

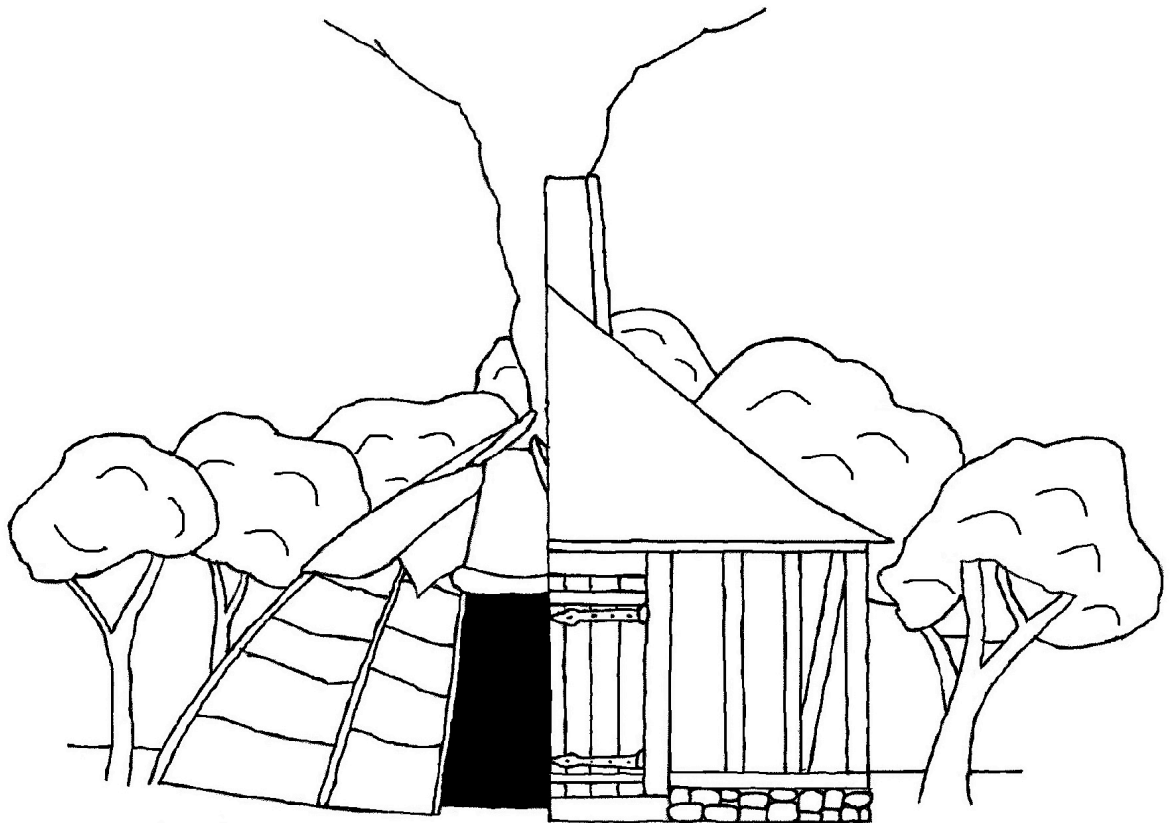
# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

## Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project

Edited by Michael S. Nassaney, Principal Investigator  
With contributions by John Cardinal, Aaron Howard,  
Erika Loveland, James Schwaderer, and Rebecca Stoddard

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The logo for the 2015 field season conjoins Native and French architectural forms, suggesting the intercultural activities that characterize Fort St. Joseph. Drawing by John Cardinal.

## Introduction

This year the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project (hereafter the “Project”) established new standards in research, teaching, and public outreach in the study of the fur trade and colonialism in southwest Michigan. The Project continues to collaborate in the generation and dissemination of knowledge under the auspices of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee (FSJAAC), Western Michigan University (WMU) faculty and students, interested stakeholders, supporters, members, and community volunteers. Highlights of 2015 include:

- Fort St. Joseph was featured in the exhibit “Evidence Found” at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum in 2015, enjoyed by some 60,000 visitors.
- The Register of Professional Archaeologists certified the 40<sup>th</sup> annual WMU archaeological field school and the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project. Moreover, the program was selected as the best among registered field schools. In recognition of this honor, two students (Amelia Harp and Erika Loveland) were awarded \$500 scholarships by the Society for American Archaeology.
- The sixth annual summer archaeology lecture series was held in cooperation with the Niles District Library and featured prominent speakers who discussed architecture in historical and archaeological perspective.
- In an effort to increase the digital presence of the Project, new social media accounts have been created including Twitter and Instagram, along with a renewed commitment to the blog and Facebook page.
- The FSJ blog surpassed 47,500 views.
- The 2015 summer camp program provided hands-on archaeological experience for 25 participants of different ages and backgrounds.
- Over 800 grade school and college students viewed the 2015 excavations.
- During the 2015 Open House, re-enactors, community representatives, and craftsmen shared their knowledge with over 700 visitors who experienced and learned about daily life, archaeology, and architecture at the Fort.
- The 2015 WMU Archaeological Field School discovered a new feature that provides additional information on the construction techniques at the fort.
- Project participants represented Fort St. Joseph at Michigan Archaeology Day in Lansing.
- Sue Reichert won two awards in the photo contest sponsored by the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology held at the Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology in Seattle, WA.
- A Strategic Plan based on the feedback received during the Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference hosted in Niles, MI (September 2014) was presented to the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Advisory Committee.

