

Archaeological Dig at the 1803 House

As a professor of archaeology at Lehigh University, I have been working with teams of students and with important volunteers from Emmaus on excavations at the 1803 House. Lehigh's enterprise was not the first, however, and due recognition must be given to Ryan Loughren who was a teacher at the local 7 Generations Charter School. Ryan took several students to dig south of the kitchen and exposed important walls to a building which we are today exploring.

For the past two years Lehigh students and Emmaus volunteers have been working to understand the buried walls behind the kitchen. We have currently excavated a small section of what was a larger building. What this building was is still undetermined. The best estimate to date is that it was a log cabin which was used by the builders of the 1803 House, before the house was built.

Excavation has uncovered what were the original foundation walls to the building and a small interior chamber. By peeling away the soil we have been able to reconstruct various uses for this part of the property. A rather thick stratum close to the surface of the ground contains artifacts dating from the period from the turn of the last century to about the time of the Second World War. We have been able to expose the original surface of the ground outside the building. Preliminary analysis of the artifacts in the stratum which sat on this surface has shown that the material dates within a 50-year range which is bisected by the year 1800.

Our goal is to completely excavate the building, identifying its original function and refining the date of its original construction. Our goal is to curate the structure, that is, stabilize the walls which have been re-exposed to the sun and oxygen to preserve the building for educational use by the people of Emmaus. *Written by Archaeology Professor David Small; Sept., 2017*

2018 Update:

Professor David Small says...this year the project takes on an exciting new focus. We will be constructing an integrated, interactive website which will contain not only the information from the excavation, but the information from the 1803 House itself.

This new focus is only possible through the "Mellon Digital Initiative Grant", which Lehigh University helped the 1803 House procure.

Also, the excavating crew uncovered a "privy". Information available in 2019.

The beginning of the dig with Seven Generations Charter School in 2012...



The dig resumes in 2015 with Professor David Small from Lehigh University...



the "privy"