

Section 4 – Rolling Mill Road (SR 263) to Centerville Road (SR 273)

Rolling Mill East/Dwelling N-12079 (7NC-B-31), Phase I and II

This area included a dwelling complex (N-12079) located on the north side of Lancaster Pike about 500 feet east of its junction with Rolling Mill Road and a locus near the actual junction of the roads. Extant buildings on the property included a circa 1915-1920 vernacular frame tenant house, a springhouse and a stucco garage. The dwelling was a one-story frame rectangular building on a rusticated cast stone basement. The walls were white wood shingle and the roof was gabled with exposed rafters and asphalt shingles. A chimney was located near the northwest corner, and window spacing was irregular. A partial length wooden porch was located on the east side. This cottage form represents the ‘Comfortable House’ movement. The garage was a one-story stuccoed building, and the one-story springhouse was stucco over rubblestone. Earlier structures had been present on the property and it was possible that portions of these had been incorporated into the garage and the springhouse, or simply had preceded them in these locations and were no longer extant. The dwelling and outbuildings were not eligible for nomination to the National Register because the dwelling was a common twentieth century building type and did not appear to have any significant historical associations (Benenson et al. 1988).

The first map to show a structure in this location is the 1881 Hopkins Atlas of Delaware (Appendix II: Map 4, which shows a structure and 40 acres associated with the name C. C. West. Prior to this, the property belonged to John Peoples, and it is likely that this area was once included in the Barker tract discussed previously. West purchased the property in 1868 from John Peoples so the structure on the Hopkins Atlas was apparently constructed between 1868 and 1881. Because of the scale of the map, it could be either in the dwelling location, or at the site locus discovered at the intersection during the archeological testing. The 1892 (Appendix II: Map 5) and 1893 Baist Maps also show a structure at the corner, associated with a larger property and the name J. R. Rementer, while a second structure labeled “Sulphur Spring” and a driveway are shown east of this. The scale of this map makes it almost certain that the structure was not the standing dwelling, but rather corresponded to a site locus that was near the intersection. It is possible that the springhouse predated the other structures. Informants stated that the current dwelling house was built as part of Lammot duPont Copeland’s Mt. Cuba estate (KKFS 1988e). Hercules, Inc., purchased the property in 1972 (Benenson et al. 1988).

Results of the Fieldwork

The Phase I and II fieldwork was conducted on the area in the right-of-way immediately adjacent to Lancaster Pike and south of the existing structure and the area immediately adjacent to Rolling Mill Road where the tenant living there at the time of the survey suggested a store once stood. The Phase I, carried out in October, 1992, included the excavations of TUs 1 through 11; the Phase II, December, 1992, included TUs 12 through 24 (Figure 32).

TUs 1-7, 15 and 16 were excavated below the standing structures, running west from just east of the hypothesized store location at the 48/263 intersection to the existing driveway

leading to the structures. The area within the right-of-way was in grass, but was moist, as a wetland area was located south of these units, adjacent to the Pike. Beginning near the driveway, TUs 1-3 exhibited a deep (8 to 13") plowzone, exhibiting increasing moisture with depth, overlying a damp, gleyed soil. Artifacts were recovered from the plowzone, but no artifacts were found in the gleyed soil, and these TUs were terminated. Artifacts recovered included five redware sherds, four pieces of bottle glass, seven window pane fragments, seven nails, four ferrous metal fragments, a piece of coal and a quartz flake. No artifacts were recovered from the gleyed horizon.

TUs 4-7 were excavated on a slightly higher terrace, and the soil profile was that of a clayey loam plowzone ranging from 15" deep to 27" deep in TU 6 (possibly included a fill horizon); this overlay a sandy clay subsoil. Artifacts recovered from the Ap included whiteware and redware sherds, part of an agate doorknob, window and bottle glass (which included an aqua panel fragment with evidence for the use of a two piece mold and a snap case), nails, flower pot fragments, brick fragments, a three-corner file, coal, tar paper fragments, three quartzite flakes, one quartz flake and a quartz chunk.