The Project benefits from the generous support of numerous and varied partners and volunteers (Appendix A is a list of supporters and sponsors; Appendix B lists donors and volunteers). Without this level of community involvement, the Project could not continue its work to reconstruct the evolving history of Niles’ colonial past and make the information widely available.

This report summarizes the recent activities of Project participants including the 2015 excavations, site documentation, laboratory work, public education and outreach initiatives, committee accomplishments, and dissemination of results to professional and general audiences. A complete list of Project Outcomes can be found in Appendix C.

## **2015 Field Season**

The 2015 field season was conducted under the auspices of Western Michigan University's (WMU) 40<sup>th</sup> annual archaeological field school, one of the longest running archaeology training programs in the country. As in previous years, the focus of the field school was the site of Fort St. Joseph, an important eighteenth-century French mission, garrison, and trading post complex located in present day Niles, Michigan. Under the direction of Dr. Michael S. Nassaney, Principal Investigator, the 2015 field school continued its investigation of the material remains of the fur trade and colonialism in the western Great Lakes region. Prior to the field season, Nassaney nominated the field school for certification by the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA). After obtaining certification, the RPA announced at the annual conference of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) in San Francisco that the field school was selected as the best among registered field schools. In recognition of this honor, two participating students, Amelia Harp and Erika Loveland, were awarded \$500 scholarships by the SAA.

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, established in 1998, is a partnership between WMU's Department of Anthropology, Support the Fort, Inc., the City of Niles, the Fort St. Joseph Museum, and other community groups. The Project has a longstanding commitment to engage the community and educate the public about the archaeology and history of New France in Niles. A total of 16 undergraduate and graduate students and staff joined Nassaney in this year's field school. Members of the 2015 Project staff included Erika Loveland (Graduate Teaching Assistant), Tim Bober (Public Education Instructor), James Schwaderer (Public Outreach Coordinator), Aaron Howard (Laboratory Supervisor), and John Cardinal (Site Photographer). Students not only learned excavation techniques and artifact processing skills, but they participated in community service learning and public outreach by assisting and attending the Project's public lecture series, the local French Market, and the Open House weekend. French colonial architecture was chosen for the theme of this year's field season and informed all of our programming.

Due to an extremely wet spring, our excavations began and ended at the Lyne site (20BE10), which is located on the terrace overlooking the floodplain area designated as Fort St. Joseph (20BE23). A total of eleven 1 x 1 m units were excavated at the Lyne site to continue the recovery of eighteenth-century objects to determine the types of activities that took place there, particularly when the fort was occupied. Lead shot was recovered in five of the eleven units excavated this season indicating an eighteenth-century presence. Projectile points, dating as old as the Late Archaic period (ca. 4000-3000 years ago), and other pre-contact cultural materials related to lithic tool production were recovered as well, including a low density of chert flakes in most of the units excavated. The eastern

edge of a charcoal concentration, Feature 24, was discovered in a unit located along the river and will be considered for future investigation.

The focus of this year's excavation in the floodplain was to continue efforts to identify, investigate, and interpret the architectural remains of Fort St. Joseph (20BE23). Preliminary archaeological and documentary research provides some information on its social composition and appearance, however little is known about the built environment. Therefore, excavations on the floodplain focused on exposing architectural evidence. Six 1 x 2 meter units were opened this field season in locations where we expected to intercept walls in order to ascertain the size, orientation, construction methods, and contents of the buildings associated with a series of fireplaces oriented to the river. In one of these units, four structural stones (10-15 cm long) were uncovered in a linear configuration running north to south, which we designated as Feature 26. These structural stones appear similar to two other partial foundation walls (Features 17 and 24) associated with other buildings on the site. More excavation is needed to determine their function and relationship to other architectural features.

Many of the students were just encountering the undisturbed occupational soil zone when excavations were halted due to extensive flooding. Each unit is very promising and will be reopened in the future. Notable artifacts found in 2015 include: a French marine military button, a Type D flintlock side plate, a copper alloy bell, a finger ring with blue glass insets, and two lead seals.

