

# Seeking Shelter from the Storm

## Architecture in Eighteenth Century New France



WESTERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY



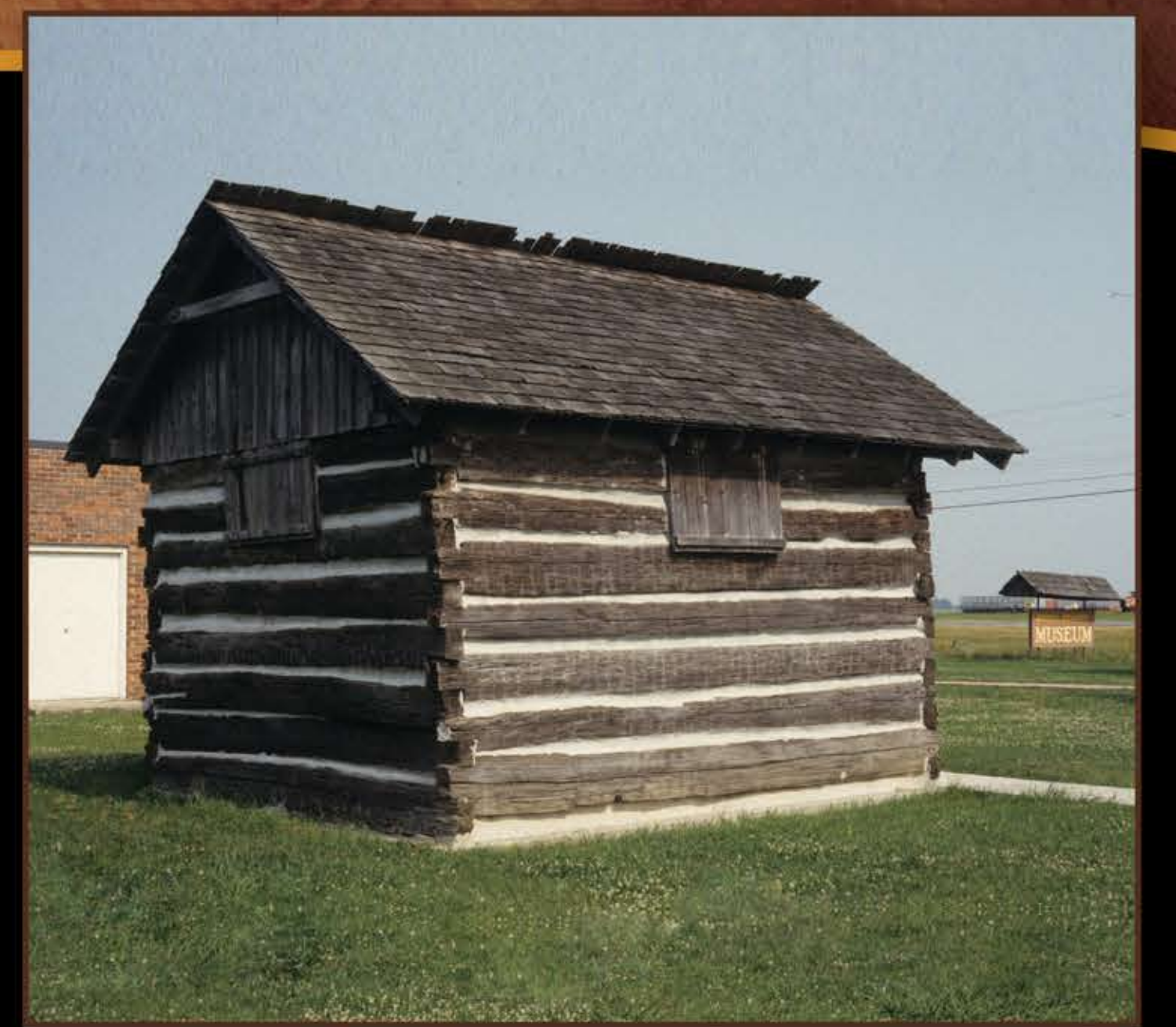
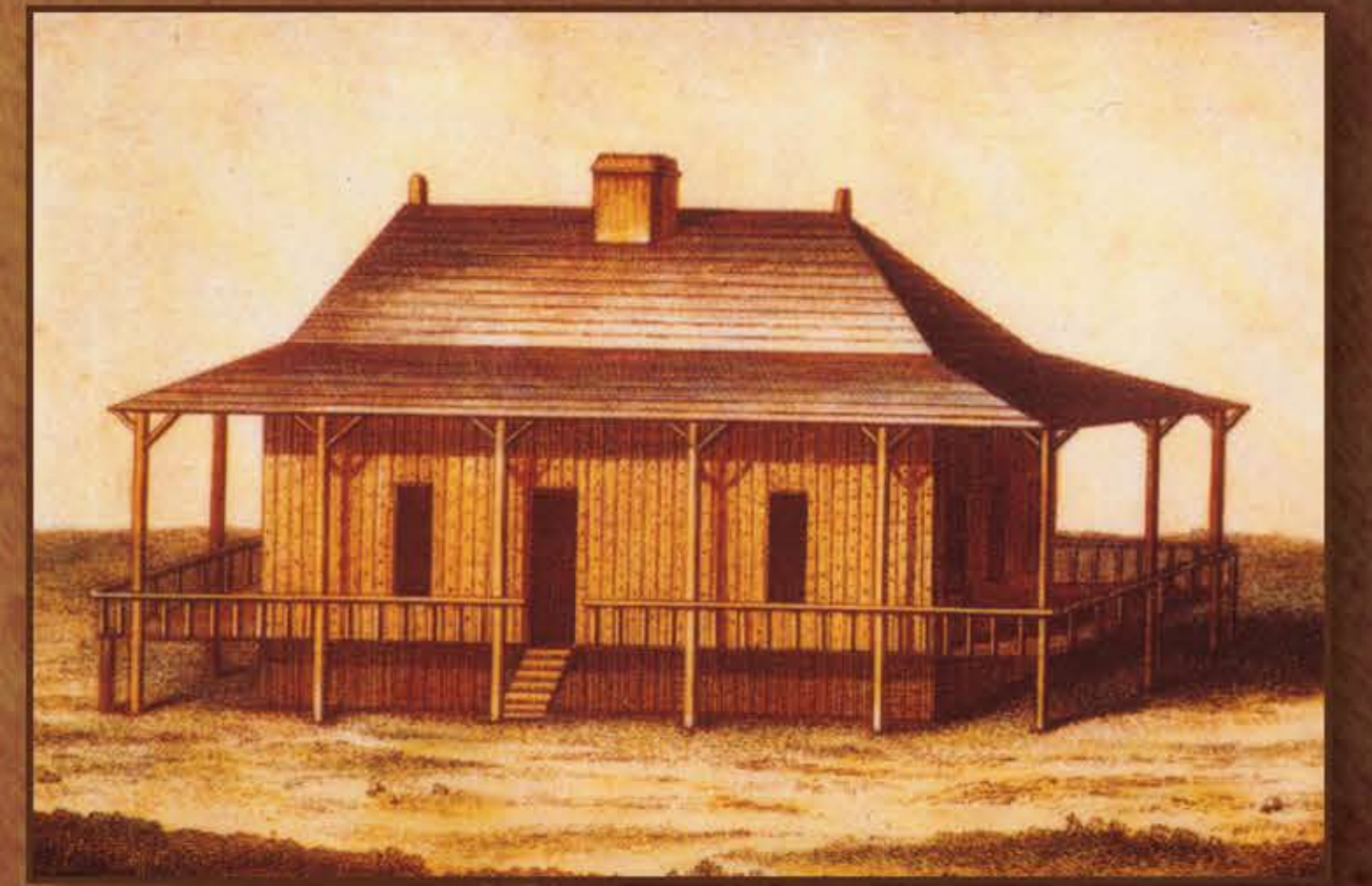
All human societies made and used architecture. Archaeologists collect evidence from historical documents, oral accounts, and archaeological remains to reconstruct past buildings and other shelters.

