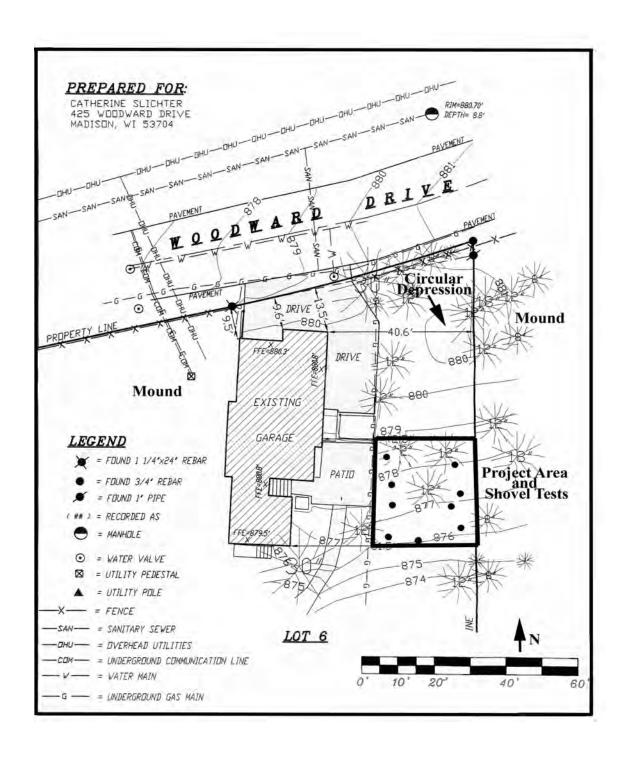


Figure 5: Survey map of 425 Woodward Dr. by Williamson Surveying & Associates with the location of the project area and shovel tests added.





Figure 6: Above, project area looking northeast; below, project area looking south.

The project area is approximately 75 ft. d place where burials had been discovered in 2014