### **Public Education and Outreach**

Each year the Project invites the public to rediscover history and learn more about the work being done by archaeologists through educational field trips, summer camp programs, an archaeology lecture series, the Open House, and other events. One benefit of a spring field school (May-June) was that we were able to host more than 800 grade-school students at the site, along with visitors from Alma College (Appendix D). The history curriculum for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade focuses on Michigan and is directly connected to material recovered from Fort St. Joseph. Teachers, parents, a representative from the Fort St. Joseph Museum (Cindy Benson), and James Schwaderer accompanied students to visit several places of historical significance in Niles, including our excavations. To provide contextual information, students began at the Fort St. Joseph Museum to gain information about the fur trade. From the museum, they visited the Father Allouez Cross to learn about the Jesuit presence in Niles and the founding of the St. Joseph mission. At the Fort St. Joseph Commemorative Boulder, information was presented regarding the history of the fort and the process involved in its archaeological discovery. The site tour concluded with an opportunity to witness ongoing excavations and interact with University archaeologists. Nassaney and students described the process of excavating an archaeological site along with the challenges and rewards of working in and near a floodplain.

The 2015 archaeology summer camp program provided a hands-on archaeological experience for 25 participants of different ages and backgrounds making this a unique

aspect of the program. As in previous seasons, three summer camps were offered this year—one for lifelong learners, one for educators, and one for middle school students. Participants of the camps learned about the history of Fort St. Joseph in the context of New France, spent time excavating with field school students, and practiced basic laboratory procedures including cleaning and sorting of artifacts. The Project also assisted Boy Scout Troop 579 to earn their Archaeology Merit Badge. The troop participated in excavation and learned the importance of archaeological remains to fulfill the requirements for the badge. Four scouts were able to spend a day on the terrace and toured the floodplain, the Father Allouez Cross, and the Fort St. Joseph boulder.

The public was also invited to attend the sixth annual Summer Archaeology Lecture Series, entitled “Seeking Shelter from the Storm: Architecture in Archaeological Perspective,” presented in cooperation with the Niles District Library during the field season. The speakers and their topics were:

- Dr. Ian Kuijt (Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame): Hearing Voices, Finding Houses: The Archaeology of 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century Irish Architecture
- Dr. Jan Brashler (Department of Anthropology, Grand Valley State University): Structures for the Living and the Dead: The Archaeology of Pre-Columbian Architecture in Michigan
- Kevin Finney (Executive Director of the Jijak Foundation, Gun Lake Band of Potawatomi): Neshnabe Architecture
- Dr. Michael S. Nassaney (Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University): French Colonial Architecture

Over 200 people from the community and surrounding area attended the series. The speakers provided complementary information and the venue allowed the public to interact with WMU archaeologists in an informal setting.

The 2015 Archaeology Open House was the culminating event of months of planning by Project staff, students, volunteers, and members of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee. This two-day event (June 27-28) drew over 700 visitors despite the challenges of river floods and rain on the Saturday of the event. Open House activities included children’s programming, unit tours hosted by field school students and staff, informational panels, artifact displays, food provided by the local Boy Scout Troop 579, a wigwam reconstruction by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, living history demonstrations, eighteenth-century music and dance, and rides in a voyageur canoe. All of the programs were focused on the annual theme, Seeking Shelter from the Storm: Architecture in Eighteenth-Century New France, and focused on the varied dwellings and shelters that existed at Fort St. Joseph during the eighteenth century. The children’s programs consisted of an informational pamphlet, activities, and games designed to teach about the history and archaeology of architecture in New France with a focus on Fort St. Joseph. For the first time, field school staff and students led guided tours to Father Allouez’s Cross, the Commemorative Boulder, and the Lyne site, allowing the public to view an actual archaeological excavation in progress. Informational panels showcased historical and archaeological findings related to domestic structures, military building, fortifications, and special purpose buildings in

eighteenth-century New France. Artifact displays also allowed visitors a close look at some of the more intriguing artifacts recovered this year, including architectural-related artifacts. Marcus Winchester arranged for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi to construct an authentic wigwam using traditional techniques. Amelia Hart discussed its design and engineering principles with visitors throughout the weekend.

In keeping with the theme, the living history coordinators, Candace and Robert Myers, worked with the Advisory Committee to identify structures that would represent the varied ethnic groups that lived at the fort. The Committee agreed on the desirability of highlighting Native and European structures as well as permanent and temporary dwellings. The Committee showcased dwellings surrounding the post as well as houses within the palisade itself and emphasized that Fort St. Joseph included Native, European and *métis* peoples. Structures either known to have stood at Fort St. Joseph or deemed likely to have existed there included French *poteaux en terre* (posts in the earth) and/or *poteaux sur sole* (posts on sill) houses; Native American wigwams; military tents; and voyageur canoes with a canvas sail shelter.

