

March 2, 2017

Restoration of the Hicks school has been progressing along during the past two months. Insulation has been installed in the ceiling and walls. The attic now has an access door and flooring. Original German cove siding has been re-installed on the east side and most of the trim on the exterior has been completed. The siding and trim has been pre-primed and is ready for caulk and paint as soon as it warms up. The remainder of the building will receive new cedar siding, though in the same profile as the 19th century version. The new siding has been ordered and should be available in a couple of weeks. A number of pieces of old siding with interesting carvings have been found and will be saved for display purposes inside the school. I made a 6 hour round trip to Boyne Falls to get the cedar shingles for the roof. Installation of the cedar shingles began last week. Many thanks to Randy Klepinger for donating his time and labor to install the shingles.

A number of donations have been received during the last two months. Marieanna Bair, a longtime friend of the Warner family, donated a quantity of antique oak trim. This trim will be used on various entryways in the interior of the school. Marieanna has also been a longtime member of the Brighton Area Historical Society. She has a new book out which is a compilation 35 years of history columns written for the Trail Tales newsletter. See www.brightonareahistorical.com for more information.

Donna Warner donated a set of glass shelves that were going to be discarded by the store where she works. The shelving unit will be perfect for displays of pottery and artifacts in the school. Along with the shelving unit, a large pane of glass will be used in the back room of the house to protect original newspaper and wallpaper dating to around 1900. She also donated an Art Nouveau shaving mirror and a Victorian frame with gilt matting containing a CDV of a woman. Another family member, Chuck Warner, donated a large wood Pexto tool case. This case will be used to display some of the tools used at the farm. He also donated an Empire brand pair of fence pliers as well as a large framed charcoal portrait of an unidentified man. Many thanks for all of the donations!

Over 500 new images have been formatted, documented, and uploaded to the Warner homestead website (www.warnerhomestead.com). The images chronicle archaeological research, the restoration of the Warner house, the move of the Hicks school, the in-progress restoration of the school, as well as a few related to the history of the farm. Images of a small sampling of thousands of recovered artifacts are also uploaded. Eventually the artifacts section will expand into categories as time allows. When viewing the photos, I've found that it takes a few seconds to fully load in order to see the photo slideshow (otherwise only an enlargement of the selected photo is displayed).

I will give a presentation on the Hicks school on Saturday, April 15th, 2017 at the Michigan History Center in Lansing. The presentation is part of the afternoon programs for the Michigan Archaeological Society annual meeting that will be held in the forum auditorium. The event is free and the public is welcome. The presentation is entitled "The Three R's: Relocation, Restoration, and archaeological Research of the Hicks

School". Other presentations related to Michigan archaeological subjects will also be given. Presentations begin at 1:00 PM.