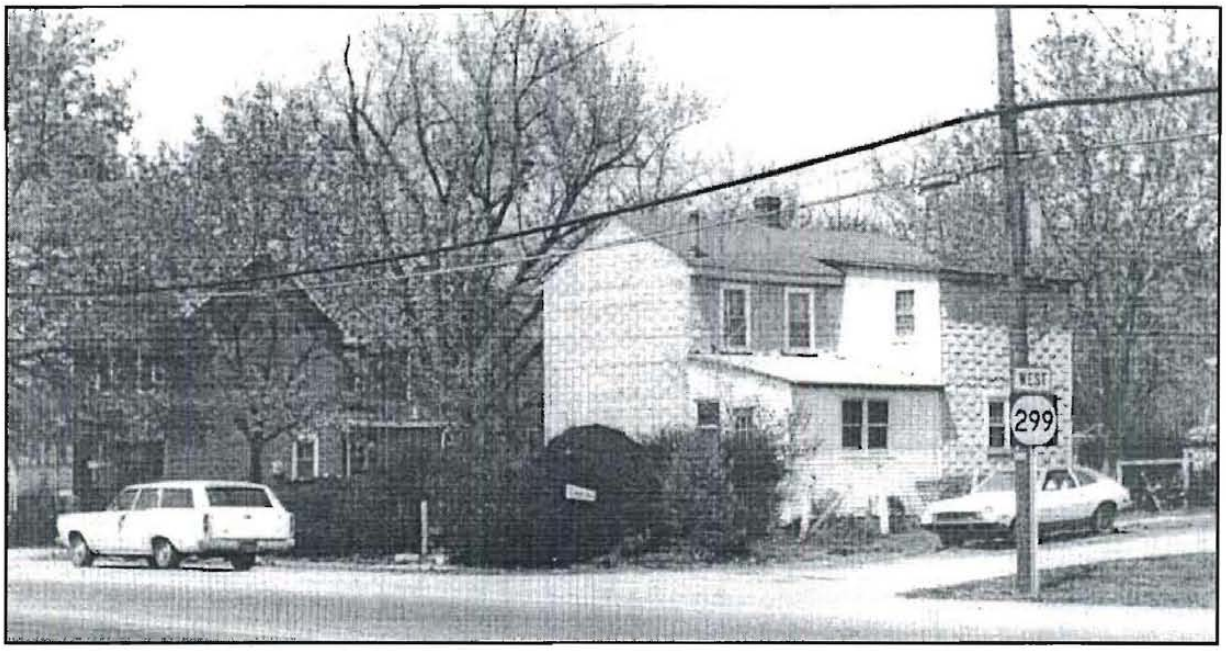

Figure 22: Photograph from NRHP Historic District form, Showing the Henson House Along Corbit Alley

III. METHODOLOGY

Field

Parsons conducted a Phase I archaeological survey of the current project area in September 2000 (Figure 23). The goal of the Phase I survey was to test the area between the LOC and the existing ROW, as shown on the July 30, 2000 DelDOT construction plan sheet. Construction plans were revised somewhat on the February 5, 2001 plan sheet to straighten the proposed sidewalk. However, the revisions did not expand the testing area, and thus did not require additional archaeological investigation beyond the already-planned monitoring of existing sidewalk removal. The focus of investigation was on the southeastern corner of the Kielkopf property where signposts would be placed; the immediate yard surrounding the house; and features, including wells, privies, the house cellar and the blacksmith shop area. Deep features were not fully excavated within TUs due both to safety considerations, and because demolition debris comprised the matrix within deep features.

A total of 15 shovel test pits (STPs), eight 1 x 1 m TUs, and two 3.3 x 0.3 m trenches were excavated within the project area (see Figure 23). Twelve features were identified during the excavations and are described in more detail in Appendix A. The placement of STPs and TUs was based upon visual observation of features and archival and oral history information. The wells, privies and house cellar were the primary focus of the units, and the STPs were dispersed site-wide to find additional features and to test the yard areas.

