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Meteorite That Fell In Wisconsin Now Has Name

Meteoritical Society Names Meteorite Mifflin

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CHICAGO -- A meteorite that fell in Wisconsin earlier this year now has a name: Mifflin.

The Field Museum in Chicago said Wednesday that the Meteoritical Society named the meteorite after Mifflin Township, where it fell on April 14. The group also has classified it as an ordinary chondrite meteorite.

WISN 12 cameras caught the meteor as it streaked through the sky that night.

Pieces of the meteorite are on display at the Chicago museum. The museum also has received four pieces as a donation from a meteorite collector. Scientists from Washington, Chicago and Wisconsin have analyzed and classified meteorite pieces.

Scientists said that analysis tells them the meteorite originally came from an asteroid fragment that separated from the main asteroid 470 million years ago between the planets of Mars and Jupiter.

According to the Field Museum, "At that time, the parent asteroid of the L chondrite meteorites was hit by another object, likely a small fast-moving asteroid or comet, and catastrophically disrupted due to the high energy of the collision. For the next five million years Earth was bombarded with up to 100 times more meteorites that normal - fragments from this one asteroid collision."

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