

VII. HISTORIC CONTEXT OF CAMP WRIGHT

This section includes a synopsis of the social, cultural, and political conditions of twentieth century Northern Delaware. Brief summaries of the two charities that operated Camp Wright and a detailed history of Camp Wright, with a description of how Camp Wright fits into the established historical context are presented.

The earliest inception of Camp Wright occurred during Delaware's Urbanization and Suburbanization Period (1880 to 1940). The end of Camp Wright was after the Suburbanization and Early Ex-Urbanization Period (1940 to 1960). Camp Wright is located in Mill Creek Hundred. However, its influence came from Wilmington, not Mill Creek Hundred. From its original inception, Camp Wright has always been a place for the youth of Wilmington to visit to experience country life. The context of Camp Wright lies more with Wilmington than it does Mill Creek Hundred. Therefore, the following section focuses more on the growth and evolution of Wilmington and not Mill Creek Hundred.

Starting in the Industrialization and Early Urbanization Period (1830 to 1880), populations were expanding, especially in urban centers like Wilmington (Hoffecker 1974). In 1837, railroads connected Wilmington with the larger cities of Baltimore and Philadelphia. Manufacturing was on the increase. Cotton, woolen mills, iron-casting, shipbuilding and numerous other industries were prevalent in Wilmington. For a one hundred year period, from 1830 until 1930, railcar manufacturing, shipbuilding, carriage manufacturing, and leather working (tanneries) were the four largest industries in Wilmington (LeeDecker et. al. 1990; Hoffecker 1974). Communities of workers living in close proximity to their place of employment were growing up around these factories (Klein and Friedlander 1983).

The growth and emergence of Wilmington as a manufacturing center started in the Early Urbanization Period and continued through the Urbanization and Suburbanization Period. During this period, there was a continued shift away from agrarian activities to manufacturing, industry, and trade occupations (De Cunzo and Catts 1990; Hoffecker 1974). The manufacturing and industrial expansion during this period was also reflected in the population growth (De Cunzo and Catts 1990; Hoffecker 1988). There was an almost fifty percent (49.32%) population increase each decade from 1860 to 1900 (Munroe 1984). However, during each decade from 1900 to 1950, the population of Wilmington grew only slightly over thirteen percent (13.37%). It is also important to note that in the decade of the 1930s, the population of Wilmington declined (Munroe 1984; Kent 1980). During the first ten years of the twentieth century, the work force of Wilmington grew by only 1.1% (Hoffecker 1974). By 1907, Wilmington was the seventh largest region in the nation in manufacturing (De Cunzo 2004).

From 1860 to 1880, the immigrant population only accounted for slightly more than twenty percent of the population. In 1900, the immigrant population was greater than fifty percent

(Hoffecker 1974). Many of these recent immigrants settled together in small communities (De Cunzo and Catts 1990; Hoffecker 1988).

Until the turn of the century, the largest companies in the city employed mostly skilled workers (Hoffecker 1974; Urban 1999). Immigrants were used mostly for non-skilled work. By the start of the twentieth century, manufacturing jobs were starting to diminish in Wilmington. By 1906, Du Pont opened its corporate headquarters in Wilmington, followed soon thereafter by companies such as Atlas and Hercules (Hoffecker 1974). This was the start of Wilmington's shift from industry and manufacturing toward the corporate capital it would become in the late twentieth century. Shifts toward corporate employment contributed to the growing number of middle class households (Ames et al 1989).

Transportation was a major factor in this period. An improved infrastructure of roads and bridges allowed faster and further migration of people. The trolley system allowed people to live away from their place of employment. Developments and communities started to become bound together by social and economic status rather than factory communities (Hoffecker 1974). The advent of the automobile also led to the exodus of work and population to the suburbs.

The Suburbanization and Early Ex-Urbanization Period was a very trying and difficult time for Wilmington, during which there was a decline in the overall population. At this time, there were a growing number of minorities relocating to Wilmington. As the corporations moved their headquarters into Wilmington, they moved their manufacturing and industrial jobs outside the city limits.

Beginning in the 1950s, Wilmington experienced a vicious cycle of job loss accompanied with increased crime and social unrest, which caused more firms to close or relocate. The movement of upper and middle class households to the suburbs exacerbated this cycle. During the 1960s, Wilmington experienced riots and an exodus of the middle class. The improved road network facilitated the relocations of businesses and people.

A. Charities Associated With Camp Wright

Around the middle of the nineteenth century, the economy, the social and political culture of Wilmington, Delaware, as well as the nation, changed. This was the start of "Big Business". Corporations had existed before but were limited to banking, insurance, and transportation. This was the time of Cornelius Vanderbilt, John D. Rockefeller, and "Robber Barron" Jay Gould. There was still child labor, no forty-hour workweek laws and deplorable working conditions (Hoffecker 1974). Being hurt, crippled, or killed on the job was not unusual. There was no Worker's Compensation; when the breadwinner was hurt, crippled or killed, there was no recourse for the rest of the family. A majority of the working class was living payday to payday. According to the United States Commission on Industrial Relations in 1915, a large part of the working class was living below the poverty line (Link et al 1987).

The upper class was very aware of the dire straits some of their fellow residents were forced to live. In response, charities were organized and created by churches or the wealthy upper class. The second generations of the wealthy industrialist were coming of age. They were very concerned with the social and cultural reflection of Wilmington, and were wealthy and highly educated. Most of the wealthy merchants/industrialists, political, and social leaders were still living within the boundaries of Wilmington along with their families (Hoffecker 1974). They were able to see the abject poverty in which their workers were forced to live almost beside them. The merchants/industrialists were making huge profits while the workers were scraping by and at times forced to ask for assistance. There was concern of social revolt by the working class (Hoffecker 1974). Wilmington was at a social and cultural crossroads. Wilmington wanted to be separate from and not considered a suburb of Philadelphia. Wilmington was trying to be its own independent city, with that came the responsibilities of reform.

Was the charity movement a part of Victorian ideology, Quaker morality, social consensus, or just what was expected? Regardless of the reason, the children and wives of the wealthy were driving forces behind many of the social changes of the time as well as the organizers of the early charities.

The local churches established many of the original charities of Delaware. They were created to assist the needy in their congregations and communities. It was quickly recognized that there was a need for charity on a greater scale and with a more coordinated effort.

In 1869, the people of London, England formed the first charitable organization in an attempt to unite various other charities under one umbrella. This was done in order to facilitate charitable giving and to curtail fraud (Historical Society of Delaware, Bill Frank Collection). Delaware was to follow suit several years later with the organization of Associated Charities.

Based on project review of the Associated Charities Annual Reports, there were several advantages of a larger charitable origination. Advantages of a larger charitable organization are as follows:

- ability to buy in bulk to pass along savings;
- ability to assist more needing individuals;
- ability to detect fraud from individuals going from charity to charity to get multiple assistance;
- national database of cheats and frauds; and
- send individuals to organizations that can assist them more effectively.

Throughout Delaware, many of the same names are associated with multiple charities and charitable organizations. Founders and volunteers of one charity were also involved in and/or founded many other organizations, charities, and foundations (Hoffecker 1974).

I. Associated Charities

The Associated Charities of Wilmington was organized to combine the charities of the Friends Benevolent Society (1800), St. Vincent de Paul Society (1845), and the Provident Society (1875) (Associated Charities 1934; Historical Society of Delaware, Bill Frank Collection).

