

# Rock used as doorstop is actually a meteorite worth \$100K

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A Michigan man curious about a rock he'd used for decades as a doorstop now knows its secret: it's a meteorite worth \$100,000.

In fact, the nearly 23-pound hunk of iron and nickel is the sixth largest meteorite found in Michigan, according to the Smithsonian Museum and Central Michigan University.

David Mazurek said he took his doorstop to the university for examination after seeing reports in January of meteorite pieces selling for thousands of dollars.

"I said, 'Wait a minute. I wonder how much mine is worth,'" Mazurek said.

University Geology Professor Mona Sirbescu first identified the piece as more than just a rock. She then sent two small slices of the rock to the Smithsonian for confirmation.

"I could tell right away that this was something special," she said. "It's the most valuable specimen I have ever held in my life, monetarily and scientifically."

Mazurek said the meteorite came with a barn he bought in 1988 in Edmore. He said the farmer who sold him the property told him it landed in his backyard in the 1930s.

"The story goes that it was collected immediately after they witnessed the big boom and the actual meteorite was dug out from a crater," Sirbescu said.

More tests are being conducted to see if the meteorite contains rare elements.

"What typically happens with these at this point is that meteorites can either be sold and shown in a museum or sold to collectors and sellers looking to make a profit," Sirbescu said.

The Smithsonian and a mineral museum in Maine are considering purchasing the specimen.

Mazurek said that when he sells the meteorite, he'll donate some of the money to the university.

"I'm done using it as a doorstop. Let's get a buyer!" Mazurek said.

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