

Conley dig starts

Mizzou students and professors are conducting an archaeological survey at the Conley House this fall, the first such effort ever carried out on campus.

The work began in September in the yard of the 1868 brick home listed on The National Register of Historic Places. The University recently began rehabilitating and restoring the Conley House to include areas of historic restoration, a gallery for cultural heritage exhibitions and offices for the Honors College and the Missouri Cultural Heritage Center.

The archaeological work on the grounds will help scholars and students understand the original site's biography and landscape, which once included an assortment of out-buildings and gardens typical of late 19th century Columbia.

"We've made a couple of discoveries, which are consistent with what we anticipated," says Robert Bray, associate professor of anthropology who is directing the study. "We have located a portion of a sidewalk and a portion of a limestone out-building that existed on the lot." Students also hope to discover artifacts that may help explain everyday life in the past. Both graduate and undergraduate students receive anthropology course credit for their participation.

The archaeological study will continue on Saturdays through early December. The materials located will be part of an exhibition on historic preservation at the University being developed by Osmund Overby, professor of art history and archaeology, and the Missouri Cultural Heritage Center.

The cultural heritage center organized the archaeological survey as a cooperative effort involving the Office of the University Architect, the Department of Anthropology and the Division of American Archaeology.