The Associated Charities of Wilmington was incorporated by an Act of the Senate and the House of Representatives of Delaware on March 19, 1885 (Delaware Historical Society Scrapbook Collection; www.accessible.com/amcnty/DE/Delaware/delaware39.htm; Reed 1947). The Associated Charities did not necessarily dole out money to the needy. It was their mission to discourage those who would not help themselves and those who were double dipping from numerous charities. They provided work, paid individuals for their said work, and pointed the needy to the charity that could best fulfill their needs (Hoffecker 1974, Munroe 1984). The aim of the organization was not to provide money/aid to families/persons in need, but rather attempts to assist in fixing the social problems that were at the root of the problem. This is evident from a quote given by Mrs. B. Ethelda Mullin in 1950: “the minutes of the organization meeting define the aim of the Associated Charities as follows: “To recognize the difference between the poor who strive to gain an honest living and are prevented by accident, illness or other misfortune, and paupers who resort to begging as a profession, and to insure that all who have fallen into distress and are willing to work shall be wisely helped to regain self support, and those who are involuntarily in need of support shall be promptly relieved”.” (Historical Society of Delaware, Bill Frank Collection).

The original members of the Associated Charities were: Mr. John H. Adams (President); Mrs. A. D. Warner (Vice-President); Mr. Daniel W. Taylor (Secretary); and Mr. Edward T. Betts (Treasurer). Messrs. J. Taylor Gause, George W. Bush, George S. Capelle, William G. Gibbons, James Bradford, Lewis C. Vandegrift, T. Allen Hilles and Alfred D. Warner were all elected to the Board of Managers. Mrs. Joseph Bellah, Mrs. Mary B. Pyle, Miss Mary D. Sission, Mrs. Robert P. Johnson, Miss Hosephine Warner, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bringhurst, Mrs. Bankson Holcomb, Mrs. Margaret C. Pyle, Mrs. E. W. Herbst, and Mrs. A. D. Warner were all district chairmen (Associated Charities 1934, 1885; www.accessible.com/amcnty/DE/Delaware/delaware39.htm).

The Associated Charities were responsible for starting numerous organizations, laws, reforms, and initiatives in Delaware. Some of their more notable projects from their inception until their sale of Camp Wright, were as follows:

- organized a sick diet kitchen (Associated Charities 1889, 1934; Historical Society of Delaware, Bill Frank Collection);
- instrumental in getting the State of Delaware to create the New Castle County Workhouse (Associated Charities 1934; Historical Society of Delaware, Bill Frank Collection; Munroe 1984);
- pivotal in the enactment of a law to prohibit children from being placed into the County Almshouse (Associated Charities 1934; Historical Society of Delaware, Bill Frank Collection);

- teamed with the New Century Club to help get the State Legislature to pass the compulsory school law in 1905 (Associated Charities 1934);
- a visiting nurse committee was organized in 1909. In 1916, the Visiting Nurse Association was organized under Miss Marie T. Lockwood. In 1922, the Visiting Nurse Association separated from Associated Charities (Historical Society of Delaware, Bill Frank Collection; Associated Charities 1924, 1934; Munroe 1984, Reed 1947);
- the Confidential Exchange, which became the Delaware Social Service Exchange, was organized in 1916 (Historical Society of Delaware, Bill Frank Collection);
- went on to help start the Young Women’s Christian Association of Delaware, and a free kindergarten (Associated Charities 1934); and
- merged with Travelers’ Aid Society (www.cffde.org/history.htm).

The Associated Charities has gone by many names since its inception. **Table 1** provides a chronological list of the name changes and the dates of said changes.

Table 1: Name Changes Associated with Associated Charities

Name	Years
Associated Charities	1884-1931
Family Society	1931-1955
Family Service of Northern Delaware	1955-1983
Family Service Delaware	1983-1997
Children & Families First	1997-Present

2. *West End Neighborhood House*

The West End Athletic Club was formed in 1883. Miss Emily Bissell was the driving force behind the organization of the club. She wanted to provide the youth of the community a constructive outlet for their youthful exuberance. In 1891, the organization was incorporated as the West End Reading Room. The goal of the organization was to strengthen the body and spiritual mind of the members. In 1914, the Italian Neighborhood House was opened. It was not until 1936 that the organization became known as the West End Neighborhood House (Hulse 1983; West End Neighborhood House 1951).

The West End Neighborhood House has gone by several names since its inception. **Table 2** provides a chronological list of the name changes and the dates of said changes.

Table 2: Name Changes Associated with West End Neighborhood House

Name	Years
West End Athletic Club	1883-1891
West End Reading Room	1891-1914
Italian Neighborhood House	1914-1936
West End Neighborhood House	1936-Present

Their initiatives, programs, and activities before 1954 are too numerous to list and occurred before West End Neighborhood House signed a lease with the Associated Charities for Camp Wright. During the 1970s and 1980s, the West End Neighborhood House was providing day-care, tutoring programs, and training to the community. Today they continue to provide the same services as they did in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They are still providing programs and activities to keep people physically fit; as well as programs to help individuals find jobs, get a General Education Diploma (GED), and other basic life programs (www.westendnh.org/history.htm).

B. Camp Wright History

The concept of Camp Wright began in 1889 with the Committee on Summer Work (Committee). There were two distinct activities planned by the Committee: a field trip and Vacation School. On June 25, 1889, the Committee took 175 women and children to Birmingham Park for a day of relaxation and clean air. With the assistance of donations, the Vacation School opened. The Committee was totally unprepared for the unprecedented attendance and need of the program. After initial estimates of thirty to fifty children, the opening day attendance was eighty-five and children were turned away for the first week. By the end of the fourth week, the average attendance was 132 children. The program was geared for boys and girls ages eight to sixteen. However, children from two to five years old were also accepted. The program had numerous activities for the children, including sewing, clay modeling, and scrap booking. Physical activities were also stressed. The total expenses for Vacation School in 1889, were \$64.25 (Associated Charities 1889).

The success of this endeavor stimulated Associated Charities to start Country Week. Country Week obtained housing for women and children at local farms for one week during the summer. The goals and reasons for Country Week can best be summed up by a quote from Mary A. T. Clark in the *Tenth Annual Report of the Associated Charities of Wilmington Delaware*.

“There were many families who had not been reached during the winter through the Relief and Employment Bureaus, whose struggle for independence had been so long and hard, that little energy was left to battle with the burden during the excessive hot weather. The continued daily drudgery and privation, with large families, limited space, and no prospect of a better condition have a demoralizing tendency; the weary wife and mother has almost lost interest in life and her duties are performed mechanically.

It is then that our Country Week comes in so fittingly, and gives a change and rest from cramped apartments and scant provision, to broad fields and comfortable homes where pure air and sunshine with plenty of wholesome food, for a week or fortnight, give new life to the tired mother and her little ones.” (Associated Charities 1895).

In 1894, Country Week started on July 1 and ran for two months. Country Week helped one hundred mothers and children and sent them to places such as Gordon Heights and Chester County. The budget does not mention Country Week; however, there is notation of a Fresh Air Fund. Donations to the Fresh Air Fund were \$191.97 and expenses were \$285.28, which left a balance of \$8.79 in the Fresh Air Fund (Associated Charities 1895).

