

**Management Report for Phase I Testing along Route 48
(Lancaster Pike) west of the Old Wilmington Road Intersection
Including Construction of a New Segment of Old Wilmington Road, Two
Potential Storm Water management Ponds, and Wetland Mitigation Areas**

by

Heather A. Wholey, Sally C. Anderson and William M. Gardner

Introduction

In July, 1998, Thunderbird Archeological Associates (TAA) conducted a Phase I archeological study of the area of potential impact for two storm water management ponds, a wetland mitigation area and construction of a new segment of Old Wilmington Road in Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware (Figure 1). The study area consisted of approximately ten acres on the north side of Rt. 48 (Lancaster Pike) from just west of a tributary of Hyde Run (Coffee Run) east to before the intersection of Lancaster Pike and Old Wilmington Road. The project is an addendum to an earlier Phase I survey of a segment of the Lancaster Pike by TAA (Walker et al. n.d.). These studies were conducted for the Division of Highways, Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT).

Results of the Background and Archival Study

No historic structures were shown for the portion of the study area east of the branch of Hyde Run on any of the maps or records consulted. On the west side of the creek, lying just outside of the impact area was the Whitman-Clark Complex. According to a study dated July, 1988 (Benenson et al. 1988) prior to demolition of this complex, it consisted of a house, barn, carriage house, garage and chicken houses. The date placed on the then extant vernacular frame farmhouse was between 1880-1940. The buildings were deemed to have no historical or architectural significance. It was, however, noted that the house and barn were built on earlier foundations. Across Lancaster Park is what became known as the Coffee Run Mission. This complex appears to have been built before 1842 at which time it has passed from the Rev. Patrick Henry, who had no heirs, to the State of Delaware. Both the Mission and the Whitman-Clark property were granted to the Sisters of Charity of St. Peter by an 1841 Act of the State Legislature. Jacob and Susan Bowman of Lancaster, Pennsylvania purchased 56 acres on both sides of Lancaster Pike from the Sisters in 1842 (DB 5N:39-40). The property was said to include a house and garden on the south side of the Pike. They appear in the 1840 census for Mill Creek Hundred with a daughter and two sons.

Joseph Neis, a farmer of Mill Creek Hundred, purchased 55 1/2 acres in 1847 from the Bowmans, who again are listed as residents of Lancaster County. The 1849 Rea and Price Map of New Castle County shows Whitman-Clark house with the name J. Neiss, and no houses are shown south of the Pike between the branch of Hyde Run and the Old Wilmington Road intersection.

Neis, his wife Hesther, a 40 year old daughter, four grandchildren and a laborer are included in the household in the 1850 Mill Creek Hundred census, and all but the laborer are listed in 1860. Neis died of colic in 1862, and his executor transferred 55 1/2 acres to

his grandson, Benjamin Franklin Whitman in 1863. His will also releases 7 acres of property to John Faust, who's property is shown on the 1881 Hopkin's Map of New Castle County on the south side of the Pike across from what is now the Ingleside Care Center. In 1870, the 38 year old B. F. Whitman's household included his mother, a brother and a domestic servant. One of his sisters married William H. Clark in the early 1860s, and the 1870 census shows them residing in Brandywine hundred.

By 1880, Whitman is residing with a housekeeper, a boarder, and his former neighbors, the Fausts, on the property. By 1900, Whitman was living in Brandywine Hundred with his sister's family, and in 1901, the 55 1/2 acre tract was purchased by his nephew Lewis H. Clark, the son of Caroline and William H. Clark. Lewis Clark died in 1957, and the property passed to his son, Lewis, Jr., who held the property until 1988.

Results of the Excavations

For heuristic purposes, the study universe was divided in four areas, beginning at the southeastern end of the project area and moving northwestward. Excavation units were 2.5-foot squares, and were excavated 50-100 feet apart. In some locations, these were supplemented with smaller shovel tests. Soil was screened through 1/4-inch mesh hardware cloth. Vertical excavation was by pedological horizons, e.g. humus (Ao), plowzone (Ap), slopewash (C) subsoil (B1, B2 etc.).

