

W Y M A N

Local Sites

Near Eureka there are several rock shelters including the [Willenberg](#) and [Steusse](#) Shelters located in Franklin County containing beautifully preserved pictographs. At the [Davis](#) dig site near Pacific, multiple artifacts dated to as recent as 1100 to 1200 CE and as old as 3000 to 1000 BCE, have been uncovered including arrowpoints, pottery, and a squirrel pipe.

The most significant local archaeological site might be the Crescent Hill Chert pits in Eureka. The thousands of quarry features sit along several miles of ridgetops that pass through Eureka and into Jefferson County, and are evidence of the locations where Indigenous surface miners extracted Crescent Chert for use in tools and points. Crescent Chert was one of the most desired materials for points from the Archaic through the Mississippian Period, and many points made from this chert have been found at Cahokia Mounds, and as far away as Arkansas, Nebraska, and northern Illinois. The central portion of these quarries is located in West Tyson County Park, Eureka, and is easy to explore using [this](#) guide from STLCC.

Cahokia Mounds in Illinois is a spectacular example of the mound-building culture present in this area during the Mississippian period, but large mounds once existed in eastern Missouri as well. As European and American colonialists were arriving in the early 1800s, St. Louis was given the nickname Mound City. There were more than 40 known mounds in the city of St. Louis, and fairly quickly, all but one were demolished. In 1999, two large burial mounds located in Fenton, Missouri were destroyed in order to build the Gravois Bluffs shopping center. There were also several other mounds in downtown of Fenton, though little is known of them before they were destroyed in the 19th century.

Though over time the Osage Nation would eventually span throughout Missouri, they remain connected to their ancestral mound-building culture in the Central Mississippi-valley region. In 2009, the Osage nation purchased the last remaining mound in the City of St. Louis, Sugarloaf Mound. They are currently working to stabilize and preserve the mound and regularly bring members of the Osage nation to experience this sacred site and its history. They are working to one day build an Osage-run interpretive center on the site.