TUs 15 and 16 exhibited a plowzone overlying subsoil. The Ap in these units yielded whiteware, redware, porcelain, and yellowware sherds, window and bottle glass sherds, charred wood fragments, coal, clinkers, nails (cut, wire and unidentified), and unidentified ferrous metal fragments.

The quantity of artifacts recovered increased in the western part of the yard, and included many architectural materials from both the Ao and the gleyed soil, which was thought to be a fill horizon. Artifacts from TUs 5, 6, 15 and 16 were recovered from the plowzone, and the few available dates from bottle glass are late nineteenth to early twentieth century, although one fragment of blown tableware (1750-1850) was recovered in TU 6. Artifacts from the yard included redware, whiteware, ironstone and terra cotta flower pot sherds, agate door knob fragments, window and bottle glass, including a clear manganese extract bottle (1880-1915), cut and wrought nails, a brass nail and miscellaneous other materials. A large amount of window glass was found in TUs 5 and 6. Most was stained and could not be dated; however, those pieces that were dated were all lime-soda sherds dating after 1864.

TUs 10-14 and 20-21 were located near the road intersection, in a more overgrown part of the lot where the long-time tenant of the house said a store had once been located. The tenant said that this area used to be lowlying and that her husband had filled it in. This area would likely correspond to the structure shown on the nineteenth century maps. The soils in the units in this area in general consisted of an Ap horizon to a depth of 8-12" overlying a fill zone that was underlain by rock rubble/architectural debris and then subsoil. Any exceptions or features are noted in the TU discussions below.

TU 10 revealed the presence of a rubble layer that was composed of some unarticulated rocks with brick and mortar fragments at a depth of about 20 inches (Figure 33). It did not appear to be an intact wall, although it may have been a collapsed foundation. The unit was expanded to 2.5' by 5' in an attempt to trace the stone layer. A brown stain was visible in the east end of the unit at the same depth as the rock layer; this was associated with a sewer pipe that ran through the area. A step-like trench, possibly the remnant of a builder's trench or crawlspace, had been cut into the subsoil. Artifacts were recovered

