

NEWS RELEASE

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Open house planned for Lucinda House archeological dig

One hundred and fifty years ago, the hamlet of Waterloo had a population of about 250. It had two churches, a post office, a saw mill, a grist mill, a brewery, a distillery and a school. It also had a couple of dozen homes, including one at 157 Albert St., which is now known as Lucinda House.

Waterloo assessment records from 1838 show that this new two-storey frame house was built by or for Waterloo's first medical doctor, Dr. Joseph Good, and his wife, the former Annie Whitmore. That house now forms the front frame section of the eclectic Lucinda House, which combines elements of Georgian Tradition, Regency, Classic Revival, Italianate, and Picturesque architectural styles.

Allen and Lucinda Shantz, who lived in the house from 1896 to 1948, transformed the exterior of the house to its present configuration, and the house has been named in her honor.

Lucinda House was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1985 for its historical and architectural significance, and when Wilfrid Laurier University acquired this historic home in 1994, it had already been restored to much of its original splendor by owners Paul and Kathryn Bosch.

Since then, professional and volunteer workers have worked on restoring the interior, and Lucinda House now provides space for informal and formal entertaining, lodgings, and a study for visiting scholars.

But just as soon as the University took possession of the house, exploratory archeological investigations began along the north and west sides to see if there were any intact deposits from the earliest phase of the house's occupation. A refuse deposit (or midden) was encountered about one metre below the present ground surface that clearly dates to the Good family occupation of the home - 1838 to 1874.

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Among the artifacts unearthed so far are samples of locally-made crockery, imported tableware and smoking pipes, animal bones, American coins from the 1830s and 1860s, and a human wisdom tooth with a genetic anomaly that is only found amongst the Swiss and southern Germans - all items that contribute to understanding the ethnic affiliation, cultural origin and social standing of Dr. Joseph Good's family.

Ongoing research involves taking cores from the beams in the house's basement to see exactly when each house section was built. Another project involves attempting to identify - by means of the potter's fingerprints - where the Good family purchased their locally-produced redware crocks. If fingerprints from crocks from a known pottery manufacturer can be matched with fragments from Lucinda House, it may be possible to reconstruct the commercial networks of early Waterloo.

An Open House will be held at Lucinda House on **Tuesday, March 19**, from **10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, to show the university community and general public the results of the archeological and archival work that has been conducted by WLU students and faculty.

Students will be in the house to display the artifacts and results of their analyses, and to answer questions. As well, the excavation area will be open and in operation, so people can see a cross-section of almost 175 years of occupation at Lucinda House.

The house is at **157 Albert St., Waterloo**, across from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.