Area 1

Area 1 is located around the Ingleside Care Center at the southeastern end of the study area (Figure 2). It is situated primarily atop a knoll with a gradual slope to the north, leading down to a lower flat. Thirteen 2.5 foot square test units (TUs 1-10 and 30-32) and ten shovel test pits (STPs A-F, I and K) were excavated at the top and base of the knoll. Testing was generally conducted at a 100 foot interval. This was decreased to 50 feet in areas where artifacts were encountered, and also around a small grove of mature trees. An asphalt path with a circular terminus begins at the sidewalk outside the Ingleside Care Center and ends within this grove. The portion of Area 1 directly in front of the Ingleside Center was not tested, as much of it was paved and extensively landscaped. All excavations in Area 1 revealed soils that had been plowed. The subsoil closest to the Ingleside Center and at the highest point on the knoll was decomposing saprolite.

Recovered artifacts (Appendix I) consisted of brick fragments, lime soda windowpane fragments (post-1864), redware, pearlware (1780-1830), post 1880 bottle glass, tar paper roofing, a wood screw, metal, a golf ball, and styrofoam. TU 9 produced the most artifacts including one pearlware sherd, a redware sherd, two clear manganese cylindrical pickle/relish bottle fragments (chilled iron mold, 1880-1915), two similarly dated square/rectangular bottle fragments, one cast iron fragment, one brass wood screw and a styrofoam cup fragment. TU 10 and STP B, 50 and 25 feet to the west, and TU 7 and STP A, 50 and 25 feet to the south, produced no artifacts. Only one of the surrounding STPs yielded artifacts. This was STP C, located within the grove of trees, producing a single clear bottle sherd from an automatic bottle machine dating post-1910. The dates indicate a long period of deposition, and are mixed with modern materials in a plowed context. If a site exists in this locus it is to the north of TU 9 outside of the project right-of-way toward Old Wilmington Road. As the artifacts from TU 9 cover a wide range of dates, this assemblage is probably best interpreted as field scatter, and we recommend no further work.

Area 2

Area 2 is northwest of the Ingleside Care Center (Figure 3). It is a mowed field encompassing the area from the proposed center line for the Lancaster Pike and Old Wilmington Road Connector to the Fox Run (?) housing development. Nineteen 2.5 foot square test units (TUs 11-29) and six shovel test pits (STPs J-P) were excavated here. Initial testing was conducted at a 100 foot interval, as this area is lower than the surrounding topography, with the smaller shovel tests excavated in between the larger units. Further, the field is characterized by a series of channels that run through the field approximately parallel to the proposed connector, probably indicating storm water runoff and poor drainage. An open drainage ditch separated this field from the housing development to the north. According to the adjacent local landowners, this drainage channel has been meandering north from the field onto their properties.

All excavation units revealed the field has been plowed. The thickness of the plowzone increases gradually from the edge of Old Wilmington Road to Lancaster Pike. The plowzone in the shallower units is around 0.7 feet. The deepest unit, TU 29, is characterized by a 2.0 foot thick plowzone overlying a 1.0 foot thick buried plowzone. These two zones are separated by a thin yellow C horizon, suggesting a period of abandonment in cultivation. The origin of the upper plowzone is either cultural, that is, fill which was plowed, a continuously plowed slopewash from the high part of the field, or both. This is the only test pit to show a buried plowzone, although testing by Walker et al. (n. d.) to the west of this area did show some varying soil profiles (see Area 3).

All artifacts recovered from Area 2 came from plowed soil. In TU 29, the artifacts all came from the upper plowzone. Based on the test units artifacts are scattered continuously across the area but are never numerous in any one location. For instance in TUs 15-17, the northernmost units, TU 17 contained two lime soda windowpane fragments (post-1864-present), TU 16 had one redware sherd, a post-1880 bottle sherd and a post-1864 windowpane fragment, and TU 15, yielded a post-1864 windowpane sherd and an unidentified clear glass sherd. Units in the middle, such as TU 18 had 1.5 grams of brick fragments, TU 19 had two pieces of glass, including a windowpane fragment, while TU 21 and TU 22 contained a ferrous metal bracket clamp and two post-1864 windowpane fragments respectively. The most artifacts came from TU 27 with a post-1864 windowpane piece and a heat melted unidentified amber glass sherd, one styrofoam fragment and 1.0 grams of brick fragments; TU 28 had one redware sherd, a whiteware sherd, a brown bodied stoneware sherd and 3 lime soda windowpane fragments; and TU 29 had a redware sherd, two 20th century bottle sherds, three post-1864 windowpane sherds and two unidentified clear glass sherds.

