

# **Gate Construction to Preserve an Archaeological Site: The Arnold Cave Example**

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Arnold Cave, in the 'Driftless Area' of southwestern Wisconsin, is the first reported deep-cave archaeological site in the upper Mississippi River drainage. First reported to archaeologists in 1998, the cave was found to contain over 100 charcoal pictographs, several petroglyphs, habitation remains, and perishables such as birch bark torches and a portion of a hide moccasin. The cave has not been excavated. The ancient resources of the cave were threatened by regular visits by local youth who used the cave as a 'party site'. Preservation efforts included mapping and photo recording the artifacts. In co-operation with the American Cave Conservation Association a large steel, environment-friendly gate was installed in May 2000. The gate allows free passage for small animals, such as bats, with minimal airflow restriction. Volunteer workers and discounted or donated materials significantly reduced the cost of the structure.