DENNY FAMILY CEMETERY

Archival research and local informants indicated the possibility of a historic family cemetery within in the proposed right-of-way behind the G. W. Cummins House (K-156.1). The G. W. Cummins House (presently the Thomas England House Restaurant) is located approximately one half mile south of Smyrna along the east side of present Route 13 (Figure 1). A Phase I and II survey was made of the Cummin's property to locate the cemetery. The survey concentrated on the area of the property within the proposed right-of-way. Three areas outside of the right-of-way were also tested. No evidence of a historic cemetery or burying ground was located within the proposed right-of-way or elsewhere on the property.

The primary evidence of a family cemetery behind the G. W. Cummins House came in a 1805 deed (KC Deed I-2-79). This deed mentions that when Thomas Denny sold his share of the farm to his brother William, he reserved 1/4 acre of it for use as a burying ground. Unfortunately the location of the cemetery within the farm is not given. The Denny family owned the Woodlawn farm from 1735 until ca. 1838 when G. W. Cummins, who married Evelina Denny, obtained the property. A more detailed discussion of the history of Woodlawn is presented in the site history of the G. W. Cummins House Outbuilding component (K-156.2) discussed earlier. A more detailed discussion of the Denny family and its local landholdings is presented in the Phase I and II survey of the suspected location of the John Denny House approximately 1200' feet to the north.

Phase I Survey Results

No other archival evidence of a family cemetery on the Woodlawn farm was located. One local resident, Mr. Frank Slaughter of Smyrna, recalled a pair of old trees in the field east of the Cummins farmhouse, nearly to the east property line. This recollection was from the 1930's when Mr. Slaughter was a small boy and resided at Woodlawn. His family plowed around these trees because neighbors had always said that marked the location of an old family cemetery of former residents.

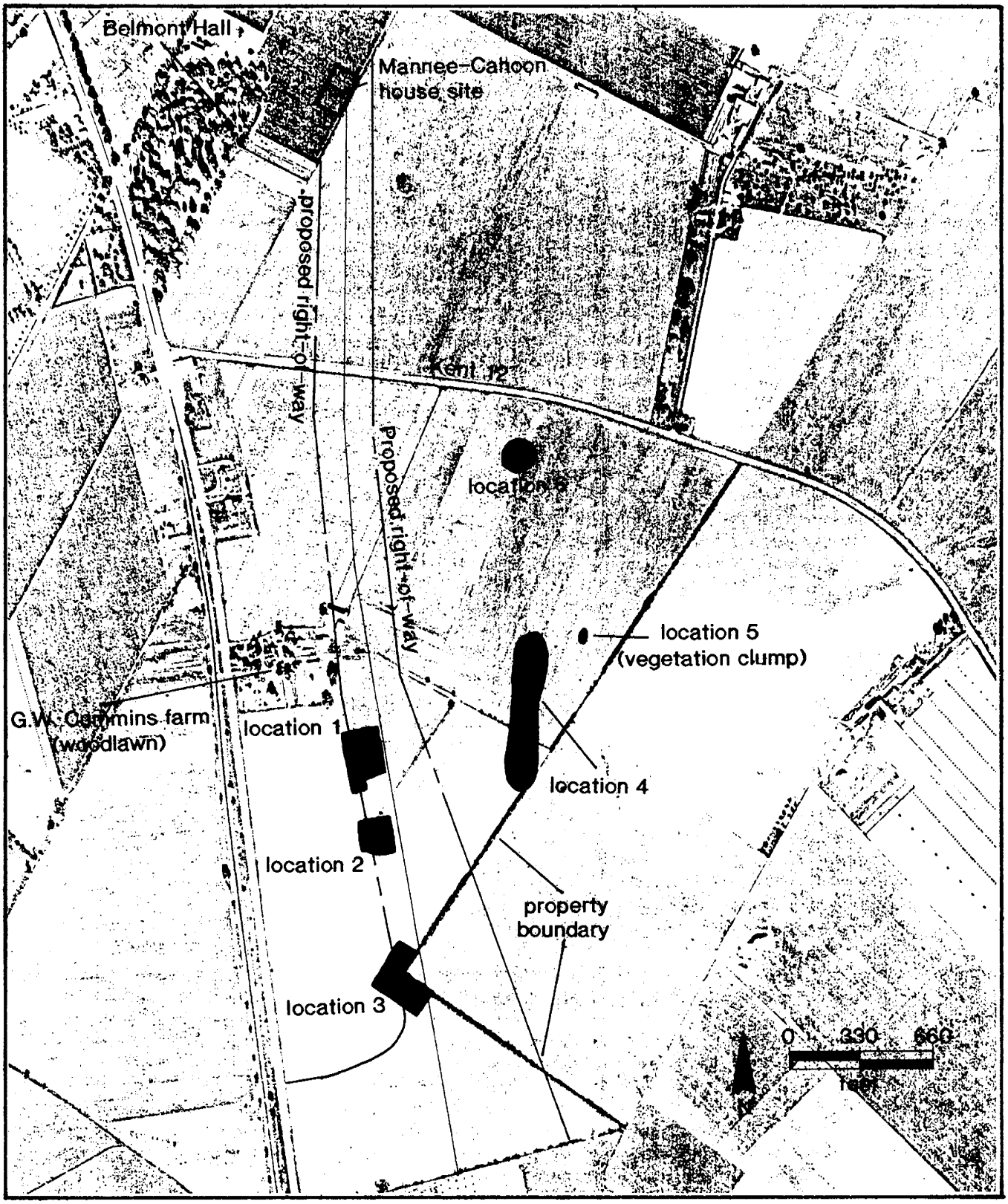
The area indicated by Slaughter appears as a vegetation clump on a 1948 Soil Conservation Service aerial photograph. This area, however, is located approximately 800' outside of the proposed right-of-way and will not be affected by proposed construction (Figure 41). The trees are gone today, but the spot could be located on the ground. No evidence of a cemetery was discernible on the aerial photographs. A subsequent pedestrian survey of the area, which is presently plowed, found no evidence of any graves or any significant concentrations of historic artifacts.

