



PRESS PHOTOS BY BEVERLY SPRINGER

In a picture of the 1803 House taken before 1935 what may be a summer kitchen appears attached to the right side of the house, the same location as the excavated foundation.



Pat Merkowski, left, an Emmaus resident and volunteer with a background in archeology, and Jill Cramer, a member of the 1803 House Board of Directors, work at the site.



Dr. David Small, a professor at Lehigh University, directs Lehigh students Tyler Schreiner and Peter Woltersdorf on where to begin work at the dig site.

THE 1803 HOUSE

# Emmaus 1803 House dig provides both information and questions

BY BEVERLY SPRINGER  
Special to The Press

Since 2012, Emmaus's 1803 House has been the site of an ongoing archeological dig.

Built by Jacob Ehrenhardt Jr. in 1803, the house occupies property once part of Ehrenhardt's father's farm. A large barn and several smaller outbuildings originally accompanied the Georgian style, stone home.

Although the barn and other edifices eventually disappeared, the house remained occupied until 1975 when Robert Rodale purchased and donated it to the community as a museum. Seven Generations Charter School teacher Ryan Loughren became interested in the area and an archeological dig focusing on a stone foundation abutting the right side of the house began in 2012. Loughren and his students initially explored the site.

In 2014, Dr. David Small, a professor at Lehigh University, adopted the project. Since that time, Small, his students and volunteers from the community have systematically excavated the foundation, collected artifacts and recorded their findings.

Unearthing of the foundation and collecting numerous artifacts have resulted in some tantalizing questions.



Cammi Nalesnik records data being collected at the dig.

Does the excavated foundation predate the existing structure? What purpose did the structure or structures built on this foundation serve? Is there more work to be done in relation to the house proper?

Artifacts recovered from the site will be cataloged and studied at Lehigh University and then returned to the board of the 1803 House for permanent storage. In the meantime, Emmaus's 1803 House remains a delightful example of early 19th century architecture and holds secrets yet to be revealed.

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Cameron Van Hoorebeke and Quinn McKenna sift for artifacts at the dig site.



Peter Woltersdorf and Matt Svanson measure the foundation.