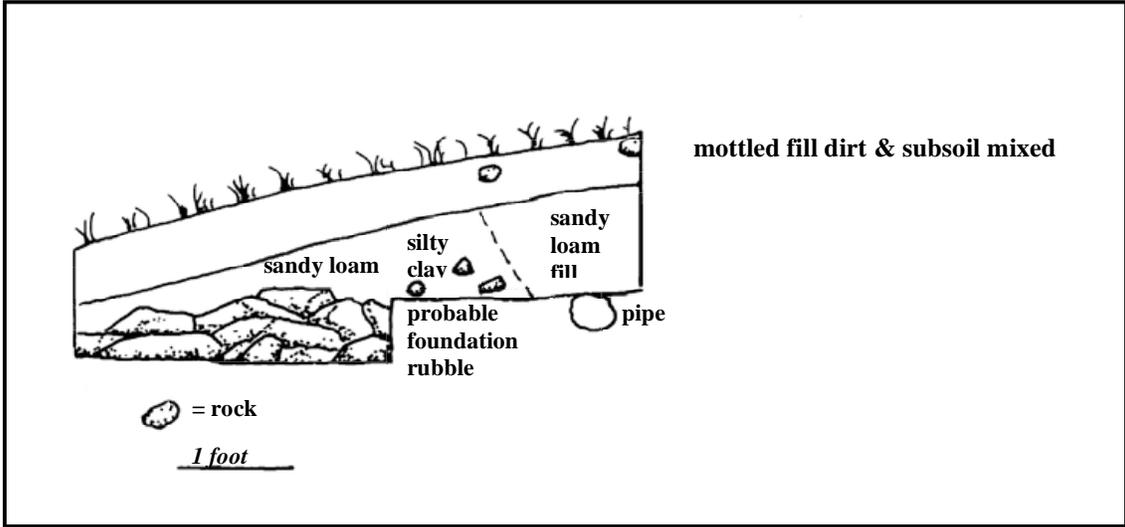


FIGURE 34
Rolling Mill Road East, North Wall Profile of TU 10

from the Ao horizon, the fill and the pipe trench. The Ap horizon produced whiteware sherds, window and bottle glass, a glass 4-hole button (post-1840), cut and wire nails, a shutter dog, a twist can opener, a harrow tooth, brick fragments and a rubber comb. The artifacts from the fill horizon included a terra cotta spall, a porcelain 4-hole button, window, bottle and lamp chimney glass, a claw hammer head, a knife with a wooden handle, both cut and wire nails, a can key, bone fragments, and a graphite pencil lead. The pipe trench produced window and bottle glass fragments. The pipe trench yielded window glass fragments, and two clear bottle fragments, one of which was machine-made.

TU 11 also showed the sewer pipe trench and the rubble layer. The sewer pipe was covered with a large piece of corroded iron overlain by a piece of lead sheeting. Artifacts from the fill zone included redware, yellowware, ironstone and whiteware sherds, bottle and window glass, Boyd's cap liner fragments, a stove lid lifter, wrought, cut and wire nails, miscellaneous hardware, two toy train wheels, a lead toy fence, a 3.75 pound scale weight, a drawer pull, three brass shoe eyelets, gold leaf fragments, coal, brick and a 1904 Indian Head penny. In general, glass dates for these test pits indicate a late nineteenth to early twentieth century date, with a large number of post-1864 lime-soda window pane sherds, and most bottle manufacture dates after 1880.

TU 12 exhibited a dense concentration of plaster and mortar mixed with rubble. The ceramics from the fill – several redware sherds - were concentrated in the SE corner. The rock layer in TU 13 occurred at a depth of 8-14", but was shallower in TU 14. Some mortar was visible in the rubble layer, as were rocks with mortar adhering to them.

TU 20 exhibited a burnt layer with mortar and plaster at 5" below surface, and a brick layer at 6.5". TU 21 exhibited an unarticulated brick layer at 5" deep that was underlain by fill. The rubble layer was smaller and less concentrated in this unit. Much of this material may be rubble from the demolition of the building. In general, the soil profiles showed an A or Ap horizon, a fill layer and subsoil. Artifacts from these TUs were found in both the plowzone and the fill layer. The plowzone in these units produced redware sherds, bottle glass (including machine made glass) and window glass, cut nails, brick, coal, oyster shell, a 12 gauge shotgun shell embossed "no. EB 12, London," plaster and mortar, and tar paper. The fill zone produced redware, flower pot fragments, wrought, cut and wire nails, can fragments, mortar, tar paper, a crown cap, a brass button, brick, slag coal, a celluloid (?) ladies hair comb embossed with "I.R. Comb Co., Goodyear 1851", lead fragments, a fish hook, oyster shell, walnut hulls and walnut bark, a pearl button, a .32 caliber shell case and bottle glass (again, some machine made).

This site locus seems to be the remains of the structure indicated by the maps. No intact building remains were found, and no intact features were found except the glazed sewer pipe in its trench.

While clearing brush between the hypothesized store location and the terrace above, what appears to have been several stone steps was found; these consisted of four evenly spaced elongated stones embedded in the side of the knoll. TUs 22 and 24 were excavated on the slope to the east of the step. TU 22 exhibited a profile consisting of an Ap horizon overlying what appeared to be road fill (road construction fill with large gravel) that overlay a buried A horizon, a darker lens, then subsoil. TU 24 showed a similar profile

but without the darker lens of soil. Much of the artifact content in the upper plowzones and fills is window glass, but there were also many unidentified, cut and wire nails, a can fragment, a piece of aluminum sheet, a lead fragment, coal, slag, mortar, Boyd's cap liner fragments, zinc canning jar ring fragments, bottle glass (one fragment was from a mold blown bottle with an applied lip) and terra cotta fragments. The fill produced window and bottle glass, redware sherds, a single ironstone sherd, oyster shell, clinkers, and cut and unidentified nails. The buried A in TU 22, present between 20-27' below surface, yielded a clinker and seven window glass fragments, but the dark soil lens produced 20 bottle glass fragments, which date from 1880-1930, window glass post-dating 1864, a redware sherd, three porcelain sherds (one with gilt decoration), and three flow blue transfer printed whiteware sherds. In TU 24, the buried A yielded three cut nails, nine coal fragments, ten clinkers, a concrete fragment, window glass, bottle glass (one mold blown fragment) and a single ironstone sherd. The two datable glass bottle sherds date to between 1820 and 1880.