Figure 23: Kielkopf House Site, Showing Survey Methodology

All STPs measured approximately 50 cm (1.6 ft) in diameter and were excavated at least 10 cm into sterile subsoil, depending on the degree of soil development. All excavated soils were screened through quarter-inch-mesh hardware cloth to ensure uniform recovery of cultural materials. Stratigraphic profiles of each STP were recorded on standard forms, listing soil texture, color, and inclusions. Nearby landmarks or anomalies (e.g., a plowzone) also were recorded on the standard forms. Recovered artifacts were stored in resealable polyethylene bags, and provenience information for each artifact bag was recorded on a master bag inventory sheet. STPs were recorded by transect, shovel test number, and stratum within each shovel test.

TU excavation followed natural stratigraphy. The upper plow zone horizon constituted a single stratigraphic unit; ten centimeter arbitrary levels, excavated within natural strata, provided vertical control within horizons encountered below the plow zone. Excavation terminated not less than two arbitrary levels, or 20 cm, below cultural deposits. All soils removed from the TUs were screened through ¼ inch hardware mesh. Unit artifact bags contained appropriate horizontal and vertical provenience information. Excavators recorded locational, stratigraphic, and artifact data on a standardized form.

Lab

Artifacts recovered from these investigations were delivered to the Parsons archaeological laboratory in Fairfax, Virginia for processing. All artifacts were processed and packaged in accordance with 36 CFR Part 79 and the Delaware State Museums' *Curation Guidelines and Standards for Archaeological Collections* (Delaware State Museums 2001).

The artifacts were cleaned in plain water, air-dried, and bagged in 4-mil polyethylene zip-lock bags according to provenience and material type. Consecutive bag numbers were assigned in the field for each provenience where artifacts were recovered. Artifact numbers were assigned to the items as they were cataloged. The site number, provenience information and artifact numbers were written in indelible ink on the exterior of the artifact bags and acid-free tags with the same information were placed within the bags. In addition, diagnostic artifacts were hand-labeled with the site number and artifact number using acryloid B-72 sealant and black or white pigment ink.

The artifacts were cataloged by count, raw material, typology, function, and segment. Additional attributes were recorded where they contributed to the determination of the artifact function or temporal range. Cataloging also included grouping the artifacts in categories in order to provide a framework for analysis. The group and class categories were based on a system developed by Stanley South (1977) but were tailored to incorporate nineteenth and twentieth century artifact types. References consulted in the identification of the artifacts included Jones and Sullivan (1985), Munsey (1970), Godden (1991) and Toulouse (1971). The artifact catalog was prepared using Microsoft Access software.

The collections were labeled with the project name, site number, and the date of the survey. Field notes and documentation were copied on acid-free paper and organized using archival materials. Photographs were labeled and placed in archival sleeves. The project records

and the artifacts were placed in labeled acid-free boxes. All artifacts and photographs were transmitted to the Delaware State Museum repository in Dover.

Blacksmith Shop

Probing revealed a solid concrete floor across the blacksmith shop area just below the grass/topsoil; thus, no STPs or TUs were placed in that area. A single STP (N132/E194) was attempted in the north portion of the blacksmith shop in what was once a carport, but encountered concrete. STP N138/E194 examined the garden area north of the Blacksmith Shop, producing glass, brick fragments, machine-cut nails and late 19th century whiteware.

North Project Area

Four STPs excavated in the northern portion of the project area produced information relating to the Dugan/Carty occupation north of the Kielkopf property. The Dugan/Carty Victorian house abutted the sidewalk on Sixth Street, and was destroyed by arson several years ago. Feature 2 in STP N163/E201 was an early 20th century concrete slab sidewalk edged with brick; the soil matrix produced mixed modern (i.e., mid- to late-20th century) artifacts. A brick garden or walkway (Feature 4) was recorded in STP N147/E199. STP N147/E195 contained a thin layer of coal ash at the interface of Strata A and B, with plastic and an aluminum pull-tab mixed with earlier 20th century artifacts. The edge of a builder's trench (Feature 7) for the Dugan/Carty well was found in STP N148/E183, and further investigated with TU 5. The well was modern, with poured mortar mix and pvc pipe in the builder's trench, and 3-hole brick and cinderblock for the well construction material.