Phase II Survey Results

Phase II testing concentrated on the area within the proposed right-of-way. The area outside of the right-of-way identified by Frank Slaughter as a possible cemetery and other likely areas were also tested. Testing was conducted by supervised backhoe trenches dug along north-south axes in likely areas for a cemetery. The trenches were dug along north-south axes to aid in identifying historic graves which are traditionally located along east-west lines. Backhoe testing was

FIGURE 41

Detail of a 1948 Aerial Photograph of G.W. Cummins Farm Showing the Proposed Right-of-Way and the Areas Tested for the Denny Family Cemetery



necessary because the very low artifact concentrations associated with historic cemeteries are usually associated with very few artifacts and thus are difficult to locate with traditional excavation units. Backhoe testing removed only the plowzone; the subsoil was left intact.

Family cemeteries are normally located on higher ground some distance from the farmhouse. Several such locations are found within the present limits of the Woodlawn farm, which measures approximately 118 acres. Three of these locations (Locations 1, 2, and 3) lay within the proposed right-of-way for State Route 1 (Figure 41) and were tested by backhoe, as were three more likely locations outside the right-of-way. No evidence of a family cemetery was found at any of the possible locations. The following is a summary of the work done at each location.

Location 1: On a large, broad rise at the 49' elevation level, 500 feet southeast of the Woodlawn Mansion (Figure 41). Fourteen trenches totaling 3400 linear feet on 6' or 10' centers. Ground investigated lay within and up to 50' outside of the proposed right-of-way.

Location 2: A second rise to 46' above sea level to the southeast of Location 1 (800' south of the farmhouse, (Figure 41). Eleven trenches placed at 10' centers totaling 1600' linear feet. Testing included ground within and contiguous to the proposed right-of-way.

Location 3: On the highest point on the farm, at the 55' elevation at the right angle in the osage orange windrow southeast of the house about 1500' (Figure 41). Three right-angle trenches on 10' centers totaling 600'.

Locations 4-6: Locations 4-6 lay at likely locations outside the proposed right-of-way (Figure 41).

Location 4: A low north-south running ridge about 1200 feet east of the farmhouse. Three 750' parallel trenches were cut along the length of the ridge at 30' centers. These three trenches were aligned to cover the crest of the rise and ground just below the crest. The slopes of the rise were not tested, as these were considered low probability areas for a family cemetery. No evidence of a family cemetery was found. Evidence of a windrow and fenceline were found about 200' north of the south end of the ridge. Several postmolds and root stains were observed in this vicinity in the three trenches and these may correspond to a hedge and/or farmlane which appears on the 1948 aerial photograph of the property.

Location 5: Location #5 corresponds to the area of the clump of trees along the east property line where Frank Slaughter remembered a small family cemetery. Backhoe strips totaling 550' were excavated (Figure 41). Numerous decaying roots, root stains and groundhog holes were found, but no graves.

Location 6: Three trenches were placed on a prominent knoll on the south side of Kent 12, behind a row of 20-25 year old ranch houses (Figure 41). The three trenches covered 330 linear feet. No evidence of a graveyard or other cultural activity was found.

Conclusions and Recommendations

In sum, 8730 feet of 27" wide backhoe trenches were placed on the farm behind the G. W. Cummins House (K-156.1) (historic

name Woodlawn) in six different locations. Although postholes, root stains, and rodent disturbances were found in the trenches, no evidence of graves was encountered within the proposed right-of-way. No further work is recommended.

MOORE-TAYLOR FARM SITE

The Moore-Taylor Farm Site (K-6432; 7K-C-380) is located between Dover and Leipsic in a plowed field on the north side of Kent 331 (Figure 1). The limits of the Moore-Taylor Site and its location in relation to the proposed right-of-way is also shown in Figure 42. Archival research identified the site as a small predominantly owner-occupied farm dating from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. All of the site is within the proposed right-of-way and all of the site will be adversely affected by proposed construction.

The Moore-Taylor Site was located by a Phase I pedestrian survey and archival research as summarized in Bachman et al. (1988). Phase II subsurface tests in the form of 3' X 3' test units and shovel test pits were excavated in all directions around the area of high artifact density located by Phase I testing until artifact densities fell below two artifacts per shovel test and or below 10 artifacts per test unit. Thus the area marked on Figure 42 as the limits of the site correspond to the limit of Phase II testing.

Phase II testing located historic artifacts and features in undisturbed stratigraphic contexts beneath the plowzone that extends over the entire site. The presence of intact subsurface features and undisturbed artifact-bearing strata led to the