In 1898, the Fresh Air Fund and Country Week seemed to be interchangeable. The Fresh Air Fund sent ninety-seven individuals to the country. Country Week provided for ninety-seven women and children in the same year. The people were sent to farms in Chester County, Pennsylvania; Brandywine Hundred, Delaware; and Faulkland, Delaware. Two groups were also sent to Birmingham Park. Country Week had a balance on hand of \$112.77. Donations of \$137.00 and expenditures of \$177.18, for an ending balance of \$72.59 (Associated Charities 1898, 1934; Hoffecker 1974; Munroe 1984).

In 1916, the Children's Camp Committee rented a farm in Beaver Valley. This was the official start of Children's Camp. However, in 1919, a piece of property in Hockessin became available for purchase (Associated Charities 1934; Reed 1947). Through the efforts of Emily Bissell, the property in Hockessin was acquired for use as a camp (Historical Society of Delaware, Bill Frank Collection). The property was purchased from Edna S. Wilson (Widow) by Associated Charities of Wilmington on February 2, 1920 for \$8,000.00 and was subject to the payment of a \$4,000.00 mortgage (New Castle County Deed Record F, Volume 29, Page 167). Children's Camp was named after Peter T. Wright (Associated Charities 1934).

The Wilmington Flower Market was founded by Mrs. A. Felix Du Pont to fund two local charities. One of those charities was Camp Wright. In 1921, over \$1,500.00 was raised for the two charities (www.wilmingtonflowermarket.org/html/history.html; Historical Society of Delaware, Bill Frank Collection; Associated Charities 1934). The first building on Camp Wright was built with the money donated from the Wilmington Flower Market (Historical Society of Delaware, Bill Frank Collection; Associated Charities 1934). Camp Wright opened the summer of 1921 (Associated Charities 1934; Family Society 1947, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954).

The Children's Camp opened on June 30, 1923 and closed August 30, 1923. During the summer 125 children, twenty-five at a time, were treated to ten days at Camp Wright. Activities included playground, baseball, picnics, and swimming. Staff consisted of one cook and two playground monitors. Two structures at the camp consisted of a bunkhouse and a kitchen /dining room. The bunkhouse had an eighty-foot screened-in porch, and the kitchen/dining room was also screened. During the year, receipts for the Children's Camp were \$2,706.69 and expenses were \$3,310.29. The 1923 budget of the Associated Charities stated a liability of \$4,000.00 on a farm near Mendenhall Mills, Delaware (Camp Wright); while funds for Children's Camp were \$6,946.95. Interestingly, the Certified Public Accountant who certified the budget is Peter T. Wright (Associated Charities 1924). It is unknown if this is the same person the camp was named after.

In 1931, the Associated Charities changed its name to Family Society (www.cffde.org/history.htm; Historical Society of Delaware, Bill Frank Collection; Associated Charities 1934; New Castle County Deed Book C-86, Page 114).

In 1942, over 200 boys and girls attended camp (Family Society 1942).

As of 1946, the camp provided accommodations for fifty children. The children ranged in age from six to twelve. The camp season was eight weeks long. The children stayed for two-week periods, alternating between boys and girls. Each child was assigned camp duties at the start of camp. There was a free health examination for each child by the State Board of Health. Caseworkers provided a summary on each child selected for camp. The camp director then used this summary to select appropriate duties and activities for each child. After the child completed camp, a report was filed with the Family Society by the camp director. The Family Society then worked with the family of the child to help the child in future endeavors (Family Society 1947; Reed 1947).

Major renovations were finished on Camp Wright in 1950 so that the camp would meet the standards of the National Camping Association. The two old bunkhouses were remodeled. Each bunkhouse now had a central bathroom and a sleeping unit on each end. A new bunkhouse was built; it too had a central bathroom and sleeping unit on each end. Each of the six sleeping units could accommodate eight children. A new water system was put into operation. The water system, in addition to serving the new bathrooms in the bunkhouses, also supplied hot water, a playground drinking fountain, and kitchen improvements. In 1950, Camp Wright was used by 199 children, of which thirty-five were special needs children (Family Society 1951).

In 1951, the Family Society spent \$8,780.05 on operating expenses and \$3,472.36 on camp repairs. The camp generated \$1,226.14 in revenue in the form of fees and contributions. Children who attended the camp were from families who could not otherwise afford to send their children to a summer camp (Family Society 1952).

Children who could not go to other summer camps once again benefited from Camp Wright in 1952. That year, the operating expenses were \$14,298.19 while camp repairs were \$928.79. Camp fees and contributions generated \$1,938.99 in revenue (Family Society 1953).

Camp Wright produced \$1,423.02 in camp fees and contributions while spending \$13,061.40 in operating expenses in 1953 (Family Society 1954).

The Welfare Council approached the West End Neighborhood House in 1954, about having the Family Society transfer Camp Wright to the control of West End Neighborhood House. An agreement was reached between United Fund, Family Society, and West End Neighborhood House. A three-year lease was signed between West End Neighborhood House and Family Society. A joint committee was formed between members of both charities, with United Fund providing monetary support (Hulse 1983). In 1954, Camp

Wright's revenue from camp fees and contributions was \$1,619.01. The operating expenses for Camp Wright were \$13,241.80 (Family Society 1955).

Family Society changed its name to the Family Service of Northern Delaware in 1955. There was a change in the ages of the children admitted to Camp Wright. Boys and girls age eight to twelve were accepted to the camp instead of six to twelve year olds. During that year, 196 children attended Camp Wright. In 1955, Family Service of Northern Delaware had no revenue from Camp Wright and only expended \$385.85 (Family Service of Northern Delaware 1956).

In 1957, the second three-year lease was signed between Family Service of Northern Delaware and West End Neighborhood House. However, in 1958 West End Neighborhood House requested, and received a long-term lease for Camp Wright. According to Carl Mazzarelli, who worked at Camp Wright from 1952 until 1965, all of the present structures at Camp Wright were in place before the West End Neighborhood House took control of the camp (Mazzarelli 2006).

This was the start of the tenure of the West End Neighborhood House. On March 21, 1972, the West End Neighborhood House bought the property from Family Service of Northern Delaware (AKA Family Society, Associated Charities) for five dollars (New Castle County Deed Book C-86 Page 114).

During the 1950s and 1960s, the West End Neighborhood House primarily worked with Italian-Americans from the community that they serviced (Calistro 2006). The 1960s saw a change in the racial make up of their community and, in 1961, the West End Neighborhood House opened Camp Wright to African-Americans. From the start of the tenure of West End Neighborhood House control of Camp Wright, the camp was opened to children from throughout the city. However, children of their community were given priority. Camp fees were based on a complicated system that factored in the family income. No child was turned away for financial reasons (Hulse 1983).

Camp Wright was still structured as a series of two-week summer camps for younger children from the 1970s until its eventual closure. The children were from the inner city and their ages ranged from seven to fourteen (Hulse 1983; Calistro 2006; Mazzarelli 2006). Camp Wright introduced numerous outdoor activities such as hiking, archery, camp craft, arts and crafts, swimming, softball, and other nature activities to young boys and girls. The camp also provided movies in the evening and a hayride (Hulse 1983; Mazzarelli 2006).

In 1975, with a grant from the United Way, a series of renovations and repairs were completed on Camp Wright (Hulse 1983).

