Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School Timeline

1856 U.S. government makes provisions for Indian education in the 1855 Saginaw, Black River, and Swan Creek Chippewa Treaty. Treaty with the Chippewa of Saginaw, Etc., 1855, Art. 1 and Art. 4.

1866 Indian land ceded, Congress agrees to spend $20,000 for Indian education. Treaty with the Chippewa of Saginaw, Etc., 1864, Art. 4.

1875 Captain Richard Pratt takes Apache POW's from Red River War to Fort Marion, Florida for social experiment "Kill the Indian, Save the Man."

1891 Act of Congress established funding for American Indian boarding schools, including MIIBS. An Act Making Appropriations for the Current and Contingent Expenses of the Indian Department, and for Fulfilling Treaty Stipulations with Various Indian Tribes, for the Year Ending June Thirtieth, Eighteen Hundred and Ninety-Two, and for Other Purposes, 26 Stat. 989, 9891044 (1891).

1893 Mt Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School opens on June 30, 1893.

1899 June 14, Martha Shagonaby set fire that destroyed the main school building (no deaths).

1900 The main school building was rebuilt, time capsule included in the building.

1928 Merriam Report published outlining abuses, neglect, and failed educational practices in U.S. boarding schools.

1934 MIIBS closed. Governor William Comstock Agreement ratified, property is transferred from the Federal Government to the State of Michigan through a Congressional Act. An Act Granting Certain Property to the State of Michigan for Institutional Purposes, 48 Stat. 353, 342 (1934).

1934 - 2009 State of Michigan used property for a regional center for developmentally disabled children and adults.

1970 MIIBS student reunion held in Hart, Michigan.

1991 "School Days Remembered" documentary film, produced by CMU, with Paul Johnson (hosted by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan/SCIT) of former MIIBS students interviewed and recorded for historical purposes through a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council and the SCIT.

2003 "American Indian Boarding Schools: An Exploration of Global Ethnic and Cultural Cleansing" curriculum guide developed by SCIT Behavioral Health Department and Ziibiwing Center. Funded by a Sappi Ideas that Matter Grant.

2004 Boarding School Era presented in the Ziibiwing Center's permanent exhibit, Diba Jimooyung, which means "Telling our Story," and Effects of Colonization gallery.

2009 White Bison's 2009 Wellbriety Journey for Forgiveness, a 5-mile walk from SCIT Isabella Reservation to MIIBS site.

2010 Land conveyance offered to the City of Mt. Pleasant from the State of Michigan of approximately 304.62 acres of former MIIBS property.

Land conveyance of former MIIBS property offered to the SCIT from the State of Michigan consisting of 8.86 acres of land, 6 historic buildings of MIIBS and the Mission Creek Cemetery.

2011 City of Mt. Pleasant accepts land conveyance of approximately 304.62 acres from the State of Michigan.

Feasibility Study conducted by SCIT to accept or reject the proposed land conveyance of approximately 8.86 acres of land, 6 historic buildings of MIIBS and the Mission Creek Cemetery from the State of Michigan.

Tribe accepts land conveyance of approximately 8.86 acres of land, 6 historic buildings of MIIBS and the Mission Creek Cemetery from the State of Michigan.

The inaugural "Honoring, Healing, and Remembering Day" is hosted by the MIIBS Committee on June 6th.

SCIT Tribal Council sanctions MIIBS Committee.

Ziibiwing Center releases printed copies of "American Indian Boarding Schools: An Exploration of Global Ethnic and Cultural Cleansing"curriculum guide developed by SCIT, Behavioral Health Department and Ziibiwing Center. Funded by a Sappi Ideas that Matter Grant.

2012 MIIBS Committee implements strategic plan goals and objectives. The City of Mt. Pleasant, SCIT and Central Michigan University (CMU) enter into an initial Interim Memorandum of Understanding in May for archaeological survey.

Archaeological research initiated by CMU and MIIBS Committee on SCIT property at the MIIBS Main Grounds (20IB43) and the Mission Creek Cemetery (20IB31). Archaeological research initiated on City of Mt. Pleasant property in three locations.

2013 City of Mt. Pleasant conveys an additional 5.94 acres of land including the Small Girls Dormitory to the SCIT. The SCIT now owns 14.8 acres of an original 321.05 acre parcel. City of Mt. Pleasant now owns approximately 298.68 acres after deeding additional acreage to the SCIT. The Mt. Pleasant Public Schools owns approximately 7.57 acres of the original 321.05 acre parcel.

City of Mt. Pleasant and SCIT agreed upon a Discovery Plan for Cultural Resources and Human Remains during building demolition on City property.

On April 9, the National Park Service approved the proposal of the SCIT to assume certain State Historic Preservation Office duties within the Tribe's reservation and on tribal lands in Michigan. A primary responsibility of the SCIT's Tribal Historic Preservation Office is to nominate eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places. The former MIIBS is within the boundaries of the Isabella Indian Reservation.

Archaeological research by CMU and MIIBS Committee continues on SCIT property at the MIIBS Main Grounds (20IB43).

