Portions of Road Alignments and Stockpile Area

This area encompasses the land between the Blue Ball Dairy and the existing Augustine Cutoff along the west side of Concord Pike (Figure 30). The southern part of the Rockland Connector is also included (Figure 31). A review of aerial photos from the Aero Services and Markel Collections (on file at the Historical Society of Delaware) dating to the 1930s and 1940 show no structures in the field south of the Blue Ball Dairy, but the area covered by the photos does not reach Augustine Cutoff. A housing development borders most of the western side of this area (Figure 32). Overall, the terrain is very flat (Figure 33); slightly elevated knolls were selected for shovel test pit excavations.

The present Augustine Cutoff lies in the area of planned subdivisions. One of these was the 30 lot Harvey subdivision, planned by Eliza Harvey in 1905, on land she inherited from her father, Isaac C. Elliott (KFS 1991). The correspondence concerning the subdivision, which began in 1908, can be found in the A. I. Du Pont Papers (Box 40, Folder 2) at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia. The earliest letter is addressed to Du Pont by Mr. Holstein Harvey, a Wilmington wholesale grocer according to his stationery, who told Du Pont his only remaining portion of the hill, Section 4, was for sale for $17,000.00. Du Pont replied that he was developing Nemours in the opposite direction, but wanted to control the land in the Rock Manor area and to close down Love Lane. A letter following this one informed Harvey that a Mr. Ross had enclosed three lots east of Rock Manor Avenue and intended to build on them. Du Pont expressed interest in Harvey's northern lot at this time. In the fall of 1908, Harvey sent Du Pont the deed to the bed of Rock Manor Avenue. In 1912, Francis A. Price produced a "Plan of Rock Manor overlooking Wilmington, Del.", on which several lots are marked as sold. Only one appears to be occupied. The lot on the north side of Rock Manor Avenue at Love Lane is labeled as the residence of Harvey Booker. Two additional streets are shown in the subdivision, both of which are approximately parallel and to the south of Rock Manor Avenue, while Love Lane bounds the subdivision on the southwest side. A nearly identical map was published as "Plan of Rock Manor, Brandywine Hundred", with Delaware Trust Company listed as sole agents. This map was reproduced by KFS (1991), in a report that states that Du Pont was attempting to develop the property (Figure 34).

Correspondence concerning the area resumed in 1915. A letter from Howard Ross stated that his property in Rock Manor was mortgaged and that he was in financial straits. He had equity in 14 lots. In reply, Du Pont stated that he only wanted Rock Manor if he could purchase all of the lots. Ross wrote back to say that he had spoken formally to all of the landowners and that they were willing to sell. No further correspondence was found, and so it is uncertain whether the purchase took place. The "Map of Upper Delaware, Wilmington and Vicinity" in the collections of the Historical Society of Delaware (undated, thought to be circa 1918 to 1935) shows a subdivision in a similar location to the one drawn by Price in 1912; however, an additional street is shown north of Rock Manor Avenue. The configuration of streets is similar, but not identical to the earlier map.

In a 1935 plan for Harry Mayer's subdivision, the introduction of Augustine Cutoff was shown (KFS 1991). This road was constructed parallel to Rock Manor Avenue and north of it, so it is unlikely that the houses from the previously planned subdivisions were located within the current project area. Mayer's lots were on both sides of Augustine Cutoff, but these are to the west of the current project area. This map shows the property within the project area belonging to A. I. Du Pont.

This portion of the project area had been plowed and recently planted in soybeans, and surface visibility was close to 100%. A walkover survey was conducted and, in the southern part of the field, 29 east/west transect lines were collected. Most of these are at 25

FIGURE 32
Stockpile Area
Looking West Across the Survey Area; the Housing Development Borders the Project Area