Starting in the 1970s, there was a decline in the use of Camp Wright as a summer camp. Other programs that utilized Camp Wright during this time period were a Senior Citizens program and various overnight programs. Around 1980, the last of the summer camps was held at Camp Wright. However, this was not the end of the usefulness of Camp Wright. Senior Citizen programs to get seniors to the country for fresh air and relaxation were still

very popular. During the 1980s, Camp Wright was used as a day camp and for retreats. Another popular activity was the annual Haunted House sponsored with the Wilmington Jaycees (**Figures 7 and 8**). This remained very popular until the onslaught of commercial Haunted Houses in the late 1990s (Calistro 2006).

The next major renovation at Camp Wright was around 1993. This is when the buildings were raised and placed on the current foundations. The interiors of the buildings were also renovated (Calistro 2006).

In 2000, the New Castle County Police Department used the camp for a program to have inner city youths meet and work with the police department. The same year an Eagle Scout project for the Boy Scouts of America renovated the bunkhouse on the top of the hill at Camp Wright (Calistro 2006).

Appendix I contains various photographs depicting activities at Camp Wright.

C. Land Use History of the Camp Wright Property

The earliest owner of the property that would eventually become known as Camp Wright was Samuel Huston. Background research was unable to identify anyone from which Samuel Huston bought the property. Samuel Huston's will was dated June 17, 1813 and probated May 1, 1815. Samuel Huston had very specific instruction in his will. He bequeathed \$300.00 to each of his three daughters, Elizabeth (Muskimmans), Margaret (Springer), and Sarah Huston. He also gave fifty acres to Alexander Huston. The remainder of the property was given to James. His wife (Margaret) and daughter (Sarah) were to have life rights to a house on the property for the rest of their natural life or until they married, and James Huston was to provide wood and numerous other items to care for them. Water rights were also given to a springhouse on the property (New Castle County Will Book R-1-73).

James Huston died intestate. Upon his death, John Miskimmans organized a public auction to sell the land of James Huston. The following were then named the heirs of James Huston:

- Hugh Huston and Eleanor (wife);
- John Miskimmans and Elizabeth (wife), through Elizabeth;
- Alexander Huston;
- Samuel Huston and Isabella (wife);
- Sarah Huston;
- William Baldwin and Mary (wife), through Mary;
- John Ocheltree and Elizabeth (wife) through Elizabeth;
- Stephen Springer and Margaret (wife), through Margaret;
- Samuel Donnell, heir-at-law; and
- James Donnell, heir-at-law.

At the public auction, Stephen Springer was the highest bidder with a bid of \$5,048.47. Stephen Springer purchased 152 acres, 157.44 perches±. However, due to the fact that he

LOOKING FOR
CHILLS AND
THRILLS ???

COME TO THE
WILMINGTON JAYCEES

HAUNTED HOUSE

OCTOBER
21-22 & 27-29, 31
7 - 10 P.M.

\$5 BUCKS & A BRAVE SOUL
GETS YOU IN. . .

CAMP WRIGHT

HOCKESSIN
PIKE CREEK AREA
PARK AT THE PIKE CREEK
SHOPPING CENTER
SHUTTLE BUSES
TO AND FROM "CAMP FRIGHT"

FOR MORE INFO CALL 239-4030



Flyer for Camp Fright
at Camp Wright

**OCT. 21-23 &
OCT. 28-30
7-10 PM
\$4 BUCKS & A
BRAVE SOUL
Gets You In. . .**

**LOOKING FOR CHILLS & THRILLS ???
Come to the Wilmington Jaycees**

**HAUNTED
HOUSE**

**Camp Fright • Hockessin, Pike Creek Area
Park at the Pike Creek Shopping Ctr. in front of WSFS
Shuttle Buses to & from "Camp Fright"**

**Bring in This Ad
for \$1⁰⁰ OFF 1 admission**

Sponsored by Wilmington Jaycees. Proceeds Benefit
The West End Neighborhood House

**Newspaper Ad for
Camp Fright
at Camp Wright**

was also a seller of the property, he only paid \$4,327.27. A deed was recorded on March 1, 1827 (New Castle County Record E, Book 4, Page 423).

It was then revealed that, due to the life rights clause and the fact that Sarah Huston was still alive, the whole proceeding was sent to the Court of Common Pleas. Chief Judge James Booth, after taking depositions from all parties, ruled on March 21, 1827. Stephen Springer paid Sarah Huston and additional \$500.00 and the property was declared free and clear (New Castle County Record E, Book 4, Page 423).

Stephen Springer's will dated October 16, 1842 left his property to his sons James and Stephen (Jr.). James was to receive fifty acres of the main farm he bought from the estate of Samuel Huston and the fifty acres of land that formerly belonged to Alexander Huston. Sheriff Peter Vandever by writ of fieri facias, foreclosed on Alexander Huston's property. Alexander Huston owed Jacob Rubencame a debit of \$293.36 and damages of \$1.10. Stephen Springer bought the property at public auction for \$605.00. Stephen (Jr.) was to receive the remainder of the main farm, as well as the house Stephen (Sr.) lived in and a house across the creek. Life rights were granted to his widow as long as she was to remain his widow (New Castle County Will Book U-1-183).

The property that was to become Camp Wright was part of the parcel given to Stephen Springer (Jr.).

Before Stephen Springer (Jr.) could sell, the property, there was an Article of Agreement between the heirs of Stephen Springer (Sr.) and Jonathan Hooper. The heirs of Stephen Springer (Sr.) were as follows:

- Margaret Springer (widow);
- James Springer;
- Stephen Springer (Jr.);
- Elizabeth Jane Springer;
- Archibald Armstrong and Sarah (wife), through Sarah;
- Margaret Springer (Jr.); and
- Amanda Springer.

The boundaries between the heirs of Stephen Springer (Sr.) and Jonathan Hooper were found to be "inconvenient". Jonathan Hooper paid \$200.00 to the heirs of Stephen Springer (Sr.) to clarify the boundaries. The Article of Agreement was filed on February 11, 1854 (New Castle County Record U, Book 6, Page 515).

Stephen Springer (Jr.) and Mary Springer (wife) sold the property to Robert S. Springer on December 8, 1892. The property contained 103.25 acres±. Robert Springer paid \$3,600 for the property (New Castle County Record Y, Book 15, Page 264).

Robert S. Springer and Margaret A. Springer (wife) took out a mortgage from Elizabeth F. Wright on December 8, 1898 for \$3,000.00. Elizabeth F. Wright took Robert and Mary Springer to Superior Court for failure to pay the mortgage. Elizabeth F. Wright received a

judgment for the \$3,000.00 mortgage plus \$21.52 interest since December 8, 1898. Sheriff John E. Taylor by writ of fieri facias from the Superior Court, foreclosed on Robert and Mary Springer's property. A public auction was held on January 26, 1900 at which time George Klair bought the property for \$3,525.00. The property contained 103.25 acres± (New Castle County Record E, Book 18, Page 216).

George Klair and Sarah S. Klair (wife) sold the property to Irvin V. Gregg on March 27, 1900 for \$5,000.00. The property contained 103.25 acres± (New Castle County Record E, Book 18, Page 470).

Irvin V. Gregg and Rebecca Gregg (wife) had a mortgage from George Klair on (New Castle County Mortgage Record G, Volume 9, Page 395). The mortgage was for \$4,000.00. To pay on the mortgage, Irvin V. and Rebecca (wife) Gregg paid George Klair \$800.00 in order to file a quitclaim deed on sixteen acres of the original tract (New Castle County Record L, Volume 19, Page 175).