TUs 8, 9, 17-19 and 23 were excavated in an overgrown garden on the higher terrace overlooking the intersection. TUs 9 and 17 exhibited a plowzone overlying subsoil. TU 9 produced few artifacts, including plastic fragments, while TU 17 was sterile. On the remainder of the terrace, an organic horizon up to three feet deep was encountered. In this deep soil, separate zones were difficult to distinguish by color, although TUs 8 and 19 did show distinct layers containing oyster shell at 12 to 20 inches, and the soil below the modern plowzone was sandier. The excavations ended on subsoil. Artifacts were sparse in the soil just above the subsoil, which was presumed to be a buried plowzone, and in TU 8, an aluminum foil fragment was found below the oyster shell layer. Artifacts were recovered from the plowzones of these units and included redware and ironstone sherds, window and bottle glass, a Boyd's cap liner fragment, wrought, cut and wire nails, can fragments, oyster shell, a rubber insulator, brick fragments, slag, plastic fragments, pieces of electrical tape and a quartz flake. A Pamplin type reed stem pipe was recovered from TU 19; this pipe was hexagonal with mold marks and was similar to type M delineated by Sudbury (1977 31:3). It is typical of pipes made in a Mogadore, Ohio, factory by the Akron Smoking Pipe Co. from 1885-1895 or by Fenton and Co. from 1883-1895. The deeper TUs seem to contain fairly recent fills with mixed artifacts overlying a somewhat older plowzone. The deeper soils produced few artifacts, and they appeared to have been buried fairly recently, based on the dark colors and the fact that foil was recovered at 20 inches below surface. No features were identified.

Summary and Recommendations

The extant dwelling was constructed about 1915-1920. A garage and a springhouse were also standing on the property. According to the architectural evaluation, the garage and the springhouse may incorporate portions of earlier structures that had been present on the property, and in fact the springhouse appears on maps that predate the house itself. The remains of an earlier structure that appears on nineteenth century maps were found adjacent to the road intersection. The tenant believed this structure had been a store.

The area along Lancaster Pike had been severely disturbed and, in some places, was poorly drained. All artifacts came from plowzones or fill horizons, and no intact contexts were found in the test excavations. The excavations in the area adjacent to Rolling Mill

Road intersection with the Pike, where this possible store was located, produced architectural debris and a variety of artifacts. A few artifacts, such as a scale weight, the extract bottle, and possible pharmaceutical bottle fragments, may be interpreted as suggestive of a store. Disturbance of the area resulting in the mixture of these materials with more recent artifacts makes further analysis of questionable use.

The excavations on this property yielded both prehistoric and historic artifacts. The prehistoric component is sparse—a single quartz flake, three pieces of quartz and two pieces of quartzite—representing transient use of the area by prehistoric populations; no temporally diagnostic artifacts were recovered. These artifacts, recovered from alongside the wetland area and on the terrace in the garden, were all found in contexts with historic materials. The historic remains represent a mid to late nineteenth and twentieth century dwelling and/or dwellings or possibly a store.

All artifacts in the front yard of the standing structure and in the area at the intersection of Rolling Mill Road and Lancaster Pike were recovered from plowzones or fill zones and no significant features were found. The site is not likely to yield significant research information, since it lacks contextual integrity, and is therefore not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D.

Section 5 - Centerville Road (SR 273) to Centre Road (SR 141)

Breidablik (N-12086), Phase I

Site Description and Historic Background

Breidablik (KKFS 1988f), located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Centerville Road and Lancaster Pike, lies about 1700 feet south of the intersection. The property included the house, a garage, an ornamental shed and formal gardens. The house had a two and a half-story section, constructed circa 1790. A three-story brick and stucco addition was built in 1840. Breidablik was described by KKFS (1988f) as an agricultural complex that provided “an example of the model early twentieth century dairy farm estate.”