To create these structures and explain them to the public, the coordinators sought out living history interpreters that had both knowledge of the subject and experience at working with the public. They included:

- Larry Horrigan, a long-time living history interpreter who used his experience with timber-framing to build a section of a *poteaux sur sol* wall;
- Re-enactors of the 84<sup>th</sup> Royal Highland Regiment, who put up canvas officers' and privates' tents;
- Janine Frizzo-Horrigan, a re-enactor with extensive experience with eighteenth-century foodways who created a voyageur's camp with a birch bark canoe and sail cover;
- Jim McConnell, a re-enactor with the recreated Campeau's Company of the Detroit Militia, portrayed an eighteenth-century blacksmith and operated a forge to demonstrate how nails, hinges, and other iron building materials were made;
- Amelia Hart and other members of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi erected and interpreted a wigwam.

In addition to these interpreters who focused strictly on the Open House theme, other individuals brought to life other aspects of eighteenth-century life, including:

- Luann McConnell, an authority on eighteenth-century textiles, who demonstrated wool carding, dyeing and spinning;
- Staff members of Sarett Nature Center in Benton Harbor, who brought in a replica 35-foot birch bark canoe and gave rides to the public on the St. Joseph River;
- Noel Bash, former dance instructor at Colonial Williamsburg, and her group of dance students who both demonstrated and taught eighteenth-century dance to the public;
- Robert and Candace Myers, who used reproduction eighteenth-century writing implements to teach quill pen writing.

The event activities were well received. All interpreters arrived on Friday and prepared their stations for opening the site to the public at 10:00 a.m. Saturday. Rain kept attendance lower than normal at the event on Saturday morning and early afternoon, but did not dampen the enthusiasm of the participants. Attendance picked up as the weather improved and the afternoon wore on, bringing sunny skies on Sunday. A steady stream of visitors kept the interpreters busy even during the light rain of Saturday and much more so on Sunday. The Sarett Nature Center canoe was filled with riders during much of Saturday and all day Sunday. This attraction provided guests with a window into the lives of fur traders when they were paddling along the many rivers of New France. The interpreters had sufficient space for their activities and seemed pleased with the number of visitors who approached them. Moreover, they repeatedly commented on the public's interest and enthusiasm. Although the rains during the previous week had flooded the Fort St. Joseph dig site, the interpreters enjoyed seeing the archaeological specimens that the students had recovered earlier in the season. These discoveries provide living history re-enactors with an opportunity to teach Open House attendees how some of the recovered artifacts were actually made and used in the past.

The interpreters hosted a "Fur Trade Frolic" on Saturday evening for the archaeology staff and students. The activities included a sumptuous meal provided by Janine Frizzo-Horrigan that offered the types of foods consumed in the eighteenth century and an opportunity to hone eighteenth-century skills required to throw a tomahawk and fire a flintlock musket (with blank charges only!). Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the "Frolic" and the opportunity to interact with others who share an interest in the history and archaeology of the fort.

Another public outreach opportunity that created community connections were the lunches and dinners enjoyed by students and staff hosted by individuals and community groups. These events brought field school students and staff into close interaction with community members in an intimate setting to ask questions and learn about recent finds and the history of Fort St. Joseph. Students and staff, in turn, learned more about the community of Niles and its residents. A learning outcome of the field school is for students to learn how to be active in public archaeology; these events were perfect teaching tools. The French Market, a weekly downtown venue for sales and information exchange, was also an important forum for students to interact with community members. Patrons of the market were able to converse with staff and students to learn about the history and archaeology of Fort St. Joseph and upcoming events and purchase promotional merchandise.

Since not all interested parties can visit the site or host dinners, the Project expanded its social media presence by opening new accounts including Twitter and Instagram. These applications provide ways to connect to a broader audience in new and exciting ways. Twitter allows the user to share photos and text up to 140 characters long. The limited text space confined the use of the Twitter account to short updates and event announcements. Instagram allows instant sharing of photos online and offers a visual outlet for the Project's community outreach initiative. This was used frequently this summer as one field school student per day was assigned to provide a photo to upload to

Instagram. Students were encouraged to submit as many photos as they wished, which led to the development of a friendly competition as to who could submit the most photos in a week. Our Twitter call name is @fsjarchaeology and the Instagram page can be found by searching “fsjarchaeology” or “Fort St. Joseph Archaeology.” Students also posted regularly to our blog and Facebook page, particularly during the field season as exciting new finds were made on a daily basis. Recently, the Fort St. Joseph blog surpassed 47,500 views. To read some of our past posts and keep updated with the project, visit [fortstjoseph.blogspot.com](http://fortstjoseph.blogspot.com). Finally, actual video footage from our excavations can be viewed on line in a brief promotional video called: “Get Ready to Get Dirty.” Three students worked in conjunction with Stephen Kettner, a videographer from Western Michigan University, to create a script, shoot HD video, and provide narration. This video is posted on our YouTube page and will be circulated as part of a program to be presented to teachers and students in the grade school system to promote our camper programs.

