



Friends Preserving and Sharing Mackinac's Heritage

November 2023

We are excited to provide an update to you on the Southwest Rowhouse addition at Colonial Michilimackinac. This will be the first reconstructed building added to Michilimackinac since 2013. This reconstruction on the east end of the rowhouse will help us better interpret Michilimackinac and, with your help, will include a new exhibit, *Slavery at the Straits*.



The addition to the Southwest Rowhouse will be the latest project to combine archaeological and archival research in our quest to engage our visitors and accurately present community life at Michilimackinac. In the 17th and 18th centuries, slavery was an integral part of the community at Michilimackinac, as well as the rest of Michigan. Enslaved Black and Native American men and women worked in all levels of society, doing everything from domestic work to skilled labor. Already a hub of the Great Lakes fur trade, Michilimackinac also served as a center of the regional trade in enslaved workers as French and British colonists exploited preexisting systems of Native American enslavement to feed a growing demand for enslaved labor. This new exhibit, *Slavery at the Straits*, explores the lives of these enslaved individuals and how their experiences fit in with the larger story of Michilimackinac, allowing us to present a more complete vision of the site in the 18th century.



The construction of the addition to the Southwest Rowhouse has begun and will be complete in the spring of 2024. Mackinac State Historic Parks is committed to accurately and fully interpreting the history of the Straits. With your help we look forward to funding this new exhibit.

Sincerely,

Todd V. Callewaert, President
Mackinac Associates

Steven C. Brisson, Director
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