The house was restored about 1925, and a sun porch was added in 1960. The roof was covered with asphalt shingles and had a moulded cornice; the foundation was rubblestone. Although a dairy barn and its related outbuildings were on the property with the house, only the house and two frame outbuildings, a shed and a garage, have been included within the National Register boundary (Benenson et al. 1988; KFS 1993).

The first indication on a historic map of a house on the property is the 1849 Rea and Price Map of New Castle County (Appendix II: Map 2) that shows a structure associated with the name G. Grubb. By 1860, the Lake and Beers Map of the Vicinity of Philadelphia and Reading shows two buildings on the property, and the name W. Lyman is associated with them. The 1868 Beers Atlas (Appendix II: Map 3) shows the name Wm. A Lyman with the two structures, and in 1892 (Appendix II: Map 5) and 1893, the Baist maps show Mrs. Lyman living on the property. In 1893, two houses and a stable were shown on a 113 acre tract. In the early twentieth century, the Lyman property was combined with another property to form a 276.83 acre tract that was named Breidablik and the agricultural outbuildings were constructed at this period. In 1946, the property was sold by August Sonnin Krebs to Hercules Powder Company (Benenson et al. 1988; KFS 1993). In 1951, Hercules, Inc., sold the house and a 3.3 acre tract to Richard George, but Hercules repurchased the property in the 1980’s.

The complex is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is significant because it embodies the characteristics of the Country House Movement of the early twentieth Century. The alterations made to the house transformed a simple vernacular building into an ideological version of the Colonial period. The dairy complex was once a model farm on the order of Nemours and Winterthur, but had been extensively altered and the property divided. Because of the changes to the farm and its buildings, the agricultural complex was not listed as part of the National Register property.

Results of the Fieldwork

Phase I archeological excavations were conducted along Lancaster Pike in a portion of the Breidablik estate. Seven TUs were excavated along the proposed curb line (Figure 34). The soils in TU 2 were a thin, recent 2” thick Ao horizon developed on a 2”

layer of fill which, in turn, overlay 8 inches of buried plowzone. This Apb lay on subsoil, and it produced a small amount of mixed historic artifacts. A creamware sherd and several whiteware and redware sherds were recovered, along with various pieces of bottle glass, cut nails, a can fragment and a piece of drain pipe. TU 3 showed a modern and a buried plowzone overlying subsoil. A feature, interpreted as a recent post mold, was found in this shovel test. Neither the feature nor the buried Ap horizon produced artifacts. The remainder of the test units showed a soil profile exhibiting a plowzone overlying subsoil. The artifacts from these units came from the plowzone, and many items found were modern trash.

Summary and Recommendations

The house and two associated outbuildings have been determined to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Because of extensive demolition and alteration, the dairy complex associated with the house is not listed as part of the National Register property (KFS 1993). Archeological testing was confined to the proposed right-of-way for the widening of Lancaster Pike, which, although shown as part of the historic property in 1988 (Benenson et al. 1988), was not included in the historic boundary as shown in 1993 (KFS 1993).

The archeological testing area in this portion of the Breidablik complex lacked integrity, as all artifacts were recovered from modern or buried plowzones. Other than a posthole, no features were found within the project right-of-way. In the portion of the site that lies in the project right-of-way, some of the artifacts could be considered domestic or residential in nature, while others are simply roadside trash. This portion of the site appears to have no significant research potential, and therefore does not meet eligibility criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Additional archeological work is not recommended for the highway right-of-way.

The Oak Hill Inn (N-507; 7NC-B-36), Phase I [1992]; The Stone Barn (N-508; 7NC-B-35), Phases I [1992] and II [1993]

Site Description and Historic Background

The Oak Hill Inn and the Stone Barn Ruins have different owners, and have been numbered separately, but are considered a historically connected property with a 485 foot road frontage (KFS 1993), and are discussed together under this historic background. The Oak Hill Inn, sometimes called the Four Mile Tavern, was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. The tavern and the remains of the stone barn are located on the north side of Lancaster Pike about 800 feet east of Centerville Road. They are separated by Stone Barn Lane, which intersects the Pike. Proposed construction in front of the tavern, currently a private residence, includes the replacement of the existing concrete lined drainage ditch with a curb. The tavern is quite close to the highway.