In March 22, 1909, Irvin V. and Rebecca (wife) Gregg sold a tract to Edna S. Wilson (widow) for \$6,000.00. The tract was composed of two parcels with several exceptions. Parcel 1 consisted of 103.25 acres±. Parcel 1 itself had two exceptions. Exception 1 was sixteen acres and sixty-two square perches±, which Irvin V. and Rebecca (wife) Gregg sold to Rebecca E. Malin on April 10, 1903 (New Castle County Record K, Volume 19, Page 326). Exception 2 was 0.062 acres±, which Irvin V. and Rebecca (wife) Gregg sold to The West Chester, Kennett, and Wilmington Electric Railway Company on January 7, 1905 (New Castle County Record D, Volume 20, Page 129). Parcel 2 was an unknown size piece of property that Rebecca Gregg received from Alfred S. Elliott and Annie B. Elliot (wife) on March 22, 1901 (recorded in New Castle County Record N, Volume 18, Page 543). Parcel 2 also had an easement to allow access to a spring and springhouse. There was also another exception, which was an unknown size piece of property sold by Irvin V. and Rebecca (wife) Gregg to Arnold Naudian. The property was sold for \$75.00 on March 11, 1909 and recorded in New Castle County Record F, Volume 22, Page 332. The parcel sold to Arnold Naudian also contained the easement to the spring and springhouse (New Castle County Record H, Volume 22, Page 92).

On February 2, 1920, Edna S. Wilson (widow) sold the same property to the Associated Charities of Wilmington for \$8,000.00. The description of the property is the same two parcels with the three exceptions and one easement (New Castle County Record F, Volume 29, Page 167).

The Family Service of Northern Delaware, Inc. (formerly known as Family Society Inc. and as Associated Charities Inc.) sold to West End Neighborhood House Inc. a parcel of land containing 7.701 acres± on March 21, 1972. The property is referred to as Camp Wright. West End Neighborhood House Inc. paid \$5.00 for the property (New Castle County Record C, Volume 86, Page 114). There is no mention of the easement for the spring and springhouse in this deed.

West End Neighborhood House, Inc. sold Camp Wright to New Castle County on February 7, 2006. New Castle County paid \$400,000.00 for the 7.483 acres±. There is no mention of the easement to the spring and springhouse. However, there is an easement that the property, for perpetuity, must remain a recreational or open space according to the Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund, 30 Del. C. Chapter 54, §5423(d)(4). Reference number 20060207-0013099 records the deed in New Castle County.

New Castle County is the present owner of Camp Wright.

It is also important to note that the easement to the spring and springhouse on Camp Wright is still in existence. Background research revealed that the property identified as Tax Parcel Number 08-025.00-041 retains an easement to the spring and springhouse on Camp Wright. Microfilm Record No. 2729 denotes water rights as referenced in New Castle County Record W, Volume 22, Page 337. These are the same water rights described in New Castle County Record H, Volume 22, Page 92 and New Castle County Record F, Volume 29, Page 167. It is unknown if any other property adjacent to Camp Wright retain the water rights. These water rights most likely originated in Samuel Huston's Will was dated June 17, 1813 and probated May 1, 1815.

Table 3 is the Summary Chain of Title for Camp Wright.

Figures 9 through **Figure 13** depict historic maps of Camp Wright and the surrounding area.

D. Archaeological Implications

Although there is a large amount of information on archaeological sites and aboveground historic properties that date to the later postcontact time periods, especially those that span the twentieth century, most of this information was obtained through examinations on the end of the life cycle of these sites. In Delaware, archaeological research at sites with occupations that begin during the Urbanization and Suburbanization Period (1880 to 1940), has been limited. According to De Cunzo (2004), of the 684 historic archaeological sites on record in Delaware by the year 2000, only sixty-four sites (roughly 9.3%) postdate 1880. Similarly low proportions for geographic subregions of the state also demonstrate the underrepresentation of the twentieth century in archaeological databases. For example, in the Piedmont (within which Camp Wright is located), only nineteen sites, approximately eight percent of the total number of recorded historic sites in New Castle County outside of the Wilmington's boundaries (n= 243), date to the Urbanization and Suburbanization Period (De Cunzo 2004). Interestingly, in regard to the Urbanization and Suburbanization Period, it is only the beginning for Camp Wright.

According to the *Management Plan for Delaware's Historical Archaeological Resources*, Camp Wright falls into the research domain of Social Group Identity, Behavior, and Interaction. Unfortunately, this is usually a catch-all category for archaeological sites that do not fit neatly in to the other research domains. This domain consists of the part of human groups associated with family and Kinship, ethnic identity and behavior, religious beliefs and

