

**05/08/2018**

We took advantage of the warming weather to do some limited excavation ahead of a planned installation of buried service cable at the Warner site. The electrical service is receiving an upgrade and any new changes in service require a buried cable. The excavation included a line of quarter units just south of the southern extension of the house. Artifacts included the usual square nails, glass, and animal bone but also several pieces of blue shell edge. Enough of the rim was recovered to determine that these pieces exhibited an undulating outline, a hallmark of an early version of shell edge dating to the 1830s/1840s. Although quite a bit of blue shell edge has been recovered at the site, only two other blue shell edge sherds previously recovered exhibit an undulating rim. It is likely they are contemporary with the log cabin dated 1841-1855. Though very common on mid 19th century sites, blue shell edge was made even as late as the 1890s (and maybe even into the early 20th century).

A final building inspection of the Hicks school was conducted and passed with no issues. Many thanks to the restoration specialist, Randy Klepinger of Klepinger Construction, for completing all the tasks needed and getting final approval! This is a major milestone that allows us to start using the building after we complete a few more small tasks such as painting the inside of the addition.

A kitchen clock made by the William Gilbert Company was donated by my uncle, Chuck Warner. The clock is actually a family item that sat on the mantle of the faux fireplace in the dining room for decades. The clock dates to the last quarter of the 19th century. It still functions and keeps great time when properly wound. Kitchen clocks (or mantle clocks) came in a variety of patterns. This one is in the "Concord No 12" design that has grapes, leaves, and vines pressed into the wood frame. Family pieces are a critical aspect of the Warner house that help make it an authentic and possibly even distinctive historic home. The clock is certainly a welcome addition and takes its place on the mantle once again. Many thanks again to Chuck for the donation!

The Michigan One Room School Association has invited me to present at their annual conference this year. The meeting will be held on Saturday, May 19th at the depot in Williamston. The conference is free and open to the public. The presentation begins at 9:00 AM and is entitled "The Three Rs: Relocation, Restoration, and archaeological Research of the Hicks School". I will elaborate on an article that appeared in the association's spring newsletter, *The Slate*, discussing the move of the 1849 timber frame Hicks school, its restoration, and archaeological research at the former school site. Artifacts from the school will be on display. Information on Michigan one room schools including a very comprehensive list of schools around the state is available at <http://www.one-roomschool.org/>