MIIBS Committee presentation entitled Confronting the Legacy of the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School: A Community-Driven Movement for Healing, Truth-Telling & Decolonization at the Historical Society of Michigan Annual Meeting held on March 22-23 in Livonia, Michigan.

MIIBS Committee organized session entitled Confronting the Past, Engaging Current Publics, & Transforming the Future: An Interdisciplinary Community-Based Project at the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School for the 112th American Anthropological Association Annual meeting held on November 22 in Chicago, Illinois.

2014 The MIIBS FY2014-2015 Strategic Plan is created.

MIIBS Committee Presentation entitled The Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School: Transforming a Landscape of Authority & Assimilation into a Place of Healing & Education at the Michigan Historic Preservation Network 35th 21Annual Conference held on May 15 in Jackson, Michigan.

2015 The City of Mt. Pleasant, SCIT and CMU entered into a 2nd Memorandum of Understanding for archaeological study on City of Mt. Pleasant property.

The SCIT THPO submits the MIIBS National Register for Historic Places (NRHP) Application form to the State of Michigan NRHP Coordinator for review.

Archaeological research by CMU and MIIBS Committee on SCIT property at the MIIBS Main Grounds (20IB43) and a portion of the City of Mt. Pleasant property.

2016 City of Mt. Pleasant updated the Discovery Plan and contracted with archaeological firm for monitoring during demolition.

A Mt. Pleasant Center Community Workshop with 60 attendees to obtain input into further conceptual design took place on April 18.

The SCIT Tribal Council approves Dr. William T. Cross' contract to serve as the MIIBS Project Manager on May 23.

Governor's Award for Historic Preservation awarded to the SCIT, CMU, and City of Mt. Pleasant "For documenting the history of the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School through an ongoing program of archaeological research. The outreach initiatives based on their work promote healing and an understanding of the lives of the boarding school students."

The SCIT Tribal Council approves Dr. Mary Senter of CMU's Center for Applied Research and Rural Studies to design, disseminate, and compile data of survey to gage the SCIT Tribal Membership about the future land use for the MIIBS.

2017 The Michigan State Historic Preservation Review Board approved a nomination of the former MIIBS to the NRHP at its January 13, meeting in Lansing, Michigan.

The National Park Service (NPS), United States Department of the Interior, notified the SCIT that it listed the MIIBS, Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County, Michigan in the NRHP. The property encompasses extant former buildings, the grounds associated with them and the Mission Creek Cemetery, including agricultural and woodland areas that historically formed parts of the school campus. The Keeper of the National Register listed the property on February 28, 2018.

2018 The SCIT and Ziibiwing Center were awarded a NPS Tribal Heritage Grant for its MIIBS Initiative Project for the installation of protective fencing, security lighting and a multi-modal survey and evaluation on October 25.

The entire 321.5 acres of MIIBS recognized as a Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places.

2019 City of Mt. Pleasant and SCIT agreed to a property agreement outlining future potential development of both properties and future archaeological surveys. MOU December 20.

A MIIBS session entitled A Discussion of Tribally Driven Research and Programs was presented at the American Association for State and Local History's Annual Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Shannon Martin, Director, Ziibiwing Center presented the only tribal session focused on the Native American Boarding School era and the MIIBS.

The SCIT and Ziibiwing Center were awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services' Inspire! Grants for Small Museums program grant to implement a week of events for the 200th anniversary of the signing of the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. The Weaving Our Stories event included a Treaty Summit Day, History of the Three Fires Confederacy

Lecture, Basket Makers Gathering and Market and culminated with a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) Education Day held at the MIIBS. Over 300 Middle and High School students participated including informational tours of the MIIBS.

Archaeological research by CMU and MIIBS Committee on SCIT property at the MIIBS Main Grounds (20IB43), including areas to be impacted by fencing.

2020 MIIBS Committee gives an update to Tribal Council on October 12.

EPA Brownfields Clean-Up Grant Submitted ($800,000 w/$40,000 Match) but not approved.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tasked Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech) Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) to conduct a Hazardous/Regulated Building Materials survey at the MIIBS in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan under the Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) program. The Hazardous/Regulated Building Materials survey was conducted to document the presence or absence of asbestos-containing materials and regulated, hazardous, or universal wastes in building materials. EPA also tasked Tetra Tech START to conduct a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) at the MIIBS under the TBA program. The Phase II ESA was conducted to document the presence or absence of soil contamination.

2021 SCIT Tribal Council approves $6,000 for dead/dangerous tree removal.

Circle Welding Technology contracted to install metal mesh on all buildings to safeguard it from trespassers/vandals. July

MIIBS Committee meets monthly and updated Tribal Council on January 12 and on October 12.

Mannik & Smith did soil and mortar testing for asbestos on outside samples of MIIBS building. Tests were done to ensure workers would be safe when installing metal mesh and/or working closely to the buildings. Results came back that levels were safe.

Legal Agreement for Architecture Consultant with Christian Nakarado, Architect and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Tribal member July.

MIIBS property is used for statewide police K-9 training from many different agencies.

Six solar surveillance cameras are installed and monitored by the Tribal Police Department.

A Strategic Planning session took place on June 15, at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort for future planning of the MIIBS buildings. The MIIBS Committee is tasked with carrying out the goals and objectives of the plan.