The historic maps examined (Heald 1820 Roads of New Castle County; the 1849 Rea and Price Map of New Castle County, Delaware; and the 1881 Hopkins Map of New Castle County, Delaware) show no structures on the north side of Lancaster Park in the location of the survey area. This evidence, combined with the low density and the uniformity of the artifacts (e.g. sherds, bottle glass and windowpane), we feel the artifacts are the result of field scattering over the years the property was farmed. No further work is recommended in Area 2.

Area 3

This area is at the western edge of the Fox Run housing development, between the outer edge of the development and Lancaster Pike (Figure 4). No units were excavated along Lancaster Pike as it was tested previously (Barse n. d.). This work consisted of a line of test units in what was at that time the proposed right-of-way for the project, one every 100

feet in an area approximately 300 feet in length. Thick deposits of colluvium were found to cap the original ground surface in STPs 1 and 2. Beneath this lay a well developed sequence of Ap, B1, B2 and B3 subsoils. STP 1 yielded no artifacts. A brown glazed sherd of redware, one piece of clear glass, and a shell fragment were recovered from 1.1-1.8 feet below the surface in a buried Ap horizon in STP 2. STP 3 was excavated in the lower floodplain of the creek, and here the soils were predominantly colluvial materials covering alluvial channel fill. A single black chert flake was recovered from the colluvium/Ap horizon in STP 3. This artifact is considered to be transported, and the historic artifacts are thought to be field scatter.

In the 1998 work, three units (TUs 33-35) were excavated in more or less undisturbed settings at a 100-foot interval across this area. TUs 33 and 34 indicate that this area was graded, presumably in order to create the berm that screens the housing development from the road. A fill layer overlay the subsoil in TU 34, and yielded lime soda windowpane fragments (post-1864), four pieces of glass, oyster shell fragments, 504 grams of brick, 263.5 grams of concrete fragments, and 80.5 grams of mortar. TUs 33 and 35 yielded no artifacts. TU 35 was near the edge of the existing wetlands on the east side of Hyde Run. The soil here is laminar and slightly gleyed, indicating poor drainage. A runoff ditch from the housing development empties into the creek and storm water is currently channeled by a large metal pipe into the creek from two metal tulins. Due to prior disturbance and poor drainage no further work is recommended in Area 3.

Area 4

Area 4 includes the western side of Hyde Run along the Pike, the existing wetlands, the proposed wetland mitigation areas and the area adjacent to the Whitman-Clark farm complex (Figure 5). The Whitman-Clark Farm complex has been reduced to rubble, except for part of a standing wall. The area immediately to the west of the farm complex has had all the top soil removed by heavy machinery and is recently planted in grass. Prior to the planting of the grass, considerable erosion took place with the deflated deposits washing into the Hyde Creek floodplain. Further west, the developers of the Fox Run housing complex dumped their spoils. This too has eroded into the Hyde Creek floodplain. As a result, the creek and the proposed wetland area has been extensively silted in and standing water, cattails and other wetland vegetation is currently present. Accordingly, no test units were placed here.

TUs 36 and 37 were excavated on the west side of the creek; TU 36 to the east of the Whitman-Clark complex, TU 37 to the north. The soils in TU 36 indicate soil wash from disturbed areas around the former house site. Artifacts from the unit were nine lime soda windowpane fragments (post-1864), an unidentified curved clear manganese sherd dating 1880-1915, 11.8 grams of mortar and 11.5 grams of brick fragments, all from the. A deposit consisting of pockets of ash and asphalt lay at the interface of the Ap and B horizons. Below this is a gleyed B horizon. The soil profile for TU 37 shows an Ao/A of 0.2 feet, overlying a heavy clay B horizon. The artifacts, all from the Ao/A, consisted of a piece of redware, and two cut nail fragments (post-1790).