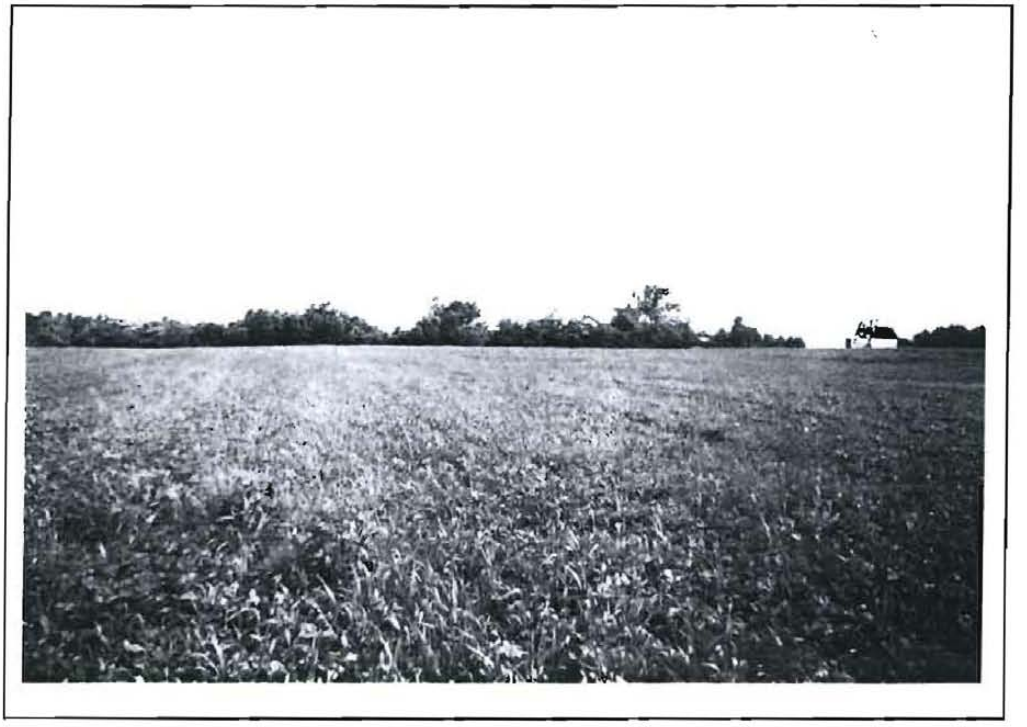

FIGURE 33
General Terrain of the Stockpile Area

foot intervals, but Lines 18 through 29 were at ten foot intervals. A concentration of stone rubble measuring approximately 150 feet by 100 feet in extent covers most of the knoll in the area that corresponds to surface collection Lines 19 through 29. The area was approximately 150 feet west of Concord Pike, near the northeast corner of a new housing development. Artifacts recovered from these lines include 20 terra cotta sewer pipe fragments, ten whiteware sherds (1820-1900), four ironstone sherds (1840-1900), a piece of redware and two pieces of stoneware. Of the glass bottle glass fragments recovered, thirteen are datable and are from the late 19th or 20th century; three post-1864 windowpane fragments were also recovered. A small amount of brick and mortar, oyster shells, a milk glass button and two shotgun shells were collected. Four shovel test pits (STPs 35-38) were excavated at 50 foot intervals. These STPs were characterized by a shallow Ap horizon, about 0.5 feet thick, overlying a heavy red [10YR 5/6] clay subsoil containing saprolite. The only artifact, recovered from the Ap horizon, was a fragment of sheet glass from STP 38.

North of Line 20 two small erosion channels were noted; these join on the west side of the project area. On a rise at the edge of Concord Pike, between these drainages, an open cistern was found (Figure 35) and a concentration of artifacts including an area circa 50 feet by 100 feet of large brick fragments and some mortar was noted on the surface. The cistern was about 50 feet from Concord Pike. The area was not systematically collected, but six STPs, numbered 39-44, were excavated in this area. The soil profile of STPs 43 and 44 consisted of a 0.5-0.7 foot thick Ap horizon overlying a B2t horizon. STP 43 produced a ceramic sewer pipe fragment, a piece of glass and mortar. Artifacts from STP 44 are discussed below. In STP 39, a modern plowzone overlay deep fill soil. A ceramic sewer pipe fragment and brick and mortar fragments were recovered. This profile is related to the installation of a water main along this side of Concord Pike. Previous excavations at the Blue Ball Tavern Site show this pipe is buried about 30 feet from the road, in a trench four to five feet wide. STP 41 was located near the cistern. The soil profile exhibited two superimposed plowzones overlying the B horizon. The Ap was almost one foot thick and was a yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) silty loam and the Apb was a yellowish brown [10YR 4/6] silty loam less than one half foot thick. STP 40 showed two plowzones separated by a thin (0.2 feet) layer of fill; no artifacts were recovered from this excavation. The Ap was 0.75 feet thick and a yellowish brown [10YR 5/4] loam, the fill was a strong brown to reddish yellow [7.5YR 5/6-6/8] sandy loam, and the Apb was a yellowish brown [10YR 4/6] clay loam. STP 42 had a plowzone overlying fill and then the B horizon. These differing profiles indicate that this portion of the site is quite disturbed.

Most of the artifacts came from either the surface or from excavations in the area of STPs 42 and 44, farthest from the cistern. These include nine ironstone sherds (1840-1900), four whiteware sherds (1820-1900), three porcelain sherds, one redware sherd, three terra cotta sherds and three stoneware sherds. Four bottle glass fragments dating to the late 19th and early 20th century and one fragment each of pre- and post- 1864 window glass were recovered. In the vicinity of STPs 39 and 43 between Concord Pike and the cistern, a concentration of brick and mortar was found, but there were very few other artifacts. The cistern was stone lined, and could be seen to widen below the surface opening.

Two structures may have existed at this location--a brick one along Concord Pike and a stone one further from the road, on the knoll; these perhaps represent a house and a barn. Much of the material was found on the surface, and less was recovered from shovel tests, especially within the stone concentration. Except for the cistern, no intact architectural remains were found, and no soil features were discovered during shovel testing. The area covered by these remains is about 275 feet in diameter, with two distinct concentrations separated by a lower drainage swale. This has been designated as the Augustine Cutoff Site (7NC-B-49/N-13717).