The tavern is a four-bay, two-story stone and log building with three distinct sections. The log section is thought to date to the Stilley ownership in the mid-eighteenth century (KFS 1993). When Shogren and Shogren (1987) examined the structure in 1987, they stated that the log section was originally one and a half-stories and dated from the first half of the eighteenth century, while the second-story log addition was mid-eighteenth century. A stone section built onto the west wall of the log house dated to circa 1780, and a one and a half-story stone lean-to built onto the rear of the log section was either from the early nineteenth century (KFS 1993) or from the mid-eighteenth century (Shogren and Shogren 1987). The roof was side gabled and covered with asphalt shingles. A full length shed roof porch ran along the front of the building, and an enclosed shed roofed porch was located on the east side. Associated with the structure were the ruins of a stone barn, a springhouse, a garage, a vegetable stand and a stone mile marker. Other structures that are said to have been on the property are indicated on the historic boundary map included in the KFS report (1993). These included a blacksmith shop, a smokehouse, a privy, a small frame barn, a frame corn crib and a carriage shed. Although several of these were shown close to the Pike, no structural remains were found during archeological testing. Either these structures have been obliterated, or they once stood further away from the road than shown in the map.

The Stone Barn remains included a stone bearing the date 1852. The remains of this structure have been stabilized by the current owners. They consisted of three of the original walls of a barn that was two stories in height. There is no roof. The north facade had two small window openings at ground level. On the south facade were three arched doorways at ground level, and on the west facade was the opening for the former banked entrance (Benenson et al. 1988; KFS 1993).

According to a deed dated January 10, 1741 and recorded in 1755, this property was part of a 1686 land grant to Richard Robinson in 1686 by the Commissioner of Property; however, a new grant was obtained by John Hendrickson, Sr., some time after this. The land was subsequently conveyed to his son, John, Jr., who in turn conveyed the property to Christifer Springer. Springer sold the land to Jacob Stilley in the 1740s, and his son John inherited the property upon Jacob's death. The next recorded deed dates to 1810, and according to this document, John Stilley's executors, one of them being his widow,

sold the property to Thomas Maquire in 1807. Jarvis Scullion, a weaver, then purchased the property in 1810 (DHS Armstrong Collection, Box 69, Folder 24; Shogren and Shogren 1987).

Scullion died in debt and Peter B. Delaney, the Sheriff of New Castle County seized the property in 1824 from Scullion's widow, Catherine, and sold it to John Gordon in 1825 (Shogren and Shogren 1987:9, 92). In 1827, John Gordon sold the property to Abraham Taylor and his wife, Mary. Gordon again bought the property in 1831 and he and his wife, Ann C., sold it in 1834 to Leonard Swaub (ibid). In 1838, Swaub sold the property to James Caldwell, who died intestate in 1842 (Shogren and Shogren 1987:9). His executors sold 66 of the 180 acres at public auction to James V. Emlen (Shogren and Shogren 1987:91), and apparently another part in possession of Caleb Caldwell was seized and sold at auction in 1848, when Caleb was unable to pay his debts. The land was purchased by Benjamin and Margaret B. Jannier for \$1900.00 (Shogren and Shogren 1987:93), and sold on the same day to Moses Journey for \$4000.00 (Shogren and Shogren 1987:10). The Journey family owned the property for 44 years and, according to tavern license petitions, Moses Journey operated a tavern at the location from 1850-1855 (Shogren and Shogren 1987:11).

