

10/24/2020

Today is Michigan Archaeology Day. Typically the event is held at the Michigan History Center in Lansing with archaeologists from around the state featuring their research with artifacts, displays, and presentations. In each of the past several years, over 1,000 participants attended the one day event. However, due to the ongoing pandemic, this year's Archaeology Day is being celebrated virtually. Online content regarding archaeological research from around the state, including the Warner site, is available at:

<http://www.miplace.org/archaeology-day?fbclid=IwAR0BI-OtF1e4Uhqb79yAR1f8odAyh1syW9rnGMzTvtDrUUPnqnwat-FDX8M>

The site has information and virtual activities for all ages. Many thanks to Stacy Tchorzynski, archaeologist at the State Historic Preservation Office, for putting it all together!

The text for the Michigan Historical Marker at the Warner Homestead was approved by the Michigan Historical Commission earlier last month. The Warner Homestead is now a registered Michigan State Historic Site, number 2339. It joins seven others in the vicinity of Brighton. This effort is the culmination of a many months long effort beginning with initial extensive research, preparation of an exhaustive application, and multiple reviews by various levels of state government officials. Many thanks to Heather Lehman (Historical Marker Program Graduate Assistant), Michelle Davis (Historical Marker Coordinator), and Sandra Clark (Michigan History Center Director) for their assistance in refining the text to the final approved version. I appreciate that I was able to review several versions of the text and collaborate suggestions for changes. I am very pleased with the results of the final text as it covers many aspects of events and activities at the farm. Especial kudos to Heather who worked on the majority of the text as it is no small challenge to pack highlights of 180 years of historical information in an area that fits within the marker format. The marker has now been ordered from the foundry.

Historic preservation efforts have continued this fall. Several weeks ago, historic restoration specialist Randy Klepinger, of Klepinger Construction, applied TWP treatment to the cedar shingles on the Hicks school. The treatment deters deterioration of the shingles by ultraviolet light as well as limits cracking and warping as well as inhibits the growth of mildew. A slate gray tint was selected for the treatment to mimic the natural gray tone that the white cedar shingles weather to over time. The roof jacks for holding support boards are no longer needed and have now been removed. Thanks to Randy for getting this job completed, it looks great!

Minor restoration efforts have also been completed on the exterior of the 1855 Greek Revival home. It has been five years since the exterior restoration was completed. Overall, the paint has held up well but areas covering square nail heads in particular on the wood siding have presented sporadic issues. These areas are scraped,

primed with oil based primer, any holes/cracks caulked, and painted with two coats of latex paint.

A student desk was donated by Ivan and Paula Dzombak of Pinckney. The Dzombak's had bought the desk at a fundraiser sale at the Hicks school a number of years ago. Paula, a recently retired teacher, previously had the desk in her classroom. As the desk was original to the Hicks school, they decided it would be a good idea to have returned where it will sit alongside another original desk. Many thanks to Ivan and Paula for the donation!

Julia Joblinski, a graduate student at Central Michigan University, recently completed experimental electrolysis on ceramics. This experiment involved determining the viability of removing iron concretions and stains from ceramic sherds that were found in feature 19, the well. The results of the experiments were successful and we hope to repeat the process for other artifacts found in the well. The process greatly enables our ability to cross-mend (reassemble) sherds. She is now working on a few larger iron items including harrow spikes and agricultural implement parts. Many thanks to Julia for her electrolysis work!

