



## **MSU Campus Archaeology Program Project Summary**

**Report No. 74**

**Date of Survey:** 5/16/2018 – 5/17/2018

**Site Name:** Cowles House West

**Principal Investigator:** Autumn M. Painter

**IPF Project Name:** Cowles House – Addition 3 and Site Renovations

**IPF Capital Project Number:** CP17186

**Project Justification:** Taken from IPF [Project Page](#):

- Cowles House was originally constructed in 1857 and has been the subject of periodic renovations. It was named the official residence of the President in 1941. Although the current MSU President does not use Cowles House as a primary residence, the facility hosts more than 150 events annually and serves as a guesthouse for dignitaries visiting the University. The current configuration of Cowles House does not provide adequate space to properly support events, causing public areas to be used for staging and storage. Further, the building has limited accessibility for persons with disabilities. The upstairs residential space is essentially unchanged since renovations in 1950. The residential space is not separated from the events downstairs in the manner that allows that space to function as an independent apartment.
- Renovations and an addition to the first-floor area to provide appropriate kitchen staging and storage areas. Demolition and reconstruction of the adjoining garage necessary to provide additional service space. Removal of the tree in the middle of the living room. Modification and reconstruction of portions of the first-floor public areas to increase event seating capacity and improve functionality. Providing accessibility to the first-floor public areas including accessible restrooms. Modifications of the outdoor area to provide terraces, accessibility and improved landscape. Upgrade of the interior finishes and furniture to reflect and integrate the building's mid-century design, in particular in the public reception areas. Upgrade of the living/residential space on the second floor to provide appropriate accommodations for dignitaries and other guests. Construction of kitchen and staff spaces that more efficiently handle event volume and capacity.
- Construction start: May 2019
- Ready for occupancy: February 2020

**Location:** Cowles House

**Campus Zone:** West Circle/Sacred Space

**Survey Type:** Pedestrian Survey and Shovel Testing

**Methodology:** Shovel test pits were placed 5 meters apart on the East-West axis and 10 meters apart on the North South axis. STP #1-5 was placed at a 15-meter interval due to garden/trees. STP #3-4 was placed 20 meters north of STPs #3-3 due to the decorative garden and Adam's Field Plaque. See maps.

**Summary/Conclusions:** 19 total STPs were placed. 4 STPs were positive for cultural material. Only pattern in soil was the slag/coal layer along STP track 2 down the middle of the survey area. Possibly related to the historic running track that ran through this area.

**Recommendations and Priority:** This area is high priority. Need to monitor during building construction.

**Notes from Campus Archaeology Field Book:**

**5/15/2018:**

- After finishing survey at the intersection of Shaw and Hagadorn, field crew (Autumn P., Jeff P., Susan K., Jack B., and Zach F.) headed over to Cowles house to prepare and plan for the pedestrian and shovel test survey beginning on 5/16/2018

