

# MSU Campus Archaeology Program Project Summary Sheet



**Report No. 49**

**Date of Survey:** 6/25/2014

**Site Name:** Saints Rest Sidewalks, Summer 2014

**Principal Investigator:** Kate Frederick

**Physical Plant Project Name:** N/A

**Project Justification:** Sidewalk flags were being replaced in the West Circle Drive region, near the MSU Museum and the Saints Rest site. As this is one of the most archaeologically sensitive areas of campus, which includes the remains of the first buildings constructed on campus, shovel testing was conducted while the flags were being removed.



**Figure 1: General area of survey**

**Location:** Sidewalks on the east side of the West Circle/Sacred Space area, near the MSU Museum. As such, these sidewalks were also near the Saints Rest site, one of the most important archaeological sites on campus.

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

**Survey Type:** Shovel Test Survey

**Methodology:** Shovel tests were placed opportunistically as sidewalk flags were removed.

**Summary/Conclusions:** Two transects of STP's were excavated and a total of nine STP's were dug, six were positive (contained historic period material culture). In Transect 1-1, eight STP's were dug, and five were positive. STP depths ranged from 50cm to 106cm, with an average of around 75cm. Soil was generally sandy, but two of the last STP's (1-1-7, 1-1-8) reached compact clay/silty clay soils that made digging difficult. In general, stratigraphy was inconsistent, but the topsoil tended to be darker in color and siltier, while subsoils tended to be tan sand.

In three STP's (1-1-3, 1-1-4, 1-1-5) evidence of burning (oxidized soil, ash, lenses of burned materials) was found, which may relate to the burning of Saints Rest in 1870. A number of artifacts were recovered from the positive STP's, including window glass fragments, whiteware sherds, a glass bottle finish, glass bottle shards, a doorknob/handle, animal bones, nails, and slate fragments. Transect 1-2, which was excavated at a small fork in the sidewalk, included only one STP (1-2-1), which was positive. This STP was dug to a depth

of 77cm and found a brown sandy topsoil followed by progressively lighter, light brown sand. A nail and glass shards were recovered.

**Recommendations and Priority:** High Priority. As this region is one of the most archaeologically sensitive areas of campus and contains archaeological deposits associated with the earliest buildings constructed on campus, it is critical that any future ground disturbance in this area (even tree plantings) be preceded by archaeological survey. Survey should then be followed by close monitoring of the work being conducted.

## **NO MAP AVAILABLE**

### **Field Notes:**

#### **Transect 1-1:**

- STP #1-1-1 (no initials)
  - -Depth: 85cm
    - -0-15cm: orange/tan silty sand
    - -15-85cm: light tan sand
  - -Artifacts: small piece of window glass
  
- STP #1-1-2 (no initials)
  - -Depth: 78cm
    - -0-22cm: light tan silty sand
    - -22-78cm: mottled sand
  - -Artifacts: whiteware sherd
  
- STP #1-1-3 (no initials)
  - -Depth: 74cm
    - -0-9cm: Light sand
    - -9-17cm: dark sandy loam
    - -17-23cm: ashy grey sand
    - -23-74cm: tan sand?
  - -Artifacts: none
  
- STP #1-1-4 (no initials)
  - -Depth: 106cm
    - -0-7cm: fill sand
    - -7-20cm: dark loamy sand
    - -20-25cm: orange silty sand
    - -25-106cm: grey silty sand
  - Notes: 55-57cm: small burned strata on west side of STP
  - -Artifacts: whiteware sherd, nail, glass bottle finish

- STP # 1-1-5 (no initials)
  - -Depth: 95cm
    - -0-51cm: orange burned layer
    - -51-80cm: dark mottled soil with burning
  - Notes: heavily burned profile, expanded hole to north to get deeper
  - -Artifacts: doorknob/handle, glass shards, animal bone
  
- STP #1-1-6 (no initials)
  - -Depth: 71cm
    - -0-9cm: fill sand
    - -9-31cm: mottled black and born silty sand
    - -31-36cm: brown silty sand
    - -36-40cm: black silty clay
    - -40-71cm: dark grey silty clay
  - -Artifacts: nails, glass shards, slate fragments
  
- STP #1-1-7 (no initials)
  - -Depth: 50cm
    - -0-11cm: fill sand
    - -11-50cm: mottled silty clay, got more compact as went deeper
  - -Artifacts: none?
  
- STP #1-1-8 (no initials)
  - -Depth: 51cm
  - -0-35cm: brown clay
  - -35-51cm: dark brown clay
  - -Artifacts: none?

**Transect 1-2: placed near small fork in the sidewalk**

- STP #1-2-1 (no initials)
  - -Depth: 77cm
    - -0-8cm: dark sandy loam
    - -8-28cm: orange sand
    - -28-38cm: grey mottled sand
    - -38-77cm: light tan sand
  - -Artifacts: nail, glass shards