

Preliminary Report on the 2022 Michilimackinac Archaeology Field Season

The 2022 field season was a continuation of the excavations carried out in 2007-2021 on House E of the Southeast Rowhouse. The main 2022 field season ran from May 31 to August 20, with preliminary work commencing May 23 and wrap-up continuing through August 24. Dr. Lynn Evans, MSHP Curator of Archaeology, directed the excavation, with the assistance of field supervisor John Cardinal. The crew consisted of Elizabeth Kerton-Schmit, Evan Harris, Alexander Michnick, and Madelyn Vasbinder. Three volunteers contributed a total of 250.5 hours of interpretation and excavation.

House E is labeled Gonneville on the 1749 Lotbinière map. Research by John Gram indicates this is Charles Henri Desjardins de Rupallay de Gonneville. Born in Canada in 1698, he began trading at Michilimackinac in 1727 and continued to trade there and at other western posts through the 1754 season. In 1731 he married Marie Charlotte Laplante, making him brother-in-law to René Bourassa, his neighbor in House F to the west. Gonneville still owned House E as late as 1758 when his name is mentioned on the transfer of an adjacent property. House E is listed as an English trader's house on a map drawn by Lieutenant Perkins Magra in 1765.



The archaeological goals for the season were to complete the southeast cellar, to further define the central cellar, and to open the remainder of the north tier of quads in search of the north wall trenches. As with every season, these were partially accomplished.

While the excavation of the main portion of the southeast cellar was completed in 2021, a narrow strip of cellar deposit remained to the east under the backfill from the House D project. At the beginning of this season that backfill was removed. Based on what was learned from the excavation of the rest of the cellar, thicker levels and some soil-type lumping were used. As in earlier years, this cellar yielded many interesting artifacts.

The most intact vessel was a large section of a green-glazed redware bowl. A piece of its rim had been found in 2018. When several more rim sherds were found late in the season, it became apparent that the bowl had a spout and was probably a milk pan or French Canadian *terrine*. Another hollow redware vessel, clear-glazed with a handle, was also recovered. Several white tin-glazed earthenware sherds can be mended to form what appears to be a sugar bowl. Several sherds from a similar vessel, possibly a creamer, were found in 2018.

Other notable finds from the southeast cellar included a modified barrel band, the buttplate from a trade gun, a small padlock (1.75" tall), and a brass scale weight. The padlock fits in well with the image we have constructed of a wealthy household, as you do not need a lock unless you have something worth protecting.

The scale weight was a brass disc weighing one ounce. It was stamped with "GR" under a crown, most likely for King George. A second scale weight was found in the central cellar. It was in the

form of a cup from a set of nesting weights. It weighed half of an apothecary dram. It is stamped with what appears to be a fleur-de-lis but could also be the crossed arrow and key of Nuremberg.

The central cellar also yielded part of a porcelain teacup, a lead seal, a plain brass button, and a brass band with iron rivets, possibly from a storage container.

The final three quads in the northern tier were opened this summer. The entire tier is now in the rubble layer created by the 1781 demolition of the fort. The demolition layer always contains a variety of interesting artifacts. This season it was particularly rich in artifacts of personal adornment, including a single sleeve button, a linked pair of sleeve buttons and an earring fragment, all with green paste "stones." The single sleeve button and linked sleeve buttons were different shapes, not part of a matched set. Another unusual find was a buttplate fragment. It was from a trade gun, but with a different motif and thickness than the one found in the cellar.

A few artifacts possibly related to Anishnaabek presence were found in the rubble. These included several pieces of a stone smoking pipe bowl and a fragment of carved antler.

The final area to be excavated this season was two quads (210R50 q1&2) on the south side of the large stump. The stump is from a large elm tree planted around 1910, shortly after Michilimackinac became a state park. These quads are now below the demolition and floor level of the house. The main artifact recovered in this area is chinking, probably from the north wall trenches which seem to have been disturbed by the tree. North-south running trenches, possibly joists or hearth supports, previously observed in the quads immediately to the south are present.

Excavation will continue on this house next summer. All interpretations offered here are preliminary, subject to further excavation and analysis.

Lynn L.M. Evans
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Current Status of Excavation

210R30 q4 Level 10- 1781 demolition	210R40 q3 Level 12- 1781 demolition	210R40 q4 Level 12- 1781 demolition	210R50 q3 Level 5- 1781 demolition	210R50 q4 Level 7- 1781 demolition	Excavated with House D
210R30 q2 Level 17 – British house interior	210R40 q1 Level 19 - French interior house deposit	210R40 q2 Level 19 – French wall and interior house deposit	210R50 q1 Level 11– Interior house deposit	210R50 q2 Level 12– Interior house deposit	Excavated with House D
220R30 q4 Level 36- Sand on west, plank walls to east	220R40 q3 Level 36– Chinking feature, French root cellar	220R40 q4 Level 37 – French root cellar & sand	220R50 q3 Complete	220R50 q4 Complete	Excavated with House D
220R30 q2 Level 36 – edge of plank wall (NE) & sand	220R40 q1 Level 40- French root cellar	220R40 q2 Level 39-French root cellar	220R50 q1 Complete	220R50 q2 Complete	220R60 q1 Level 36/37- Cellar
230R30 q4 Complete	230R40 q3 Level 40 – French root cellar	230R40 q4 NW half Level 39- French root cellar SE half - complete	230R50 q3 Complete	230R50 q4 Complete	230R60 q3 Level 38/39- Cellar
230R30 q2 Complete	230R40 q1 Complete	230R40 q2 Complete	230R50 q1 Complete	230R50 q2 Complete	Excavated with House D