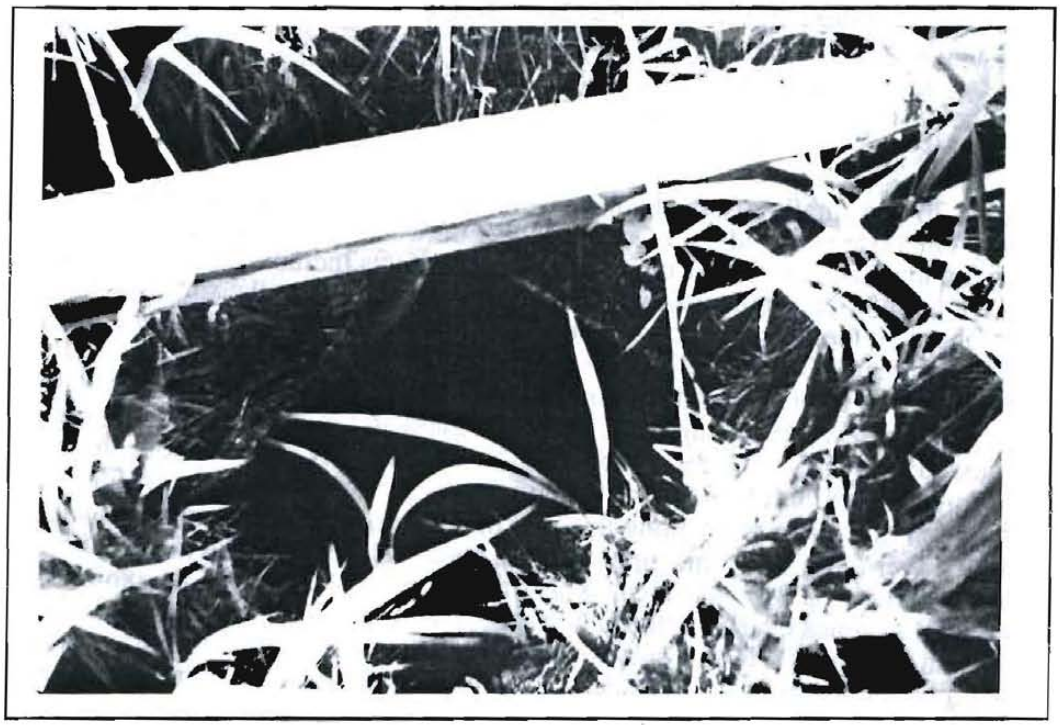

FIGURE 35
Stockpile Area
Open Cistern Included in Site 7NC-B-49/N-13717, the Augustine Cutoff Site

A circa 1930s aerial photo of the "Blue Ball intersection of Foulk and Rockland Roads" (Aero Service 88.8.214) shows what appears to be a track road running south from the back side of the walled portion of Blue Ball Dairy (see Figure 4). This road ends before the concentration of stone rubble located around STPs 35-38; the site area does not appear on this photo.

Surface collection resumed approximately 150 feet north of Line 29, north of the drainage, and transects were spaced at 15 foot intervals (see Figures 30 and 31). Beginning with Line 34, where the project area was widest, the survey lines were divided midway into western and eastern portions in order to afford greater accuracy in locating artifact concentrations across the field. A very light density scatter of historic materials was found over the entire area. A few of the materials dated from the mid-late 18th or early 19th century, including two scratch blue sherds (1740-1775), two creamware sherds (1762-1820) and three pearlware sherds (1780-1830). These were found in the west central part of the field but were scattered over a large area extending from transects 37W to 69W. Most of the other artifacts dated to the late 19th and early 20th centuries and, again, were widely scattered. Modern trash was also found scattered over the surface, especially closer to the Augustine Cutoff intersection, but identifiably modern materials were not collected.

Two STPs (45 and 46) were excavated on another higher landform approximately 300 feet south of the stone wall on the west side of the Dairy Barn and alongside Concord Pike. These units revealed a one foot thick plowzone overlying the B horizon. STP 45 was closest to the road, and STP 46 was 75 feet to its west. No particular surface concentration was seen here, and no artifacts were recovered from these excavations.

Three more STPs (47, 48 and 49) were excavated on high ground further north along Concord Pike, on the same landform where the Dairy Barn is located. These units exhibited a 0.5-1.0 foot thick plowzone over the B horizon. These STPs produced only a post-1864 windowpane sherd.

One archeological site, the Augustine Cutoff Site (7NC-B-49/N-13717), was identified in this portion of the project area. This site is comprised of a cistern, a concentration of brick and mortar near the cistern, a concentration of artifacts on the north side of the cistern, and a concentration of rock to its west. The site was originally thought to be related to one of the Rock Manor subdivision plans, but map research showed that this area was not included in any of these plans. The site may, however, relate to the Urbanization and Early Suburbanization Context, 1880-1950+/-, theme of settlement pattern and demographic change in the Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan (Chase et al. 1992). Phase II excavations are recommended if any portions of the site lying outside the thirty feet of road frontage along Concord Pike are to be used for stockpiling, staging or construction, either at this time or during future work.