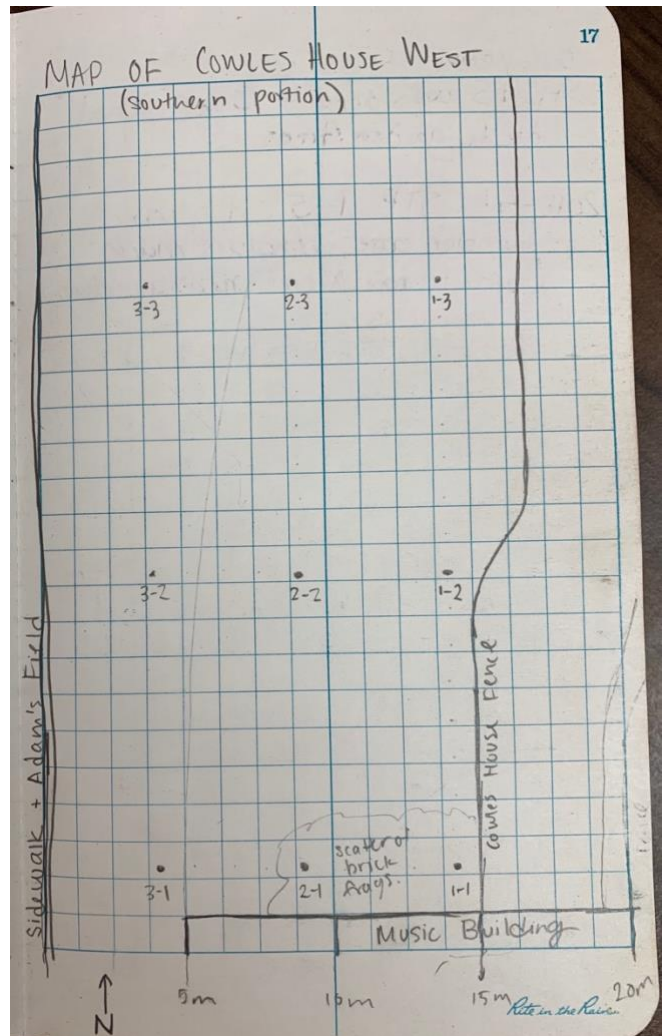
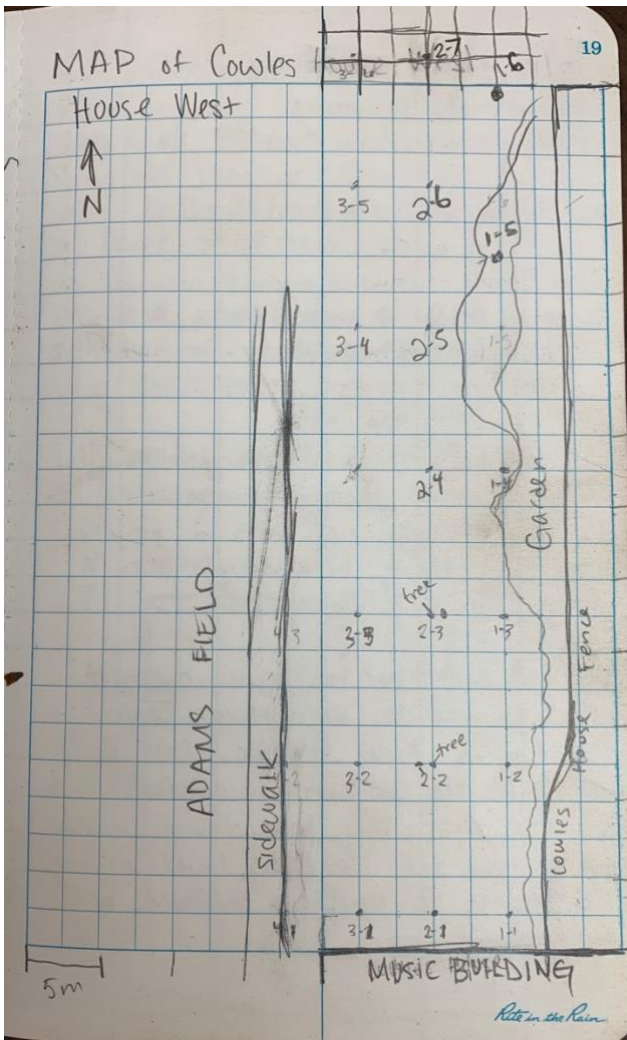
**5/16/2018:**

- Weather: 70s-80s and sunny
- Crew: Jeff P., Susan K., Jack B., and Zach F.
- Construction along the west side of Cowles House is expected during mid-summer. We began with a pedestrian survey of the backyard of Cowles House. The only thing found was a depression in the far south portion of the yard behind the formal landscaping – closer to the Music Building. In the depression is an angled concrete block, and a possible pipe. There were flags and some spray-painted lines going through the depression. We marked the location in KoBoToolbox. We then did a pedestrian survey of the western site, outside the fenced yard. Found several bricks on the surface and marked them in the KoBoToolbox program. See maps below
- STPs are being placed 5 meters apart on the East-West axis and 10 meters apart on the North-South axis. See maps.
- Typical soil profile is topsoil followed by a layer of slag and coal then construction fill sand.
- Slag strata only found in transect 2 so far, not present in transect 1 (just topsoil and fill sand)
- STP 2-5 – still have slag/coal layer, but appears to be thinning out
- STP 1-5 was done at 15-meter interval due to garden/trees
- Excavated through STPs #2-7 and 3-1
- Bags:
  - o 2018-38
    - STP 1-1: square nail
  - o 2018-39
    - STP 1-2: square nail
  - o 2018-40

- STP 1-3: whiteware rim and mammal vert
- 2018-41
  - STP 1-5: 1 glass tumbler base with makers mark – found in top 10 cm – probably modern

**5/17/2018:**

- Weather: 60s and sunny
- Crew: Susan K., Zach F., Jeff P., and Jack B.
- We began with STPs 3-2 and 3-3
- STP 3-4 was put in 20 meters north of STP 3-3 due to decorative garden and Adam's Field plaque.
- Last STP 3-6.
- No pattern in artifacts found for this area, as very little was found.
- Only pattern in soil was the slag/coal layer along STP track 2 down the middle of the survey area. Possibly related to the historic track that ran through this area.



**Artifacts:**

<b>Artifact</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% Complete</b>	<b>Weight</b>
<i>Square Nail</i>	1	>75%	3.6 g
<i>Improved Whiteware</i>	1	<25%	1.1g
<i>Mammal Vertebra Fragment</i>	1	<25%	0.9g
<i>Colorless Glass Cup Fragment</i>	1	~50%	152.5g
<i>Wire Nail</i>	1	100%	5.9g

**Additional Notes:**

- Colorless Glass Cup Fragment: Libby Glass Co.