The exhibit “Evidence Found,” opened in February 2015 to an enthusiastic audience of over 100 attendees at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. Dr. Nassaney gave a presentation in which he discussed the process of preparing the exhibit and the major messages it aims to communicate, namely that archaeological resources are fragile and nonrenewable, the past is immediately beneath our feet, and archaeologists should be thought of as time detectives rather than treasure hunters. Several sites in southwest Michigan were highlighted, including Fort St. Joseph, which was the major focus. Artifacts from the Fort St. Joseph Museum were featured, along with excerpts from the video “In Search of Fort St. Joseph,” produced by Project archaeologists with the help of WMU’s Office of Information Technology in 2003. The Society for Colonial Wars of Michigan sponsored a wonderful reception to kick off the evening. The exhibit closed in August 2015, after some 60,000 visitors viewed it.

The Project’s visibility is dependent on promotional materials to communicate current and upcoming activities. Toward this end, the FSJ Museum interns, Aaron Howard and John Cardinal, with assistance from past field school students, designed a new brochure and created new flyers to advertise our archaeology summer camps and field school. They have also begun developing an educational program on the archaeology and history of Fort St. Joseph that can be used in local schools. Stay tuned to learn more about this initiative!

### **In the Lab and on the Road**

Although the Project is most visible in Niles during the summer months, in reality staff and students conduct activities year round including ongoing research, collections management, and disseminating results through conferences, public lectures, and publication. During the field season, Project staff and students washed and sorted artifacts collected from excavations. The artifacts recovered from the 2015 field season will be inventoried, digitally catalogued using a museum curation software program (Past Perfect), and integrated into the permanent collections during the 2015-16 academic year. In October 2015, the FSJ Museum interns moved the Fort St. Joseph collection from the



Museum to the basement of the Chapin House, which is more spacious. This facility will allow students and interested scholars access to the materials for research until a more permanent curation facility is identified.

At long last, Nassaney's book *The Archaeology of the North American Fur Trade*, was published this fall by the University Press of Florida (2015). The book demonstrates how the North American fur trade left an enduring material legacy of the complex interactions between natives and Europeans. From the sixteenth through nineteenth centuries, the demand for pelts and skins transformed America, helping to fuel the Age of Discovery and, later, manifest destiny. By synthesizing its social, economic, and ideological effects, Nassaney reveals how this extractive economy impacted the settlement and exploitation of North America. Examinations of the objects made, used, and discarded in the course of the fur trade provide insight into the relationships between participants and their lifeways. Furthermore, Nassaney shows how the ways in which exchange was conducted, resisted, and transformed to suit various needs left an indelible imprint upon the American psyche, particularly in the way the fur trade has been remembered and commemorated. Perhaps most importantly, the book includes research from historical archaeologists and a case study of the Fort St. Joseph trading post in Niles (chapter 6), to highlight the fur trade's role in the settlement of the continent, its impact on social relations, and how its study can lead to a better understanding of the American experience. More information can be found at: <http://upf.com/book.asp?id=NASSA003>

In October, members of the Project participated in the 2015 Michigan Archaeology Day in Lansing. The Project engaged the public, presented artifacts from the recent excavations, and provided information regarding upcoming events. A video created by Austin George during the 2015 field school was on display as well. The video gives a first person view of the activities performed by field school students and campers through the use of a GoPro camera. Austin will present this video in January at the 2016 conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology in Washington DC. It will also be posted on the Project's social media accounts. Our Project zooarchaeologist, Terrance Martin, also gave a presentation on animal remains from Fort St. Joseph.

Project participants Michael Nassaney and James Schwaderer were present at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference, which was held at the Mill City Museum in Minneapolis, MN, October 10-11, 2015. This conference was founded in 2005 by Michael Nassaney at Western Michigan University and hosted last year in Niles (2014). Among the themes covered this year was immigration in the Midwest. Hence, we displayed our exhibit "Seeking Shelter from the Storm: Architecture in Eighteenth-Century New France" that was originally prepared for the 2015 Open House. The exhibit documents the types of structures and shelters that were prevalent among French immigrants and their native hosts. Some 60 people viewed the posters and learned more about the Project. The exhibit was so well received that we decided to present it again at the annual conference of the Center for French Colonial Studies (October 24-25). Though it was not easy getting the panels across the Canadian border, an appreciative audience of over 100 attendees viewed the exhibit in Windsor, Ontario and purchased copies of our publications on the *Women of New France* and *The Fur Trade*.

## **Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Advisory Committee Reports**

### *Bylaws Committee*

Members: Carol Bainbridge (chair), Bob Ahrens, Mary Ellen Drolet, Kristie Erickson, Candace Skalla

The Bylaws Committee reviewed the Bylaws to determine if any updates or changes were needed, beginning with the mission and purpose of the FSJAAC. Any proposed changes in the mission or the purpose would affect a number of provisions in the Bylaws. The Committee brought this issue to the FSJAAC, which agreed that no changes are currently needed.

