



NHL Executive Summary



Name of Property:	Rock Island Site II
City, State:	Rock Island State Park, Door County, WI
Period of Significance:	ca. 1630-1766
NHL Criteria:	6
NHL Theme:	I. Peopling Places <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. family and life cycle2. health, nutrition, and disease3. migration from outside and within4. community and neighborhood5. ethnic homelands6. encounters, conflicts, and colonization
Previous Recognition:	1972 National Register of Historic Places
National Historic Context:	I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations <ol style="list-style-type: none">D. Ethnohistory of Indigenous American Populations<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Native Cultural Adaptations at Contact<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Native Adaptations to Northeastern Environments3. Varieties of Early Conflict, Conquest, or Accommodation<ol style="list-style-type: none">b. Forced and Voluntary Population Movements<ol style="list-style-type: none">d. Changing Settlement Types<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Sedentary Villagers



NHL Significance:

- Rock Island Site II is a relatively rare early Contact period site of Indigenous occupation of the Upper Great Lakes, reflecting intensive participation during the French fur trade. At various times during its period of significance it was occupied by several different tribal groups including the Huron, Petun, Odawa, and Potawatomi. There is also evidence that French traders may have lived among Indigenous peoples at this site. Accordingly, Rock Island Site II affords the opportunity to examine archeological questions related to ethnicity and population movement during the fur trade, a critical time of dynamic change. The site has the potential to yield important data to answer research questions about the persistence and character of enduring Indigenous materialities, identities, or intercultural practices before or after this period. Such study has the potential to affect archeological theory, concepts, and ideas to a major degree. The Rock Island Site II is located on lands occupied by Indigenous peoples for millennia. While the material remains of human occupation at Rock Island Site II have been previously explored through archeological methods, tribal oral traditions may yet provide new perspectives, interpretations, and information about the site's significance.

Integrity:

- The site integrity at Rock Island Site II is outstanding for an archeological property of its type and age. The site is virtually undisturbed, except for areas that were subject to controlled archeological investigation in the early 1970s, though some parts of the site have been rendered inaccessible for all practical purposes by active, shifting sand dunes.

Owner of Property: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Rock Island State Park

Acres of Property: ca. 2.5 acres

Origins of Nomination: NPS regional staff consulted with the Wisconsin SHPO archeologist and Wisconsin DNR archeologist to complete an initial draft of this nomination. A subsequent draft of the nomination was reviewed with input from associated tribal partners. The nomination was completed by the NPS WASO NHL program.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: The site is in a state park, which attracts numerous tourists during the summer season. Placement of the plaque will ensure that all park visitors are made aware of the federal recognition program and the national significance of this important archeological site.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None are known.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of August 21, 2023):

- Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office (8/26/2020)
- Richard Kubicek, Chief Archeologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Landmarks Committee Comments: None



Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of the Rock Island Site II in Rock Island State Park, Door County, Wisconsin, as a National Historic Landmark, with any additions and corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

Advisory Board Recommendation: The National Park System Advisory Board recommends to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of the Rock Island Site II in Rock Island State Park, Door County, Wisconsin, as a National Historic Landmark.