

25JAN2021 *Press Release*
Tippecanoe County, Indiana

Re: Ouiatenon Preserve- A Roy Whistler Foundation Project designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior.

On behalf of :

Ouiatenon Preserve Inc.

Board President- Michael Reckowsky

Director- J. Colby Bartlett

Tippecanoe County Historical Association

Board President- Dr. Pete Bill

Operations Manager- Leslie Martin Conwell

The Archaeological Conservancy

President- Mark Michel

Midwest Regional Director- Dr. Phil Millhouse

Director Emeritis - Dr. Paul Gardner

Roy Whistler Foundation

Board President- Michael Reckowsky

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On January 13, the US Secretary of the Interior, designated the Ouiatenon Preserve a National Historic Landmark. The 230 acre archaeological and nature preserve, located along the Wabash River in western Tippecanoe County, was established in 2016 through the financial support of the Roy Whistler Foundation, the Indiana Bicentennial Nature Trust and the Indiana Heritage Trust and is a designated Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Project. The Preserve contains the archaeological site of Fort Ouiatenon and other sites related to it, including Native American Kickapoo and Mascouten villages.

Fort Ouiatenon was established by France in 1717, the first of three forts built by France in what would become Indiana. The Preserve is co-owned by the Tippecanoe County Historical Association and The Archaeological Conservancy and managed by Ouiatenon Preserve Inc.

This is the highest designation given by the federal government to historic sites. Only 2-3% of sites on the National Register of Historic Places are deemed eligible for this designation. It is reserved for sites of exceptional importance to the history of the United States and those that possess an exceptional degree of preservation or "integrity". The National Historic Landmark program is administered under the National Park Service. This NHL designation is being made as an "archaeological district", the first in Indiana, due to the exceptional preservation of the European and Native American archaeological deposits within the Preserve. This designation does not change or alter the ownership and operation of the Preserve, nor does it include federal funding.

The Ouiatenon Preserve becomes the 43rd National Historic Landmark in the State of Indiana, joining two others in Tippecanoe County, the Tippecanoe Battlefield and Samara House. With this designation, Tippecanoe County now has the fourth largest number of NHL's of the counties in Indiana.

Due to the current COVID pandemic and restrictions on gatherings, we will be planning a public dedication event and reception later this year.