At Journey's death, the property was left to his widow, Margaret, to use during her lifetime (Shogren and Shogren 1987:93). In 1892, after her death, the property was sold by her trustee to James Brown and the proceeds were divided among her heirs (ibid). Brown held the property until his death in 1898 and the property was divided between his heirs, who sold the property to Anna Swift Rupert in 1918 (Shogren and Shogren 1987:94). In 1924, Charles G. Rupert and Anna S. Rupert sold the property to Rupert Investment Company (Shogren and Shogren 1987:10), and from them the land was transferred to the present owners, Kennard H. Potts and Mary M. Potts in 1947 (Shogren and Shogren 1987:94), who still owned the property at the time of the archeological work.

The earliest appearance of the tavern is on the Shallus and Varle' 1799-1801 Map of the State of Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. On Henry Heald's 1820 map, Roads of New Castle County (Appendix II: Map 1), the property is labeled with the name Springer, although property records indicate that Scullion is the owner of the land. Some confusion has resulted from the label Oak Hill on a building a short distance to the east, but the map key clearly shows that this name is associated with a schoolhouse, while the tavern symbol is shown by the Springer name. The Map of New Castle County by Rea and Price, made in 1849 (Appendix II: Map 2), shows the name M. Journey for the property and the name Oak Hill Inn at the structure, as does the 1868 Beers Map of the State of Delaware (Appendix II: Map 3). In 1849, a toll gate is shown between the Oak Hill Inn and the J. Armor house, located to the east of the Inn. By 1881, the Hopkins Map of New Castle County (Appendix II: Map 4) shows the property to be owned by Mrs. M. Journey, and the structure is no longer named. Both the 1892 Baist Map of Delaware (Appendix II: Map 5) and the 1893 Baist Atlas of New Castle County show three structures grouped at this location. The 1893 map key indicates that these are two brick or stone structures on either side of a stable, presumably the tavern and the barn.

Tavern petitions and licenses show that a Charles Springer kept a tavern in 1787, and a petition dated 1794 states that he has kept a tavern on the "Great Road leading from

Wilmington to Lancaster” for eleven years. A new license was granted to him in that year, and his name appears on the Christiana Hundred license lists and petitions until 1802. In that year, a petition was filed by Thomas Springer, who had come into possession of Charles Springer’s establishment at the “sign of the three Tons” at his death. However, from 1803 to 1806 Charles (Thomas’ son?) and Thomas Springer’s names are found on the standard 1/2 page printed petitions. From 1807 to 1817, Thomas Springer’s name appears in the tavern records, and Springer’s tavern is mentioned in an 1818 petition. For a few years after this, the name disappears, and reappears in 1823.

In 1824, Charles Springer, son of Thomas Springer, petitioned to keep his father’s tavern, at three Tons on the Wilmington and Lancaster Turnpike, about four miles from Wilmington, as his father was recently deceased. Charles Springer appears in the records for a short time and, again, the name disappears. In 1830, a petition was made in the name of Sarah Springer (probably related to Charles although the petition states that her husband’s name is Joseph—possibly her petitioner made a mistake) stating that her husband kept a public house on the Turnpike Road. He had apparently become ill and died, and she continued to keep the tavern without a license. The petition asked that she be stricken from the list of indicted persons.

In 1831 Charles Springer reappears in the records as a tavern keeper, and in the same year, a petition was made by Thomas Richards to keep Sarah Springer’s tavern, a petition to which Charles Springer is a signer. Richards appears in the records for only one year, after which Charles Springer reappears. From 1835 to 1847, a John Springer is listed as a tavern keeper in Christiana Hundred, and in 1848 his name appears as a tavern keeper in Wilmington. It was at this time that the sheriff seized the property on which the tavern was located from its owner Caleb Caldwell and sold it at auction.

In summary, the tavern records show that various members of the Springer family kept an establishment here for most of 64 years, during which time the property changed hands many times. During this time, the only recorded name is “three Tons,” and the name Oak Hill Inn became associated with this property when Moses Journey bought the land and operated the tavern. Tavern petition records in his name appear from 1850 to 1855. An 1860 map showing preliminary surveys for the Wilmington and Brandywine Railroad, also during the period of ownership by Journey, shows “Pro. (proprietor?) G. Lobb” associated with the structure (Shogren and Shogren 1987). The Inn appears from the map research to have been kept up to at least 1868, and appears to have ceased operating before 1881.

