

The Barnhill Mound, Palm Beach County, Florida

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The Barnhill mound (PB-13) is located, immediately east of Route 1, about half way between Delray Beach and Boca Raton, Florida. During November, 1954, the author directed excavations in this mound at the request of Mr. E. G. Barnhill of Ft. Lauderdale, owner of the mound. Mr. Barnhill sponsored labor and field expenses.

As shown on the sketch map (Fig. 1), the mound is about a hundred feet across, not allowing for recent erosion. Examination of the contours on this map indicates an upward slope of the surface of the mound towards the west. Toward the southeast the mound has a straight edge or side (Fig. 1, near 6A) suggestive of the side of a ramp as found on temple mounds. Extensions to the north, northeast, and southwest are relatively recent features. Eliminating them, the Barnhill mound has somewhat the appearance of a temple mound although the present surface is not suggestive of such an edifice.

Disturbance of the surface of the mound has resulted from four activities. A Japanese, who grew vegetables nearby, leveled the top of the mound and built a house on it about forty years ago. Mr. Gates of Boca Raton is of the opinion sand was removed from the top of the mound during boom times in the 1920's. About fifteen years ago, Boy Scouts used to camp on the mound and dig up skeletons, according to local residents. The extension to the southwest has permitted automobiles and light trucks to climb to the top of the mound.

These disturbances have kept ground cover to a minimum although the sides, where steep, are well protected with trees and bushes. The mound is built of fairly homogeneous, reasonably fine, whitish sand. Prevailing winds come from the