The artifacts recovered from TUs 36 and 37 may have originated from the Whitman-Clark Farm complex. The property appears in the records as early as 1842 when the Sisters of Charity of St. Peter received it from the State of Delaware. Prior to this, the complex was owned by Rev. Patrick Henry. It is not known from whom he acquired the property, but the Act of Legislature granting the land to the Sisters indicates a house and garden on the south side of Lancaster Pike. This is opposite from the Whitman-Clark complex is believed to have located. Background research shows that a house was built on the property by 1849 (Rea and Price map), and could have been constructed by either Bowman

or Neis in the 1840s. Another house was built on the original stone foundation, probably by Lewis H. Clark.

Summary and Conclusions

The only artifacts recovered in any part of the project area were interpreted as field scatter. No archeological sites were found in the study area. No known historic sites were in the project area, however, farmsteads did surround the area at various times, and at least some of this property was part of the Whitman-Clark acreage. Where a stream crossing occurs, at the Hyde Run tributary, two historic sites were located. One of these, Coffee Run Mission, is out of the Lancaster Pike project area. The other is the Whitman-Clark Complex, which has been destroyed. The absence of prehistoric sites may relate to the low stream order of the Hyde Run tributary and the poor drainage of the project area.

Recommendations

Based on the absence of archeological sites in the project area's impact zone, no further archeological studies are recommended

ARTIFACT INVENTORY

STP C, Ap horizon

Glass

1 clear cylindrical bottle sherd, automatic bottle machine (1910-present)

STP K

Miscellaneous

1 cinder

STP M, Ap horizon

Glass

1 honey amber cylindrical bottle sherd, glass can, automatic bottle machine (modern)

STP P, Ap horizon

Glass

1 clear square/rectangular medicinal bottle sherd, embossed "...J...S...", automatic bottle machine (1910-1930)

Test Unit 1, Bottom of Ap horizon

Glass

1 lime soda windowpane sherd (1864-present)

Test Unit 2, Ap horizon

Miscellaneous

1 golf ball, printed "Spalding Flying Lady 4"

4 peach seed fragments

Test Unit 3, Bottom of Ap horizon

Ceramics

1 redware sherd, brown glazed

Metal

1 unidentified ferrous metal fragment

Miscellaneous

.9 grams brick fragments

Test Unit 7, Ap horizon

Glass

1 pale aqua cylindrical bottle sherd, stained

Miscellaneous

3 tar paper roofing fragments

Test Unit 8, Ap horizon

Metal

1 ferrous metal wire fragment

Test Unit 9

Ceramics

1 redware sherd, brown glazed interior, unglazed exterior, hollow vessel

1 pearlware sherd, undecorated (1780-1830, South 1977; Miller 1992)

Glass

2 clear manganese cylindrical pickle/relish bottle sherds, single banded collared lip, chilled iron mold (1880-1915)

2 clear manganese square/rectangular bottle sherds, chilled iron mold (1880-1915)

1 lime soda windowpane sherd (1864-present)

Metal

1 cast iron fragment

1 brass wood screw, 1"

Miscellaneous

4 styrofoam (?) fragments, burned

Test Unit 11, Ap horizon

Glass

1 lime soda windowpane sherd (1864-present)

Test Unit 13, Ap horizon

Ceramics

1 kaolin pipe stem fragment, molded decoration

Test Unit 14, Ap horizon

Glass

3 lime soda windowpane sherds (1864-present)
1 unidentified clear sherd

Miscellaneous

.5 grams clam shell fragments
.9 grams brick fragments

Test Unit 15, Ap horizon

Glass

1 lime soda windowpane sherd (1864-present)
1 unidentified clear sherd

Test Unit 16, Ap horizon

Ceramics

1 redware sherd, brown and white slipped decoration

Glass

1 clear cylindrical bottle sherd, chilled iron mold or automatic bottle machine (post 1880)
1 unidentified clear sherd, curved, turn/paste mold
1 lime soda windowpane sherd (1864-present)