### *Building Committee*

Members: Carol Bainbridge (chair), Barbara Cook, Mary Ellen Drolet, Dorilee Schieble, Larry Sehy, Candace Skalla

The Building Committee was charged with exploring the feasibility of acquiring a facility for artifact storage, lab space, and public interpretation to enhance the work of the Project. In 2014 the Building Committee identified the Old Post Office as a building that could potentially serve as the Fort St. Joseph Interpretive Center. The Committee created a logo for the Interpretive Center, an exhibit design, and a business plan draft that was presented to the Advisory Committee and the Niles City Administrator. The proposed exhibit plan would span the area's pre-Contact history, through the fort period and into the early pioneer period. These efforts were conducted before fundraising was initiated.

The Leighton-Oare Foundation pledged \$100,000 over four years as a challenge grant for building renovations. The Foundation disbursed the first \$25,000 in November 2014 and other donors pledged and donated an additional \$35,000 over the next few months. In November 2014 the City of Niles stated it was requiring a fiduciary agreement with Support the Fort, Inc., the entity responsible for the funds raised for the Interpretive Center. The City attorney drafted a fiduciary agreement and forwarded it to Support the Fort, but Support the Fort could not accept the terms. Support the Fort then edited the agreement, which was refused by the City.

Lacking a fiduciary agreement, Support the Fort suspended fundraising efforts in the first quarter of 2015. In August 2015 the City of Niles decided to put the Old Post Office building up for sale, effectively ending the fundraising efforts for the Interpretive Center. Support the Fort contacted all donors explaining the situation and gave them the option of either having their donation returned or allowing the donation to stay in the nonprofit treasury for future Fort St. Joseph projects. Most chose to have their donation returned. The Committee continues to explore suitable venues to store and display artifacts and tell the story of the history and archaeology of Fort St. Joseph.

### *Education Committee*

Members: Ruth Writer (chair), Carol Bainbridge, Cindy Benson, Bob Myers, Sue

Reichert, James Schwaderer, Candace Skalla, and Marcus Winchester

The Education Committee is charged with providing site and museum tours for elementary school groups, supporting the lecture series, and contributing to the Media Day and Open House programs. Over 800 students were given the opportunity to learn more about Fort St. Joseph and visit the excavations this past summer (see Appendix D). Some 200 people attended the sixth annual summer archaeology lecture series in the Niles District Library. The Committee assisted with the Open House programming by developing children's activities including a bead barter, eighteenth-century games, and a mock excavation complete with shaker screens to recover replicated artifacts. In addition, the Committee prepared, printed, and distributed an informational pamphlet at the 5<sup>th</sup>-grade reading level about the history of architecture at Fort St. Joseph. Puzzles, a scavenger hunt, and a maze were some of the activities included in the pamphlet.

## APPENDIX A

### Project Sponsors and Supporters 2015

#### **LIFETIME: (\$10,000 OR MORE)**

Anonymous  
 City of Niles  
 Michigan Humanities Council  
 Leighton-Oare Foundation  
 Ms. Gale McCarty  
 Dr. Michael Nassaney and Mrs. Nadine Godin-Nassaney  
 Peyser Family  
 Western Michigan University

#### **COMMANDANT: (\$500 - \$9,999)**

Richard C. and Nona L. Barron  
 Cultural Events Committee, Western Michigan University  
 General Society of Colonial Wars in the U.S.  
 Joseph L. Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France  
 Society of Colonial Wars in Michigan

#### **EXPLORER: (\$250 - \$499)**

Dr. Sharon Lee Carlson and Thomas Dietz  
 Michael and Mary Eggleston  
 Herb and Donna Ochenryder  
 Marybeth Janei Smith

#### **VOYAGER: (\$100 - \$249)**

Christine C. Ballard  
 Dean O. Barnum  
 Douglas A Birk  
 Al Casperson Books

John H. Carter  
Barbara J. Cook  
John S. Geisler  
Russell A. Holm  
David A. Ikerd  
Nancy L. Johnson  
Dr. Terrance and Claire Martin  
Dennis Miczulski  
David C. Otto  
John A Pugh  
Susan K. Reichert  
Lawrence J. Sehy  
Douglas L. Vanderford  
Diane G. Williams

**FRIEND OF THE FORT: (UP TO \$100)**

Lesley Bookout  
Phillip P. and Virginia A. Caruso  
Mary Ann Chellman  
Barbara J. Cornette  
Neil C. Coulston  
Robert and Luanna W. Easlick  
Emily H. Egan  
Shari Ferguson  
Gina A. Frassonhudson  
Juan E. Ganum  
Patricia D. Gondeck  
Barbara J. Groner  
John Y. and Cora Lee Hagemann  
Don F. Hamilton  
Donald L. Hammond  
Bill and Lael Hoerger  
Charles L. Hurtubise  
Kenneth E. Kolk  
John Mittelbrun  
William T. Ploof  
Paulette F. Rayel  
Ted W. Ream  
Richard D. and Ilene G. Sheffer  
Barbara Sherbino  
Roni Sionakides  
Stan S. Smeed  
Gail S. Smith  
Douglas L. Stickney  
Thomas Worms  
Ruth A. Writer

