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TIM ROSKE/Associated Press

late Cooperstown, N.Y.

Ancient Ohio earthwork remains a mystery today

Crescent-shaped Serpent Mound nationally recognized

By **Bob Downing**
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PEEBLES, OHIO: The 1,348-foot-long Serpent Mound remains Ohio's biggest mystery.

No one knows who built the ancient earthwork in southern Ohio or when it was constructed, but it was obviously a major religious or mythical symbol to its makers.

The Serpent Mound is the largest and finest serpent effigy in the United States and one of

Ohio's only effigy mounds. It is a National Historic Landmark and on the National Register of Historic Places.

Yet it remains one of the most poorly understood constructions by ancient mound-building peoples with an elusive past.

The crescent-shaped mound - it appears to be in the shape of an undulating snake with a spiral-coiled tail - sits atop a pla-

Please see **Wild, G4**