MSU CAMPUS ARCHAEOLOGY

is a program that works to manage and protect the archaeological resources on Michigan State University’s beautiful and historic campus. Michigan State University (MSU) has a history that exists not only in our rich traditions and educational values, but also underneath our feet, below the ground upon which we walk every day.

PITCHER

The pitcher was found at the location of Michigan State University’s first dormitory, called Saints’ Rest. Built in 1856, Saints’ Rest was the only dorm on campus until Williams Hall was built in 1871. Unfortunately, Saints’ Rest caught fire and burned down during the winter of 1876. Based on the date of the fire, we know that the pitcher is at least 142 years old!

MIRROR

This mirror was uncovered during construction near Brody Hall, the site of a historic East Lansing city dump. It is unusual because it is made out of Bakelite, the world’s first man-made plastic that was invented in 1909!

SUGAR BOWL

This sugar bowl was made in Germany between 1880 and 1918. We uncovered it near Brody Hall, the location of a historic East Lansing city dump. This sugar bowl would have been used during tea time by someone living in the East Lansing area, either at home or at a local tea house.

CUP AND SAUCER

These two items were found in the privy (outhouse) next to the first dorm on MSU’s campus. While the cup doesn’t have a handle like a typical teacup, it has the same pattern and style as the saucer. It’s possible that this cup and saucer were used by some of the first students that attended Michigan State!

Please share your colored CAP artifacts with us on our Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter (@capmsu) using #ColorCAP

For more information about CAP, visit our website: campusarch.msu.edu