

Field Notes:

Township: _____ Section: _____ Range: _____

I found this
on my farm....



Now What?

Archeological Sites,
Historic Structures
and the
Iowa Landowner

A Precious Resource

A major part of our state's cultural heritage is contained in its land. Our knowledge of local prehistory is dependent on what is preserved in the land around us. Just as we should be good stewards of the land, we should be good stewards of our cultural heritage. Once archeological sites and historic structures are destroyed, they are gone forever.

What is a cultural resource? It could be an archeological site, which is often a scattering of artifacts in a cultivated field. It could be petroglyphs (images engraved on rock). It could be a burial mound. It could be a log structure of an early pioneer, an old barn or an old house with distinctive architecture.

Your Role

You can help save Iowa's past. Almost all of Iowa is privately owned. And the cultural resources on your land (with the exception of burials and burial mounds) are not protected by law and are the private property of the landowner. Consequently, if our heritage is to be saved, it is largely dependent on the voluntary good will and stewardship of private landowners, like you.



Burial Mound



Log Cabin

Steps of a Good Steward

If you find cultural resources on your land what can you do to be a good steward?

1. You can register the archeological sites on your property with the Office of the State Archaeologist. This is a voluntary activity that will greatly increase our understanding of Iowa's past.
2. You can allow archeologists and historians to visit the site.
3. You can avoid (when practical) activities that might destroy known cultural resources.
4. You can consult with local historical and archeological societies about good stewardship practices on your land.

Your Rights

If you report a cultural resource on your land, you will retain ownership of the site as well as control access to your property.

How to Register Sites

To register an archeological site on your property, contact the Office of the State Archaeologist to request site forms, instructions and additional information:

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa>
collen-eck@uiowa.edu
319-384-0735