Archaeological research by CMU and MIIBS Committee on SCIT property at the MIIBS Main Grounds (20IB43).

MIIBS Committee By-Laws amended to add Chairperson's duties. It was approved by SCIT Legal Department and SCIT Tribal Council appoints MIIBS executive officers.

A Waiver of Liability and Request Form was approved for use by SCIT Legal and SCIT Tribal Council.

Honoring, Healing & Remembering held virtually due to Covid-19 on June 4, with over 6,000 virtual viewers in attendance.

Survey results about the future land use of the MIIBS property completed by Dr. Mary Senter, CMU, & presented at HHR.

MIIBS "witness trees" logs were transported to SCIT campground with new Sacred Fire Wood sign.

Michigan Historic Preservation Network Webinar hosted by SCIT's THPO & Ziibiwing Center entitled Following the Steps of Our Ancestors in July

Community Enhancement Grant awarded to hire paid volunteers for MIIBS security.

Entrance gates to MIIBS property installed at two entrances and purchased with Tribal funds.

MIIBS Committee members attend Secretary of the Interior's Boarding School Initiative consultation with Tribal leaders virtually in December.

2022 MIIBS Committee update to SCI Tribal Council on January

National Tribal Preservation Conference, SCIT THPO and Ziibiwing present virtually on Tribal Heritage, Underrepresented Communities and NAGPRA grants in February

Honoring, Healing & Remembering held on MIIBS site in June

American Institute of Architects Agreement signed by SCIT Tribal Council with Christian Nakarado for Schematic Design of MIIBS

Section 128(a) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding was awarded September 2022 for $1.7 mill

Summer Volunteer Program (Night Security) starts for MIIBS in July

2023 MIIBS Committee update to SCIT Tribal Council in January

University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning + Stamps School & Design and SCIT are in the development phase of LiDAR scanning for all buildings in January

A traditional lodge is constructed in front of the Boys Dorm at MIIBS in June

Honoring, Healing & Remembering 2024 held in June

Summer Volunteer Program (Night Security) starts for MIIBS in July

First Children's Powwow takes place on the grounds of MIIBS in September

Remediation starts at the Woodshop at MIIBS in September

National Park Services- Historic Preservation Fund- Tribal Heritage Grant, Awarded $46,000 to hire a Historic Preservationist and Structural Engineer in September

MIIBS Display at University of Michigan Monument and Memory Open House in October

Vadon Foundation – Awarded $5,000 to purchase volunteer shelter October

Environmental Resource Group (ERG) and Green For Life (GFL) contracted for remediation of lead and asbestos on the Woodshop December

Presentation on MIIBS was presented by Christian Nakarado to the Indigenous Society of Architecture and Design, New York, NY – October

MIIBS Committee chairs meet with Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Leslie Larson and Tribal Police Chief Harry Ambs to discuss support for missing and exploited children in October

MIIBS Committee members presented information about MIIBS to the R5 Tribal Brownfields & Response Workshop held at the Tribal Planning Department in November

Preservation Forward contracted through National Park Service Tribal Heritage Grant for consultant services November.

National Endowment for the Humanities- Chair's Discretionary Grant Federal Boarding School Initiative for $21,875 for website in December

2024 Lunch & Learn Film Screening: School Days Remembered in January

Presentation to Tribal Council on MIIBS Architectural Plans in January

University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning + Stamps School & Design do LiDAR scanning of the Auditorium in February

Konwinski Construction contracted to do roof repairs on Woodshop, Auditorium/School and Gymnasium.

Oakland University, Michigan, Presentation on MIIBS – March

Presentation to Michigan Historic Preservation Network on MIIBS – May

Honoring, Healing & Remembering 2024 – June

Summer Volunteer Program (Night Security) starts for MIIBS in July

Sharon Ferraro contracted to revise the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School National Register Listing level of significance from statewide to the national level August

2025 MIIBS booth at SCIT State of the Tribe Community Meeting January

MIIBS update to Tribal Council January

MIIBS/Architect site visit and appreciation dinner January

MIIBS 5 year Strategic Planning Session - March

CMU & MIIBS film Screening - I am Gitxsan & Sugarcane April

National Endowment for Humanities Website Grant Terminated April

Contract with Carbon Six to mothball woodshop, auditorium/school and gymnasium – April

Contact with Obsidian Websites for website design and development - June

Honoring, Healing & Remembering June

Contract JDH Structural Engineers for Consultant Services – June

Memorandum of Understanding between University of Michigan and Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe for developing a comprehensive LIDAR and Photogrammetry Survey of MIIBS - July

Summer Volunteer Program (Night Security) starts for MIIBS in July

SCIT Niibing Program 4th Grade tour MIIBS July

MIIBS booth at SCIT Homecoming Community Meeting July

MIIBS Presentation to Society for Historic Preservation Detroit – August

MIIBS Youth Powwow – September

Proctor & Gamble Native American Network clean MIIBS ground – September

MIIBS status update to Governor Whitmer at Tribal/State Summit – September

MIIBS Winter Silent Auction - December