

Urban Archaeology: Kielkopf House Site DelDOT Odessa Turn Lane



Historic photo of the Kielkopf House and Blacksmith Shop circa 1910.

An archaeological survey in the historic town of Odessa was conducted to provide clearance for a turn lane from Highway 13 Southbound and Route 299, part of the ongoing State Route 1 Project. Construction of the turn lane, sidewalk, and drainage system, will impact portions of the Kielkopf House and Blacksmith Shop Site (1888-1990), razed just prior to acquisition by the State of Delaware in the late 1980s.

The investigations provided a good avenue for public outreach for the DelDOT project. One of the Kielkopf descendants became involved with the project, and provided dozens of photographs to aid the archaeologists in both the placement of excavation units and in site interpretation.



Corner of the Kielkopf House cellar wall constructed circa 1888.

In the excavations, archaeologists uncovered:

- Two brick-lined wells (1880s)
- Stone cellar walls (1880s)
- Blacksmith shop foundations (1920s)
- Buried historic sidewalk (1920s)
- WPA era privies (1930s)



Ceramic sherds excavated at the Kielkopf House.



Larkin Soap Co. bottle (early 20th century).