Differences in architecture indicate past cultural practices associated with technology, social organization, settlement mobility, and belief systems.



Archaeologists have been studying the material remains of architecture in the St. Joseph River valley to understand the types of buildings people constructed, how they were built, and how they were used.

This exhibit presents information about the architectural evidence that archaeologists hope to identify as they continue to investigate Fort St. Joseph and related sites.



# Imagine

that you are living in the St. Joseph River valley 300 years ago. Native peoples welcomed French fur traders, soldiers, and priests to the area. In winter, it's cold and snowy. In summer, it's hot. No one has indoor plumbing, electricity, or air conditioning. There are no matches to make fires—no internet, cable, or cell phones. There is no Lowe's®, Walmart®, Home Depot®, or a lumberyard nearby. If you lived in a Native village or at Fort St. Joseph in 1730:

- 1 Where would you build your house? What other buildings would you need?
- 2 What would your house look like?
- 3 How would you build it? What construction materials would you use?
- 4 Who would you live with?
- 5 What would you do on a daily basis inside and outside your house?
- 6 How would your life be different than it is today?



Seeking Shelter from the Storm was created and designed by members of the Anthropology in the Community class (ANTH 5030) in Spring 2015 (Kaitlin Burton, Jenna Combs, Erika Loveland, Kyle Moerchen, Lakenia Payne, Joseph Puntasecca, Stephen Staten, and Devon Yurko under the direction of Dr. Michael S. Nassaney). This exhibit was produced with support from the Joseph L. Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France, the Western Michigan University Cultural Events Committee, Québec Delegation of Chicago and the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, a partnership between Western Michigan University and the City of Niles. Assistance was also provided by: Kevin Finney, Joe Hines, Robert Myers, Sue Reichert, Marcus Winchester, Michael Worline, and the 2015 WMU Archaeological Field School.

