



Archaeological Research Laboratory Center
Cultural Resource Management

UWM Cultural Resource Management
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Dr. Tyler Howe
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Wisconsin Historical Society
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Taylor Lambrigger
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RE: 2024 Progress Update for the Memorandum of Understanding Milwaukee County Institutional Grounds Froedtert Tract (MCIG-FT) Ambulatory Care Center Project WHS #07-0878 (47MI527)

Dear Dr. Howe and Ms. Lambrigger,

We write to provide a summary and annual update on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's on-going research, education, and long-term care efforts in support of its *2008 Memorandum of Understanding with the Wisconsin Historical Society regarding Milwaukee County Institutional Grounds Froedtert Tract (MCIG-FT) Ambulatory Care Center Project WHS #07-0878 (47MI527)*.

Narrative accounts of 2024 accomplishments are organized by related MOU provisions. For additional contextualization of work completed in 2024, please see the 2022 and 2023 MOU updates that have been previously submitted.

Stipulation 1: The human remains and associated artifacts may be subject to analysis and research by UWM.

1. In 2024, UWM made substantial progress regarding individual biological profiles. Biological profiles are now 88.05% complete (in 2023, biological profiles were 79.3%; in 2022, profile completion stood at 65%). Notably, documentation was completed for all nonadults in 2024. The remaining 11.95% includes a significant proportion of commingled contexts; we anticipate future progress updates will reflect the analytical complexities involved.
2. Supplemental visual examination of cultural materials previously described as "unknown" or of an "unknown" material was completed. Thirty-one items previously classed as "unknown" were identified as metal, paint, glass, and fabric, among other refinements. Cultural materials are one line of evidence that can be used to generate a provisional identification.
3. UWM continued the development, implementation, and refinement of treatment protocols and analytical methods.

- a. The MCPFC Digital Data Entry Guide was updated in 2024 to include a section on commingled data entry.
- b. A manual detailing protocols for artifact photography was created. Images play an important part of the public access work of the MCPFC Project, such as those included in Report(s) of Investigation(s) and other content hosted on the project website. When images are appropriate, the standards outlined in this manual will help to ensure that images promote effective visual communication.
- c. One Adobe Illustrator template for visual, non-photograph representations of burials and burial positioning was created. The template includes a guide for use and future adjustments.

Stipulation 2: UWM shall permit reasonable and appropriate research by students and other scholars from within and without UWM, shall grant reasonable and appropriate access to the human remains and associated artifacts to students and other scholars from within and without the UWM, and shall ensure reasonable and appropriate access to all individuals who currently have ongoing research projects involving the human remains and associated artifacts. In all cases, the Anthropology Department at UWM shall determine what constitutes reasonable and appropriate access.

In 2024, UWM extended the research moratorium and further supported long-term care efforts.

1. UWM extended the research moratorium for new research relating to non-NAGPRA related human remains (and associated cultural items) through June 30, 2025.
2. Support for Undergraduate Research Fellows (SURF) students facilitated long term care efforts for the population, including three students active in Spring 2024, two students active in Summer 2024, and three students active in Fall 2024. Efforts included support for activities related to the provisions of the MOU, including biological profile documentation, database development, artifact identification, and website content development.

Stipulation 3: UWM shall ensure that the human remains and associated artifacts are treated with the greatest possible respect.

In 2024, UWM continues to abide by the highest professional principles and standards.

Stipulation 4: UWM shall notify the public if and when human remains are identified so that descendants of identified individuals may know that such identification has occurred.

1. Identifying individuals and reuniting them with their descendants is an important goal of UWM's work. As described in previous annual updates, there are numerous challenges to identification. Given these limitations, UWM developed and continues to refine methods to allow for the provisional identification of individuals by aligning three discrete data sets: biological profile, intra-site provenience, and archival data.
 - a. This process has generated 11 strong provisional identifications which are published on our website (three new provisional identifications were added in 2024). Genetically, no one has been identified.
 - b. Research to support provisional identifications is an ongoing process. In 2024, seven archaeological individuals had identification options refined to 10 or fewer possibilities. Another six archaeological individuals had options refined to fewer than 15 options.

Stipulation 5: UWM shall work with descendants of identified individuals represented within the collection of human remains, if it becomes possible to identify a set of remains as a specific individual related to those descendants, to allow the descendants to obtain and rebury those remains.

In 2024, UWM continued visitor hours; continued the NAGPRA process, and responded to numerous community and media requests.

1. Visiting Guidelines are in place for the UWM Archaeological Research Laboratory Center (ARLC) Repository.
2. Provisional NAGPRA cases have been initiated for several archaeological individuals within the 1991-1992 cohort (2023-2024).
3. MCPFC Project Director and ARLC Director/MCPFC Community Liaison fulfilled research and documentation requests for the MCPFC.
 - a. The MCPFC Project Director completed a minimum number of 27 community and general research requests in 2024.
 - b. ARLC Director/MCPFC Community Liaison responded to a media inquiry from *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.
 - c. ARLC Director/MCPFC Community Liaison met with representatives of the Descendant Community of Milwaukee during 2024.

Stipulation 6: UWM shall develop a Website that makes the information about the human remains and associated artifacts available to a broad audience. This aspect of the final disposition is critical in giving those individuals previously buried at the MCIG-FT an ongoing voice in their community and providing the public with current information on any research and analysis undertaken on the human remains and associated artifacts.

1. UWM maintains a website at: <https://sites.uwm.edu/milwaukee-county-poor-farmcemetery/>. Additional content added in 2024 includes a second Story Map, and new provisional identifications of archaeological individuals. A third Story Map and genealogical research resource page were developed, with anticipated publication in 2025.

Stipulation 7. UWM shall continue its tradition of conducting the highest quality research and producing thorough and timely publication of the results of such research. Continuing this tradition of research and publishing excellence is key in affording the strongest possible voice to individuals represented from the MCIG-FT.

1. The population has been the basis of research for nine Ph.D. dissertations, 11 Master's theses, and one Master's thesis in progress, at UWM as the degree-granting institution (updated 2024 numbers).
2. The population has been the focus of seven organized sessions (40+ individual paper presentations) and additional individual paper and poster presentations (minimally 10) at regional, national, and international conferences (updated 2024 numbers).
3. To reach the widest possible audience, research has been published in an open access format.

- a. The coffin, the collar, the cross, and the can: Narrating the provisional identification process for nonadults at the MCPFC (published 2024) (<https://sites.uwm.edu/milwaukee-county-poor-farm-cemetery/mcpfc-stories/>)
4. A UWM internal grant was awarded 2023-2024 (budget value \$99,000) to support biological profile efforts, additional Story Maps, and community programming development. The grant performance period was extended until June 30, 2025.
5. During the 2024 calendar year, \$13,820 in grant funding was awarded through UWM's SURF program.

As always, if there are questions regarding this summary, please do not hesitate to contact us at skfreire@uwm.edu or at haasjr@uwm.edu.

Sincerely,

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