

The Blue Mounds

The Blue Mounds, known to the native Ho-Chunk as “Mu-cha-wa-ku-nin” or Smoky Mountains, are the ungalciated remnants of an ancient mountain range. The area was first settled during the lead mining rush of the early-19th century.

The first permanent white settler in Dane County was Ebenezer Brigham, a lead prospector from Massachusetts, whose mineral wealth allowed him to establish himself and the town of Moundville (known today as Blue Mounds).



East Mound, or the “Blue Mound” is the larger of the two mounds and the second highest point in the state at 1,710 feet.

Blue Mound

A rough and tumble frontier mining town also known as Pokerville, Moundville was home to the lead miners of the region. The town is located about a mile west of present day Blue Mounds, the establishment of which lead to its eventual demise.

Moundville

Brigham Place

The Brigham homestead served as a public house, functioning as an inn, stable, post office and general store.

The “Old Military Road” is one of Wisconsin’s original thoroughfares, linking Fort Winnebago (Portage) to Fort Crawford (Prairie Du Chien)

Old Military Road

Old Military Road

Old Diggings

The mechanical pumps were used to remove ground water from deep mines to allow for continued extraction.

Old Furnace

This furnace was Ebenezer Brigham’s original lead ore smelter. Its earthen construction was primitive even for the time, but the wood fired heat it generated allowed for the removal of impurities in the lead ore.

Fort Bluemounds

Fort Blue Mounds was constructed in 1832 after the outbreak of the Black Hawk War. The timber stockade provided protection from Native American hostility for the settlers and miners of the area.

Dudley Diggings

Hawthorne Diggings

Hyde Diggings



2 Miles

Geology

- Flint
- Limestone
- Shale
- Galena Dolomite
- Blue Limestone
- Upper Sandstone

- Lead Mine
- Homestead
- Lead Smelting Furnace
- Mechanical Pump
- Observation Tower
- Settlement
- Fort
- Well
- Spring
- Sink Hole
- Stream
- Road/Path

Author: Tim Rooney
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 Central Meridian | 90° West