Table 3: Summary Chain-of-Title

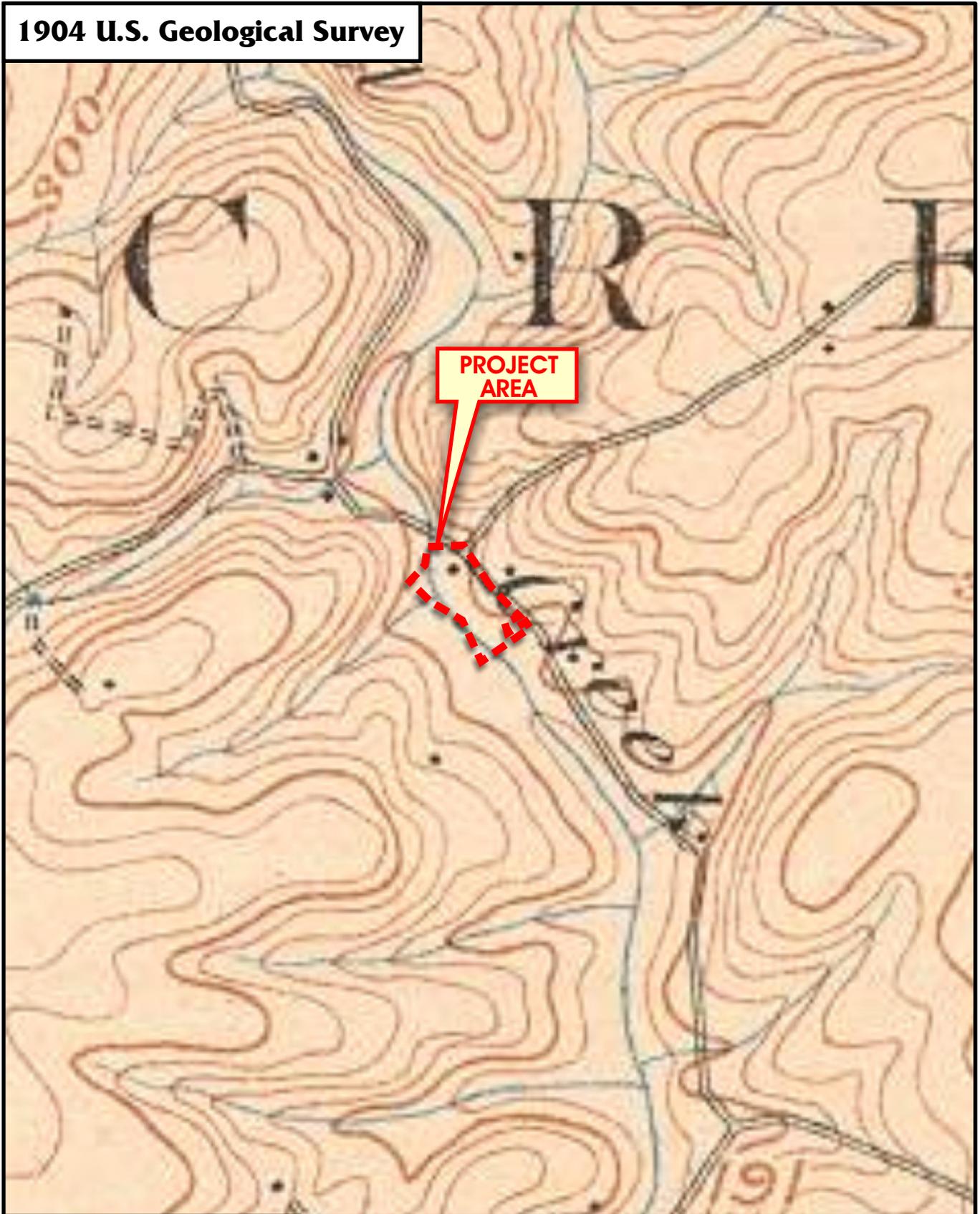
From (Grantor)	To (Grantee)	Size	Price	Date	Reference (Volume/Book/Page)
Samuel Huston	James Huston, Margaret Huston, Sarah Huston*	N/A	Will	June 17, 1813 (dated); May 1, 1815 (probated)	Will Book: R-1-73
James Huston	Hugh Huston and Eleanor (wife); John Miskimmans and Elizabeth (wife), through Elizabeth; Alexander Huston; Samuel Huston and Isabella (wife); Sarah Huston; William Baldwin and Mary (wife), through Mary; John Ocheltree and Elizabeth (wife) through Elizabeth; Stephen Springer and Margaret (wife), through Margaret; Samuel Donnell (heir-at-law); and James Donnell (heir-at-law).	N/A	Intestate	N/A	Deed Book: E/4/423
Hugh Huston and Eleanor (wife); John Miskimmans and Elizabeth (wife), through Elizabeth; Alexander Huston; Samuel Huston and Isabella (wife); Sarah Huston; William Baldwin and Mary (wife), through Mary; John Ocheltree and Elizabeth (wife) through Elizabeth; Stephen Springer and Margaret (wife), through Margaret; Samuel Donnell (heir-at-law); and James Donnell (heir-at-law).	Stephen Springer**	152 Acres 157.44 Perches±	\$5,048.47 (bid at public auction) \$4,327.27 (paid due to partial interest)	March 1, 1827	Deed Book: E/4/423
Stephen Springer (Sr.)	Stephen Springer (Jr.)	Remainder of estate that did not go to James Springer (brother)	Will	Will dated October 16, 1842	Will Book: U-1-183
Stephen Springer (Jr.) and Mary (wife)	Robert S. Springer	103.25 Acres±	\$3,600.00	December 18, 1892	Deed Book: Y/15/264
Robert S. Springer and Margaret A. (wife)	Sheriff John E. Taylor	103.25 Acres±	Foreclosure		Deed Book: E/18/216
Sheriff John E. Taylor	George Klair	103.25 Acres±	\$3,525.00	Public Auction January 26, 1900	Deed Book: E/18/216
George Klair and Sarah S. (wife)	Irvin V. Gregg	103.25 Acres±	\$5,000.00	March 27, 1900	Deed Book: E/18/470
Irvin V. Gregg and Rebecca (wife)*	Edna S. Wilson (widow)*	***	\$6,000.00	March 22, 1909	Deed Book: H/22/92
Edna S. Wilson (widow)*	Associated Charities of Wilmington*	***	\$8,000.00	February 2, 1920	Deed Book: F/29/167
The Family Service of Northern Delaware, Inc. (AKA: Associated Charities of Wilmington)	West End Neighborhood House, Inc.	7.701 Acres±	\$5.00	March 21, 1972	Deed Book: C/86/114
West End Neighborhood House, Inc.	New Castle County	7.483 Acres±	\$400,000.00	February 7, 2006	20060207-0013099

* Water Rights were granted to access a spring and spring house.

** Chief Judge James Booth, Court of Common Pleas, Ruled on March 21, 1827. The property actually belonged to Sarah Huston and Stephen Springer paid Sarah and additional \$500.00 to resolve the problem.

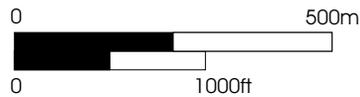
*** The property consists of 103.25 Acres± with three exceptions and one easement making an unknown size piece of property.

1904 U.S. Geological Survey



McCormick Taylor, Inc., Newark, DE, 19713

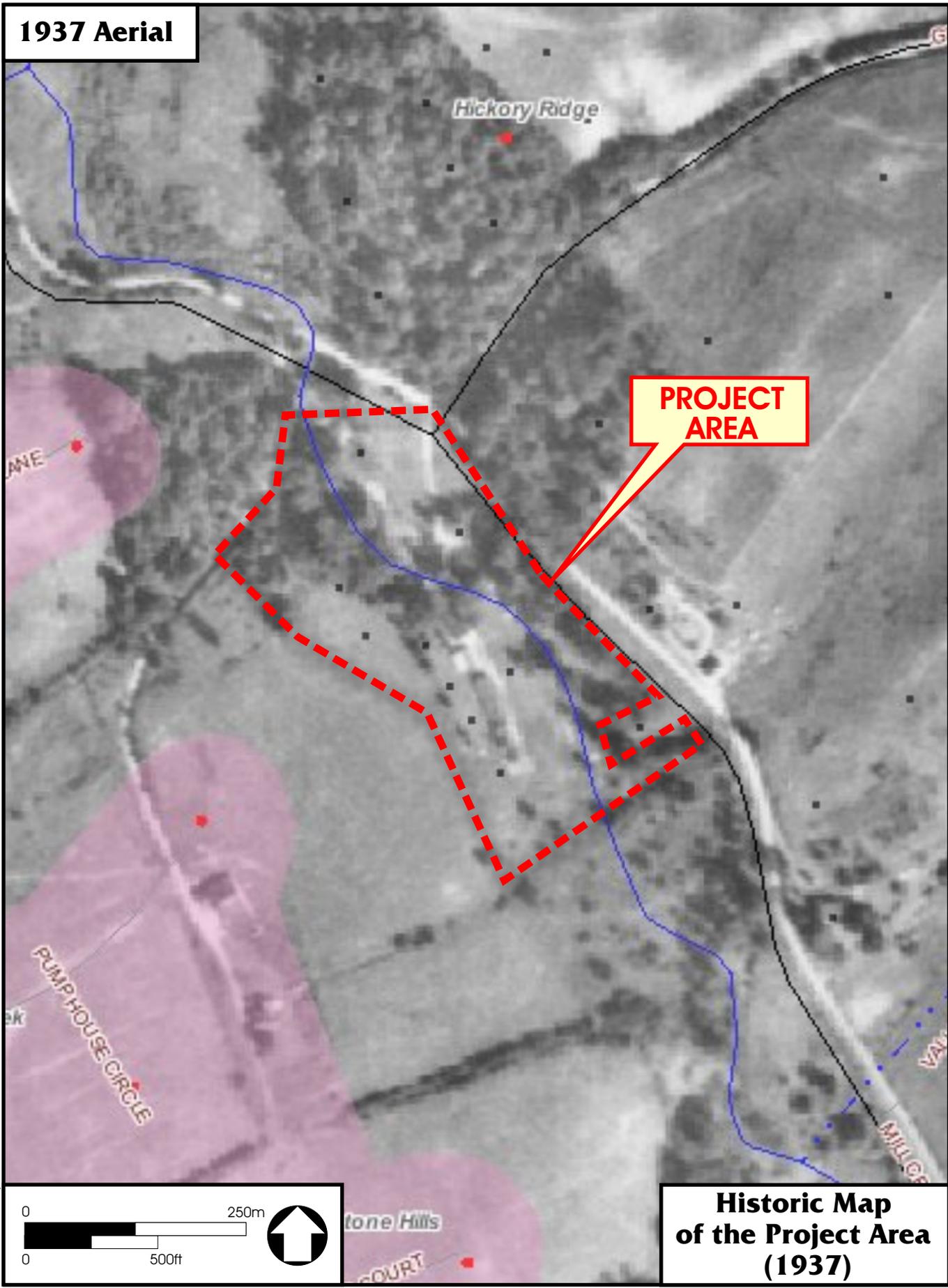
Base Mapping Source:
U.S.G.S. Topo Quadrangle -
PA-DE, West Chester (1904).