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Donations and Volunteers**

#### **Donations by Organizations**

City of Niles (provided lawn care for the open house grounds through M.A.A.C Property Services)

Daughters of the American Revolution (provided lunch for field school students)

Four Flags Plaza (hosted field school students for dinner)

Kiwanis Club of Niles (provided two lunches for the field school students)

Lowes of Niles (provided a discount on lumber for the site)

Niles District Library (provided a venue for the annual summer lecture series)

Niles Police (provided security for the Open House)

Niles YMCA (provided free access to showers for field school students)

Shelton Farms (donated wooden pallets for the site)

Pizza Transit (provided discount for food)

#### **Donations by Individuals**

Joe Hearn (conducted faunal lab for field school students)

Stephanie Layman (provided housing and sponsored a dinner for the field crew)

Jeff Mantyck (provided dinner for field school students)

Steve Marshall (permitted parking during Lyne site excavations)

Neil Hassinger (installed dewatering equipment on the floodplain site)

Neil and Kathy Hassinger (provided lunch and dinner for field school students)

Gale Thompson (provided pizza for field school students)

#### **Open House Volunteers**

Elizabeth Clark, Barb Cook, Bob Durm, Emma Durm, Gail Durm, Kristine Erickson, Lisa Frucci, Ellie Hein, Leona Hein, Sam Hein, Elaine Lee, Betty Knoll, Kylie Morris, Sandy Paulson, Frances Pratl, Jon Pugh, Candace Skalla, Tim Skalla, Dale Wairs, Cindy West, Ruth Writer

## **Appendix C**

### **Project Outcomes: 2015**

#### **January**

- A promotional display highlighting the achievements of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project was installed in the Bernhard Center (WMU) by John Cardinal, Aaron Howard, Michael Nassaney, and Michael Worline
- Students in Michael Nassaney's Anthropology in the Community class (ANTH 5030) were invited by the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee to prepare seven informational panels on the 2015 theme, "Seeking Shelter from the Storm: Architecture in Eighteenth-Century New France."
- Sue Reichert (WMU Anthropology Graduate student) won two People's Choice Awards in the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology's annual photo

competition at the Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology in Seattle, WA: one for her photo “Mystery Hands Helping to Tell a Story, Fort St. Joseph, Niles, Michigan” (Color Fieldwork category) and one for “17<sup>th</sup> Century Fur Trade Re-enactors, Fort St. Joseph, Niles, Michigan” (Diversity category).

- John Cardinal and Aaron Howard presented the archaeology of Fort St. Joseph to about 50 middle and high school students at WMU’s STEMulating Careers and Beyond program designed to expose students to career options.

## February

- The exhibit, *Evidence Found*, opened at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and was viewed by over 60,000 visitors before it closed in August. Michael Nassaney was the Guest Curator. He presented the invited lecture, “Immediately Beneath Our Feet: Archaeological Evidence Found in Southwest Michigan,” to open the exhibit.
- Kelley Berliner and Michael S. Nassaney published “The Role of the Public in Public Archaeology: Ten Years of Outreach and Collaboration at Fort St. Joseph” in the *Journal of Community Archaeology & Heritage* 2(1): 3-21.
- Michael Nassaney and James Schwaderer published a summary of the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference that was hosted in Niles (September 2014) in the *Society for Historical Archaeology Newsletter* 47(4): 17-19.
- Michael Nassaney discussed recent archaeological investigations of Fort St. Joseph at the Bridgman Library, Bridgman, MI.

## March

- Project intern John Cardinal and Michael Worline created a poster to promote the 40<sup>th</sup> WMU archaeological field school that was displayed at the annual conference of the Society for Applied Anthropology, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Erika Loveland and James Schwaderer presented the Strategic Plan prepared by the students in Nassaney’s Fall 2014 Historical Archaeology class (ANTH 3030) to the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee
- Michael Nassaney presented the invited lecture, “Immediately Beneath Our Feet: Archaeological Evidence Found in Southwest Michigan,” at the Gordon Grosscup Museum of Anthropology, Wayne State University. He also presented the invited lecture, “The Role of Archaeology in Challenging Dominant Narratives,” in Dr. Karen Marrero’s class, Topics In American History: Native American History (HIS 3998) in the Department of History, Wayne State University.
- Students from El Sol in Kalamazoo visited WMU’s archaeological lab to learn about Fort St. Joseph.
- Our Instagram account was created.

