

MSU Campus Archaeology Program Project Summary Sheet



Report No. 48

Date of Survey: 6/17/2014

Site Name: Cook Hall Cistern (Summer 2014)

Principal Investigator: Kate Frederick

Physical Plant Project Name: N/A

Project Justification: Campus Archaeology was called by Granger construction crews to come investigate a short length of brick wall and metal sheeting near the foundation of Cook Hall that was uncovered during construction work. As this is a part of campus with a long history of use, the find prompted a very short exploratory dig to ascertain what had been found, document it, and recover any loose artifacts that were present.

Location: Less than a meter away from southwest side of Cook Hall foundations (close to southwest corner of building)

Campus Zone: East of West Circle Drive Region

Survey Type: Monitoring, Salvage Excavation

Methodology: Opportunistic excavation after exposure of in-ground feature

Summary/Conclusions: Construction exposed a section of a metal drum that was buttressed on the outside by a curved brick wall, what is thought to be an old cistern. The cistern was found approximately 116 cm below the ground surface, only 73 cm to the south of the foundation of Cook Hall. About 68 cm in length of the metal drum and 102 cm of the brick wall were exposed. The brick wall itself was approximately 11 cm wide. Ceramic sherds, industrial pipe fragments, a colorless glass handle or stopper fragment, and metal scraps were found in association with the cistern.

Recommendations and Priority: High Priority. The discovery of in-ground architectural features from original construction in this part of campus, plus the finding of associated artifacts, necessitates continued survey and monitoring of projects in this area. As this part of campus was developed relatively early in the history of MSU, it contains archaeological deposits important for understanding campus history and the experiences of early faculty, staff, and students, which should be excavated when possible.



Figure 1: Map of Cook Hall, red box indicates area of impact and the general location of the cistern.

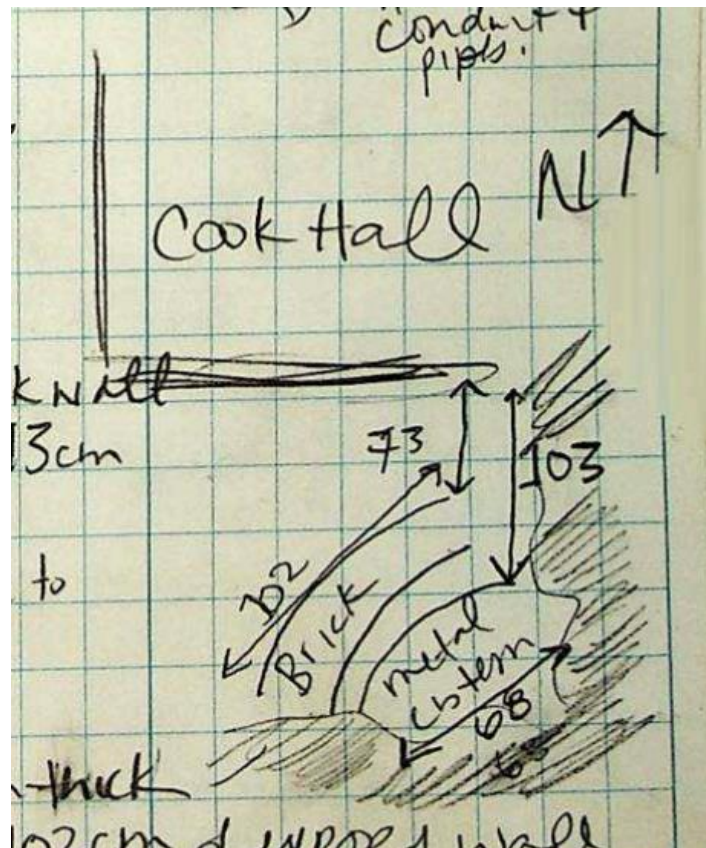


Figure 2: Sketch map by Kate Frederick depicting cistern location and details.

Field Notes:

Crew: Kate Frederick

6/17/2014

Weather: Unknown

Excavation Notes: "Called in by Granger to check out brick and metal exposed on north side of Cook Hall Foundations excavation. Exposed: water cistern (metal drum) surrounded by curved brick wall near SW corner of building. Associated: Ceramic, industrial pipe fragments, clear glass handle or stopper fragment, (pipe frags not recovered), also metal conduit and pipes."

"Depth (cmbs): 116 top of cistern"

"Distance of closest point of brick wall to foundation: 73 cm"

"Closest point of cistern to foundation: 103 cm"

"Brick wall: 11 cm thick; max length of exposed wall is 102 cm. Cistern max length exposed: 68 cm."