Removal of High Curb

In the spring of 2001, a meeting between DelDOT, the DE SHPO and Parsons was held to discuss whether the site's status as part of the Odessa Historic District, since the district was defined by standing structures and not the archaeological potential of the sites within the district. Gwen Davis, with the Delaware SHPO, suggested that the site could still be eligible for the NRHP even though the standing structures had been razed, and key features should therefore be avoided, if possible. The DelDOT construction plan was modified to minimize potential impact by altering the width of the turn lane to avoid the house foundation/cellar. Archaeologists monitored the removal of the south 10 feet of the east high curb and the entire south high curb (Figures 24-26). Photographs were taken and profiles were drawn. A vegetation difference on the north end of the project area in the former location of the Dugan/Carty House was plotted on the site map, but the anomaly was not investigated as it was outside the project area.

Century Engineering contacted Parsons when the new utility/light pole was to be placed in the project area in February 2002. DelDOT agreed that the auger hole did not need to be monitored. The planned pole location was in close proximity to TU 1 and an STP, both showing the area to be disturbed by bulldozer activity and covered with overburden. The existing sidewalk and drain culvert area east and south of the high curb were removed and replaced with new asphalt paving before the removal of the high curb. The brick-lined culvert section revealed construction details from the 1940s. The storm drain had a concrete floor with brick sides, and

may have been placed directly on the old concrete/cement sidewalk in front of the Kielkopf House (see Figure 17). Terra cotta piping next to the exterior of the drain culvert was stamped "conduit", apparently used for a buried electrical wiring system. Following removal of the high curb, the edge of the cut provided a soil profile. Almost 30 cm of disturbed overburden was observed above the subsoil, with no developed A horizon present. No evidence associated with an earlier mid-19th century building, or with the early culvert and road construction along what is now Highway 13, was found.

Figure 24: Removal of the High Curb

Figure 25: Removal of the Eastern Portion of the High Curb

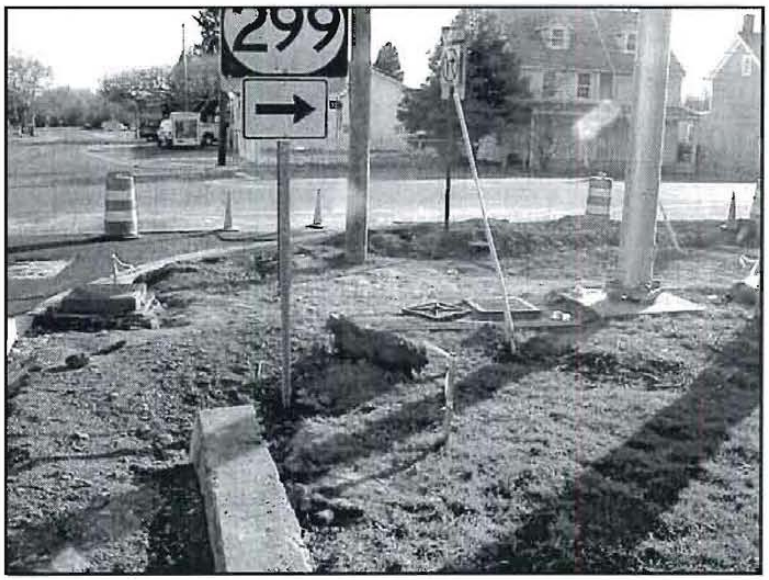

Figure 26: Corner After Removal of the High Curb; with a Portion of the Remaining High Curb Visible at the Bottom Center

Public Outreach

The public outreach program at the site occurred throughout fieldwork. The location of the site at the intersection of two major roads in Odessa drew many passersby. The local Odessa Historical Commission sent two representatives to inquire about the project. One Sun Times newspaper reporter and a local school group visited (Figure 27). A local junior high student also used the project for a school report in Middletown (Michael Brown, personal communication September 2000).

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NORTH ELEMENTARY STUDENTS VISIT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE. Patrick O'Neill, an archaeologist/historian from Parsons Engineering Science, Inc., showed the gifted and talented class from North Elementary of Smyrna the archaeological site on the corner of Routes 13 and 299 at Odessa. He was explained to them about the clues that show a house once sat on the corner. The site is being documented before Route 13 is widened there. (Photo by Valerie Lemoi)

Figure 27: School Group Tour on the Kielkopf House Site