**Historic Map
of the Project Area
(1904)**

FIGURE 9

1937 Aerial



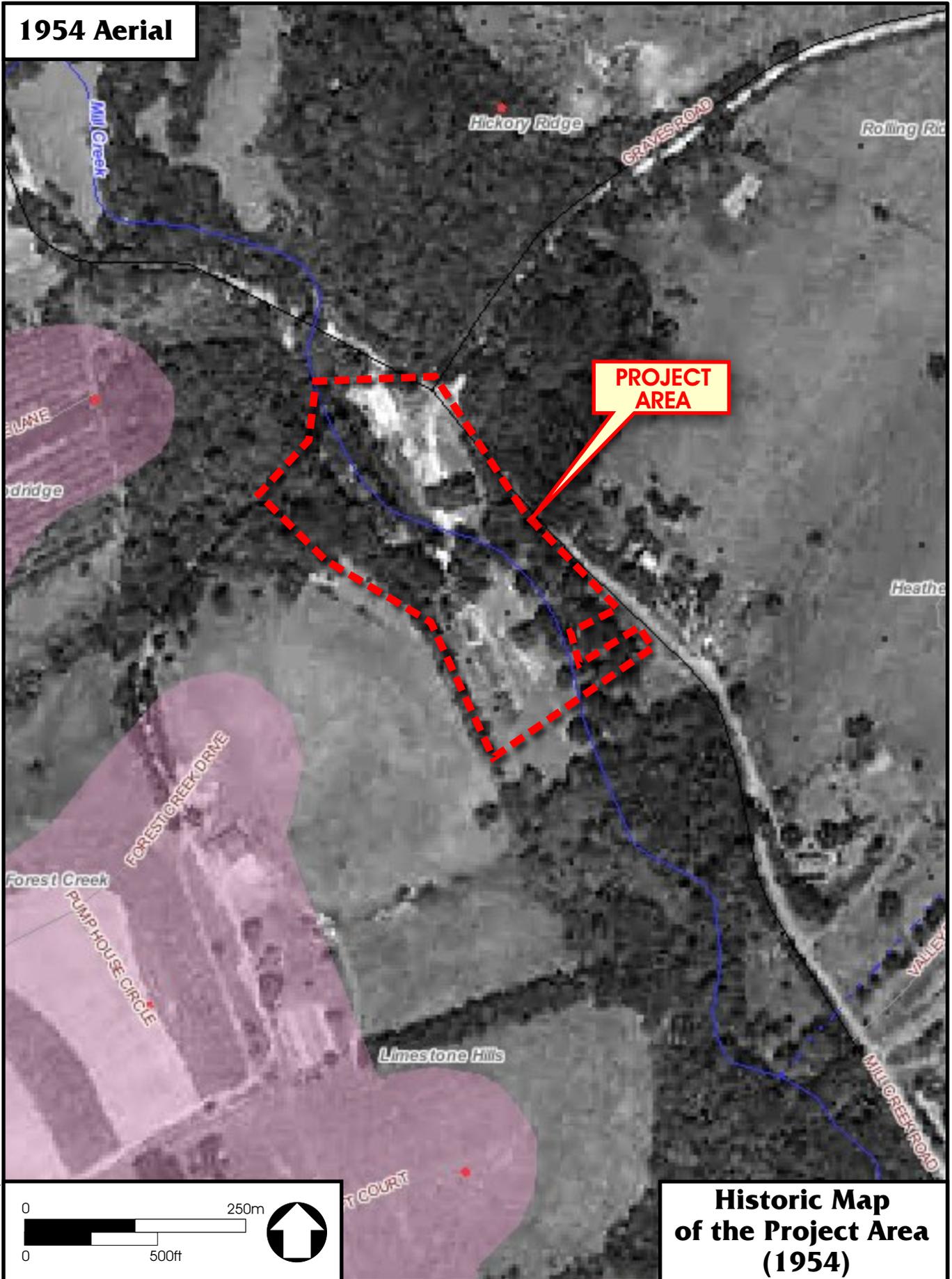
**PROJECT
AREA**

**Historic Map
of the Project Area
(1937)**

McCormick Taylor, Inc., Newark, DE, 19713

FIGURE 10

1954 Aerial

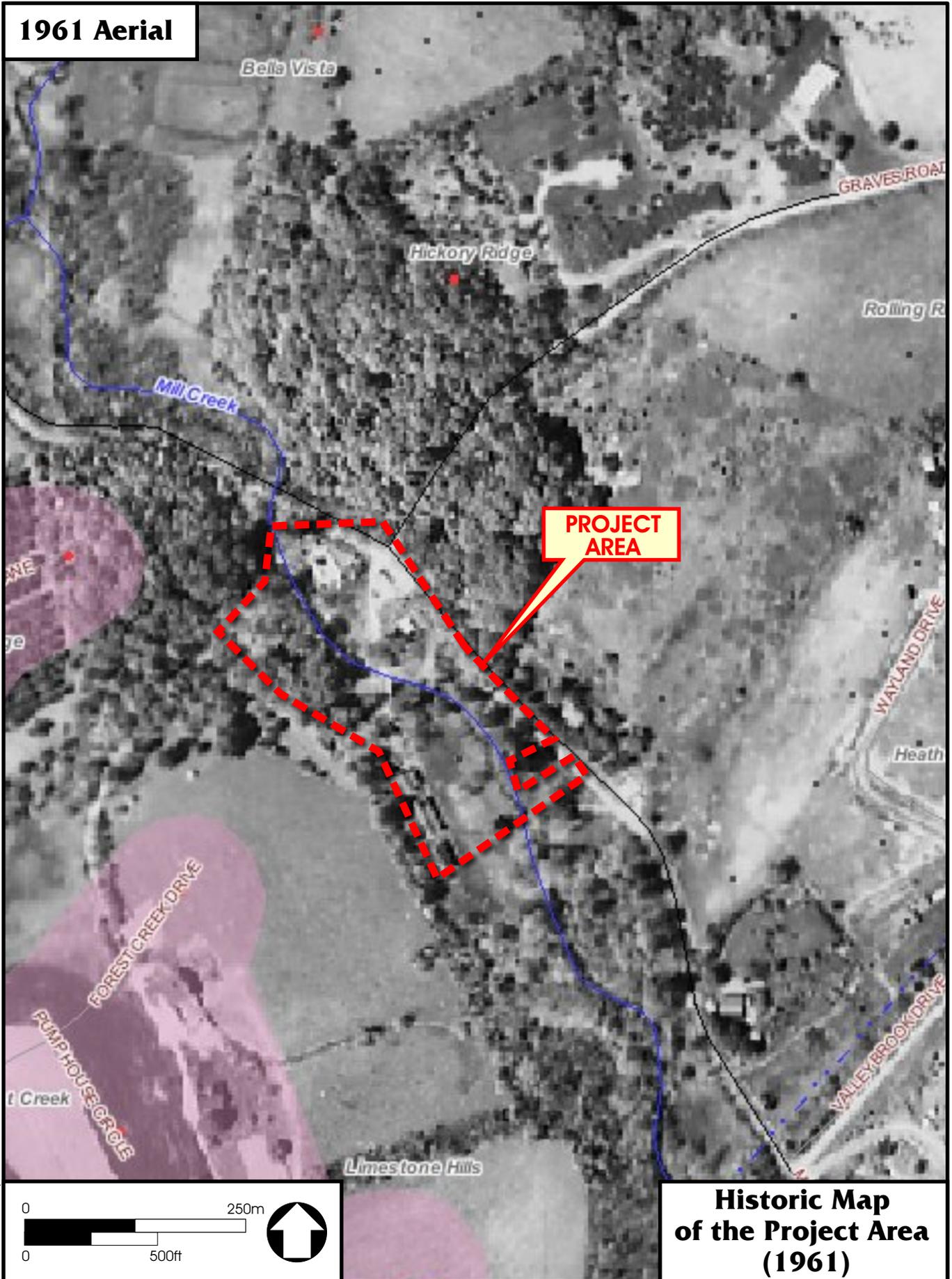


**Historic Map
of the Project Area
(1954)**

McCormick Taylor, Inc., Newark, DE, 19713

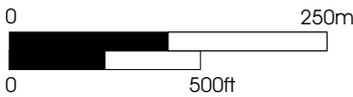
FIGURE 11

1961 Aerial



PROJECT AREA

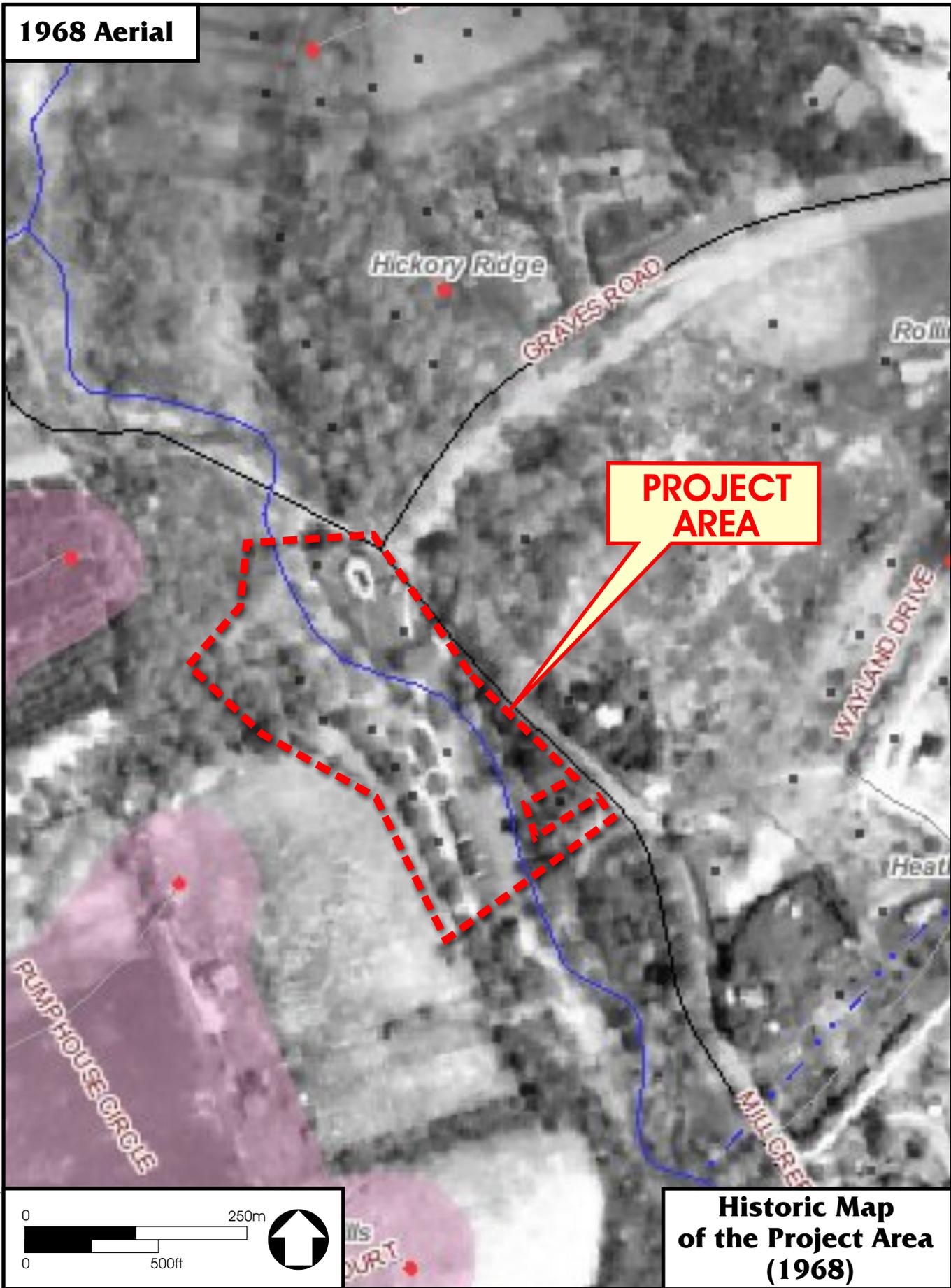
McCormick Taylor, Inc., Newark, DE, 19713



**Historic Map
of the Project Area
(1961)**

FIGURE 12

1968 Aerial



**PROJECT
AREA**

**Historic Map
of the Project Area
(1968)**

McCormick Taylor, Inc., Newark, DE, 19713

FIGURE 13

associations, community ties, and apolitical social, economic, and occupational status (De Cunzo and Catts 1990). Discerning manifestations of social group identity and behavior and interaction of communities in the archaeological records has been identified as an important research priority of modern archaeological research (De Cunzo and Catts 1990; Chesler 1982a; Wacker 1982; Larrabee 1982; Rutsch 1982; Stinton 1980). Recommended general avenues of research have ranged from studies regarding the acculturation of early immigrant populations to the impact of the political climate on the lifeways of historic populations (Wacker 1982; Larrabee 1982; Rutsch 1982). In regards to historic architectural resources, this research domain is usually limited to churches, schools, social halls, and other governmental buildings.