

MICHIGAN STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
AND
MICHIGAN HISTORY CENTER

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: April 10, 2024

FROM: Ryan Schumaker, Director, State Historic Preservation Officer
Sandra Clark, Director, Michigan History Center

TO: State Historic Preservation Office and Michigan History Center Staff

SUBJECT: Statement on State Archaeology

As part of our collaborative work, we have agreed on the following statement:

The Michigan History Center (MHC) within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are collaborating on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to clarify the roles and responsibilities of DNR and SHPO as they relate to archaeology. At the present time, no individual is working at the state level who possesses the title State Archaeologist, nor is there an Office of State Archaeology (OSA) in Michigan. Our agencies have collectively agreed that any discussion related to the State Archaeologist and the OSA has been taken off the table. However, our agencies are working collaboratively to ensure that the duties that were previously associated with both the position and the OSA continue to be carried out. Both agencies recognize that archaeological work is distributed across departments in state government and will require meaningful, long-term collaboration. In that spirit of collaboration, we have chosen to focus our efforts on the development of the MOU, demonstrating our shared values, vision, and commitment to doing what is best for Michigan archaeology.

Please feel free to share it in response to relevant questions or concerns.



Ryan Schumaker
Michigan State Historic Preservation Officer
Michigan Strategic Fund



Sandra S. Clark
Director, Michigan History Center
Department of Natural Resources