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# First dorm at Michigan State to be excavated

**Associated Press**

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EAST LANSING, Mich. -- Michigan State University archaeology students will spend the summer excavating the site of the school's first dorm, which burned down in 1876.

Researchers are hopeful the project will uncover clues about how students lived when the East Lansing university was in its early stages.

The three-story dorm was built in 1856. It was nicknamed "Saints' Rest" after a popular Christian devotional of the time.

No one was injured when the building burned down 20 years later during winter break. But the only artifact Michigan State saved from the building was an inkwell now stored in the university museum.

By looking at artifacts in context, researchers aim to discover more about student behavior.

"When buildings burn, when people dump things, they just dump them," said Lynne Goldstein, chair of the anthropology department.

The excavation is a first for the Michigan State campus. It had been a topic of discussion for several years, but the timing seemed right with the school celebrating its 150th anniversary.

The university contributed about \$30,000 to the project. There will be an open house at the dig site on July 9 and 10 to show what has been found.

The dig is located on the north end of campus, east of the MSU Museum. The dig area is protected by a fence.

The site previously had marked only by a flat stone with a faded inscription noting when the dorm had been built and when it burned. Researchers say it often would go unnoticed.

"We're going to find out what lies underneath it," said Marietta Baba, dean of the College of Social Science.

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