## April

- Michael Nassaney presented the paper, “The Future of the Past at Fort St. Joseph, Niles, Michigan,” in the symposium “Managing Archaeological Heritage in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” that he organized at the 80<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA), San Francisco, CA.
- The archaeological field school proposed for 2015 was certified by the Register for

Professional Archaeologists and received a scholarship award at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology.

### **May**

- The 40<sup>th</sup> annual WMU archaeological field school began at Fort St. Joseph.
- Joseph Hearn completed his M.A. thesis entitled “Patterns in Faunal Remains at Fort St. Joseph, a Fur Trade Site in the Western Great Lakes,” in the Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

### **June**

- Graduate students Amelia Harp (Georgia State University) and Erika Loveland (WMU) were awarded \$500 scholarships by the Society for American Archaeology.
- Michael Nassaney organized the sixth annual WMU Summer Archaeology Lecture Series at the Niles District Library.
- The Open House drew over 700 visitors to learn about architecture in New France.

### **July**

- Students and staff completed washing and sorting the artifacts from the 2015 field season in preparation for inventory and analysis during the academic year.

### **August**

- The Project’s newsletter, *The Fort St. Joseph Post* (vol. 6), was completed and uploaded to our website.

### **September**

- John Cardinal and Aaron Howard were reappointed as Fort St. Joseph Museum interns.
- Four WMU independent study students began conducting lab work and developing promotional materials for the Project.

### **October**

- Students from the Project participated in Michigan Archaeology Day in Lansing, MI.
- Terrance Martin presented “Use of Animals at Two Early Historical Archaeological Sites in Michigan: Goose Lake Outlet #3 (Upper Peninsula) and Fort St. Joseph (Lower Peninsula)” at Michigan Archaeology Day in Lansing, MI.
- Michael Nassaney and James Schwaderer presented the exhibit “Seeking Shelter From the Storm: Architecture in Eighteenth-Century New France” at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference, Minneapolis, MN.
- Michael Nassaney presented the exhibit “Seeking Shelter From the Storm: Architecture in Eighteenth-Century New France” at the annual conference of the Center for French Colonial Studies, Windsor, Ontario.
- A book chapter written by Michael Nassaney, William Cremin, and LisaMarie Malischke (2012) entitled “Native American-French Interactions in 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Southwest Michigan: The View from Fort St. Joseph” was reprinted in *Le Journal* 31(4): 3-16.
- WMU students and staff, with the assistance of Stephen Kettner and WMU’s Office

of Informational Technology, completed the video, “Get Ready to Get Dirty.” The video—the Project’s fifth production—promotes our summer camps to teachers and middle school students. View it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFSPMLdgSPM>

- John Cardinal and Aaron Howard moved artifacts from the Fort St. Joseph Museum to the Chapin House basement.

### November

- Michael Nassaney published his book, *The Archaeology of the North American Fur Trade*, with the University Press of Florida. Chapter 6 is devoted to the archaeology of Fort St. Joseph.
- Erika Loveland prepared a summary of the 2015 field season for the Society for Historical Archaeology’s *Newsletter*.
- The Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee approved the theme of the 2016 Open House: “Flowing Through Time: Rivers in Historical and Archaeological Perspectives.”

### December

- Michael Nassaney and Terrance Martin submitted a final draft of the paper “Food and Furs at French Fort St. Joseph” for publication in the book *The Archaeology of Francophone Communities in the Americas*, edited by Elizabeth M. Scott, University Press of Florida.
- A brochure and letter of solicitation was mailed to 2,700 WMU alumni, fort followers, and friends.
- Katelyn Hillmeyer presented her M.A. thesis proposal, “An Intra-Site Spatial Analysis of Fort St. Joseph (20BE23) in Niles, Michigan” in the Department of Geography, Western Michigan University.
- Michael Nassaney prepared a proposal for a book entitled *Fort St. Joseph Revealed* to serve as a compendium of information pertaining to the history and archaeology of the fort.

## Appendix D

### School Groups that Visited the 2015 Excavations

Date	School/class	Number of Students
Monday, May 18	Berrien Springs 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	120
Tuesday, May 19	Alma College Students	20
Wednesday, May 20	River Valley 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	60
Thursday, May 21	Niles Howard-Ellis 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	65
Friday, May 22	Niles Howard-Ellis 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	65
Thursday, May 28	Berrien Springs SDA 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	24
Friday, May 29	Brandywine 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	120
Tuesday, June 2	Niles Eastside 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	65
Wednesday, June 3	Climax-Scotts 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	65



Thursday, June 4	Climax-Scotts 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	65
Friday, June 5	El Sol, Kalamazoo 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	80
Wednesday, June 17	Cassopolis 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	42
Thursday, June 18	Cassopolis 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	42
Friday, June 19	Cassopolis 7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	53
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Total		886