

MSU Campus Archaeology Program Project Summary Sheet

Report No. 52

Date of Survey: 7/24/2014

Site Name: Cowles House Sidewalks, Summer 2014

Principal Investigator: Kate Frederick

Physical Plant Project Name: N/A

Project Justification: Sidewalk flags on the east side of the building were being replaced and some shrubs on the west side had been removed recently, making a quick shovel test survey convenient. As Cowles House is one of the oldest buildings on campus and is associated with many important individuals in campus history, this area also has a high potential of important archaeological deposits.

Location: Testing was done first underneath sidewalk flags located directly to the east of the house. A secondary section of testing was conducted to the west of the house.





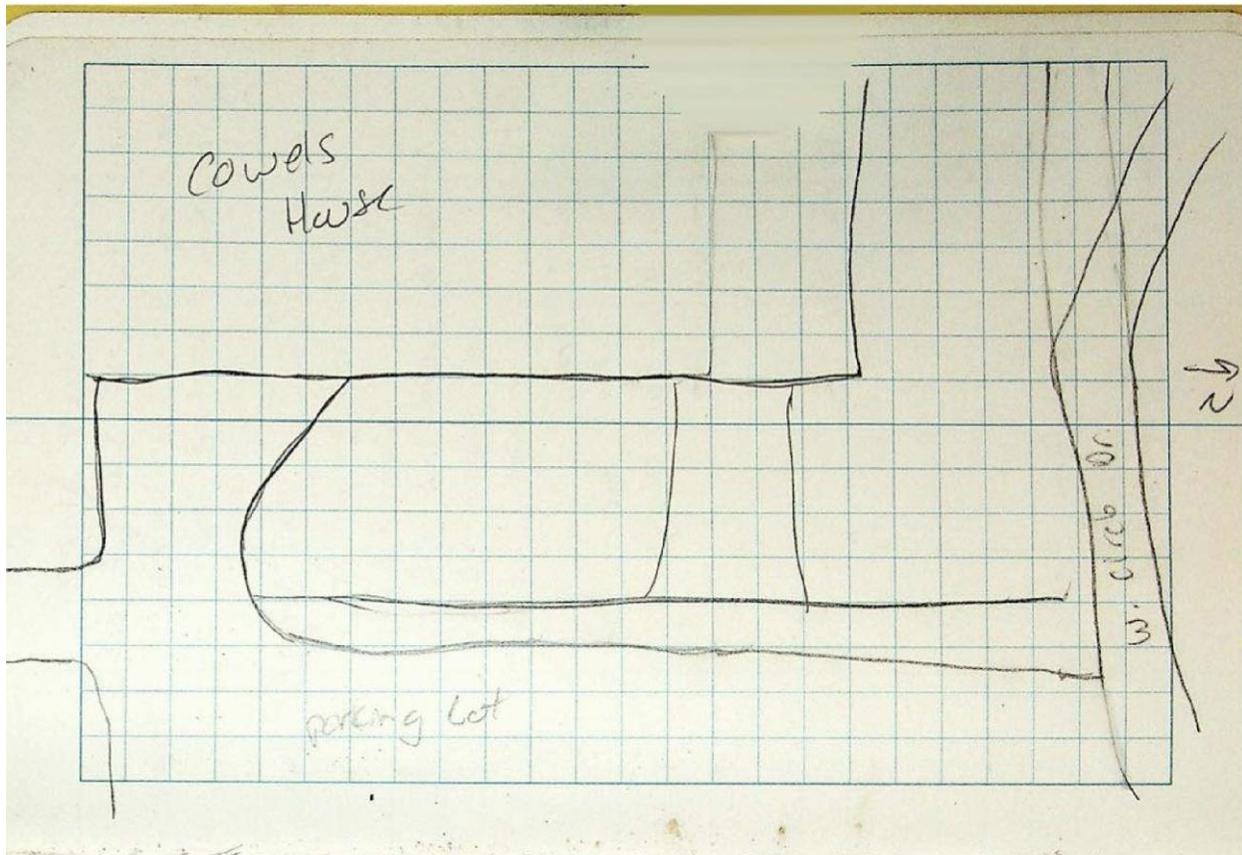
Campus Zone: West Circle/Sacred Space

Survey Type: Shovel Test Survey

Methodology: Shovel test pits were dug opportunistically

Summary/Conclusions: In total, 10 shovel tests (four positive) were excavated within three transects. Transect 1-1 was composed of four STP's on the east side of Cowles House, excavated where sidewalk flags were being replaced. All four STP's were dug to depths of 73 cm or deeper, and possessed stratigraphy composed of light brown to brown sand throughout. One out of the four STP's were positive, but only nails were recovered. Transect 2-1 was composed of three STP's dug on the west side of Cowles House. All three STP's were dug to depths of between 43 to 79 cm, with stratigraphy made up of about 20 cm of dark brown top soil followed by orange to tan sand. One out of three STP's were positive, but only nails were recovered. Transect 2-2 was composed of three STP's dug on the west side of Cowles House. Two of the STP's were dug to at least 50 cm, while one STP only reached 36 cm in depth. Stratigraphy in these STP's was similar to those in transect 2-1, with dark brown top soil making up around the first 20 cm followed by tan to orange sand. Two out of three STP's were positive, and involved the recovery of nails and two golf balls.

Recommendations and Priority: High priority. While little was found during this small survey, Cowles House is one of the oldest buildings on campus, is associated with a number of high-profile individuals in MSU history, and is in a part of campus that has not been greatly impacted by construction. As such, potential archaeological deposits in this area should be relatively intact and will be significant for understanding campus history and the experiences of early faculty, staff, and students. Future construction should be closely monitored, and surveys should be conducted ahead of construction projects in areas that have not been tested previously.



Field Notes:

Crew: Kate Frederick (Campus Archaeologist), Josh Schnell, Ian Harrison, Caroline Dunham, Josh Burbank

Weather: Unknown

7/24/2014

Transect 1-1 – East Side of Cowles House

STP #1-1-1 (JS, JB)

-Depth: 85cm

-0-85cm: light brown coarse sand

-Artifacts: none

STP #1-1-2 (CD, IH)

-Depth: 73cm

-0-23cm: light brown silty sand

-23-73cm: light tan sandy silt

-Artifacts: none

STP #1-1-3 (JS, JB)

-Depth: 98cm

- 0-98cm: light brown coarse sand
- Artifacts: nails
- STP #1-1-4(CD, IH)
- Depth: 102cm
- 0-9cm: sand, top soil
- 9-102cm: brown loamy sand
- Artifacts: none

Transect 2-1 – West Side of Cowles House

- STP #2-1-1 (no initials)
- Depth: 43cm
- 0-22cm: dark brown top soil
- 22-43cm: tan sandy silt
- Artifacts: nails
- STP #2-1-2 (no initials)
- Depth: 79cm
- 0-12cm: dark brown top soil
- 12-79cm: tan sand
- Artifacts: none
- STP #2-1-3 (no initials)
- Depth: 64cm
- 0-37cm: dark brown top soil
- 37-64cm: orange sand
- Artifacts: none

Transect 2-2 – West Side of Cowles House

- STP #2-2-1 (no initials)
- Depth: 36cm
- 0-20cm: dark brown top soil
- 20-36cm: tan sandy silt
- Artifacts: nail
- STP #2-2-2 (no initials)
- Depth: 67cm
- 0-27cm: dark brown top soil
- 27-67cm: orange sand
- Artifacts: 2 gold balls
- STP 2-2-3 (no initials)
- Depth: 52cm
- 0-20cm: dark brown top soil
- 20-52: orange sand
- Artifacts: none