Test Unit 17, Ap horizon

Glass

2 lime soda windowpane sherds (1864-present)

Test Unit 18, Ap horizon

Miscellaneous

1.5 grams brick fragments

Test Unit 19, Ap horizon

Glass

1 clear sheet glass sherd
1 soda/lime soda windowpane sherd, stained

Test Unit 20, Ap horizon

Metal

1 ferrous metal bracket clamp

Miscellaneous

.4 grams brick fragments

Test Unit 21, Ap horizon

Glass

2 lime soda windowpane sherds (1864-present)

Test Unit 22, Ap horizon

Glass

1 pale aqua cylindrical bottle sherd

Miscellaneous

1 gram brick fragments

Test Unit 23, Ap horizon

Ceramics

1 whiteware sherd, blue shell edge (1820-1900+, South 1977; 1830-1865+, Miller 1992)

Glass

2 lime soda windowpane sherds (1864-present)
1 unidentified white milkglass sherd, curved

Metal

1 brass square headed 6/32" bolt fragment

Miscellaneous

.1 gram brick fragments

Test Unit 24, Ap horizon

Glass

2 lime soda windowpane sherds (1864-present)
1 unidentified clear sherd, curved

Test Unit 25, Ap horizon

Ceramics

1 redware sherd, brown glazed

Glass

1 clear cylindrical bottle sherd, chilled iron mold (1880-1930)

1 green vaseline art glass sherd, curved, freeblown

1 unidentified clear sherd

Prehistoric

1 jasper flake, partial

Test Unit 26, Ap horizon

Glass

1 orange amber bottle sherd

1 unidentified clear sherd

Miscellaneous

1 red plastic fragment

Test Unit 27, Ap horizon

Glass

1 lime soda windowpane sherd (1864-present)

1 unidentified amber sherd, heat melted

Miscellaneous

1 styrofoam fragment

1 gram brick fragments

Test Unit 28, Ap horizon

Ceramics

1 redware sherd, brown glazed interior and exterior

1 whiteware sherd, undecorated (1820-1900+, South 1977; Miller 1992)

1 brown bodied stoneware sherd, clear glazed interior, unglazed exterior

Glass

3 lime soda windowpane sherds (1864-present)

Test Unit 29, Ap horizon

Ceramics

1 redware sherd, brown glazed interior, unglazed exterior

Glass

1 amber bottle sherd

1 clear cylindrical bottle sherd, automatic bottle machine (1910-present)

3 lime soda windowpane sherds (1864-present)

2 unidentified clear sherds

Miscellaneous

8.9 grams brick fragments

Test Unit 31, Ap horizon

Glass

1 lime soda windowpane sherd (1864-present)

Test Unit 32, Ap horizon

Ceramics

1 redware spall, unglazed

1 redware sherd, brown glazed interior and exterior

Glass

1 unidentified clear sherd

Metal

2 wire nail fragments (1890-present)

Test Unit 34, Ap horizon

Ceramics

1 whiteware sherd, undecorated (1820-1900+, South 1977; Miller 1992)

Miscellaneous

19 grams clam shell fragments

7.4 grams brick fragments

Test Unit 34, Fill horizon

Glass

- 1 aqua bottle sherd
- 1 clear manganese cylindrical bottle sherd, chilled iron mold (1880-1915)
- 1 lime soda windowpane sherd (1864-present)
- 3 unidentified clear sherds

Miscellaneous

- 1 coal fragment
- 1.2 grams oyster shell fragments
- 504 grams brick fragments
- 263.5 grams concrete fragments
- 80.5 grams mortar fragments

Test Unit 36, Ap horizon

Glass

- 9 lime soda windowpane sherds (1864-present)
- 1 unidentified clear manganese sherd, curved (1880-1915)

Miscellaneous

- 11.5 grams brick fragments
- 11.8 grams mortar fragments

Prehistoric

- 1 quartz flake, 10 mm long, 10 mm wide, 2-3 flake scars

Test Unit 37, Ao/A horizon

Ceramics

- 1 redware sherd, brown glazed interior, unglazed exterior, rim to hollow vessel

Metal

- 2 cut nail fragments (post 1790)