The structural changes to the Oak Hill Inn have been addressed by Shogren and Shogren (1987:54), and some of the changes may be related to the history of ownership and use as a tavern. The two-story stone portion of the structure is thought to date from about 1780, when John Stilley may have inherited the property. The tavern records indicate that the structure was functioning as a public house after about 1783. The addition of porches and changes in the height of the floors, which architectural details show to have been raised in both stories of the log portion, are thought to date to the mid-nineteenth century, coinciding with the transition of ownership to Journey and his stint as a tavern keeper.

Results of the Phase I Fieldwork at Oak Hill Inn (N-507, 7NC-B-36)

Thirteen test units were excavated in the right-of-way at the Oak Hill Inn (Figure 35). TUs on the east side of the house were excavated closest to the location of a structure thought to have been a blacksmith shop, which is now a garden. Landowner Kenneth Potts stated that his son had torn down a structure in the garden that may have been the blacksmith shop, but this location was not within the Lancaster Pike right-of-way. The location appears to be the same as the easternmost structure shown on the 1892 Baist Map of Wilmington and vicinity and the 1893 Baist Atlas of New Castle County, where it is marked as a brick or stone building.

TUs 1 and 2, at the western end of the site and on either side of a small driveway, exhibited a silty plowzone horizon overlying subsoil. The artifacts from these units were a mixture of nineteenth and twentieth century materials, including bottle glass (some machine made), a light bulb base, redware, whiteware, and pearlware sherds, a cut nail, cinders, coal and mortar.

TUs 3 and 4, west of the house, showed a shallow silty A horizon underlain by fill, and then subsoil. Artifacts were recovered from the A horizon and the rocky fill. Only a sample of the fill was screened. The A horizon artifacts included terra cotta flower pot fragments, a yellowware and a redware sherd, window and bottle glass, nails, wire, a nut, a ferrous metal screw cap, a rubber button, brick fragments and cinders. Ferrous metal fragments and a bolt were recovered from the fill, and some small fragments of glass were noted.

The soils in TUs 5-7 consisted of an A horizon of sandy silt overlying a silty fill containing pieces of rock. TU 6, near a vegetable stand in front of the house, had a second layer of mottled fill below the rocky fill; this TU was very close to a ditch, and Mr. Potts (????) said this area had been bulldozed a number of times. The fill in all TUs was underlain by a silty clay subsoil, indicating that the original topsoil had been removed. The artifacts recovered were, again, a mixture of older and modern materials coming from both the A horizon and the fill. The fill included a lot of rock, but none of it was articulated.

TUs 8 and 9 were in the corner of the garden to the east of the house, and the soil had been plowed. The sandy silt plowzone was underlain by a dense, sandy clay subsoil. All artifacts were recovered from the plowzone, and were mixed. Few materials were recovered, only a cut nail and four unidentifiable nails and small brick fragments that can be considered architectural remains. TUs 10 and 11, at the eastern end of the project area, are similar except that a layer of rock was found between the plowzone and subsoil. TUs 12 and 13 were excavated a little closer to the road, and had the same rocky fill level as TUs 5-7. Ceramics from this part of the property include whiteware and ironstone, and most of the nails are not identifiable.

No features or intact buried surfaces were discovered in the right-of-way in the yard of the Oak Hill Inn. No evidence for a structure once located east of the house, and said to have been a blacksmith shop, was found during the course of these investigations. Other structures shown by the road on the historic boundary map included in the KFS report (1993) are a carriage house, a small frame barn and a frame corn crib; no evidence for

these was found during the testing. Occasional mortar fragments and stone were recovered, but the stones themselves were not mortared, and no articulated foundations were discovered. The artifacts are from various time periods, and are generally domestic in nature.

Summary and Recommendations

The nomination of the Oak Hill Inn to the National Register of Historic Places had been previously approved, but the most recent architectural study would place both the Inn and the Stone Barn Ruins on the National Register as a single property, since these were historically connected. The Oak Hill Inn is an important survivor of an early eighteenth century log building and roadside tavern, and was nominated under Criteria A and C (Benenson et al. 1988, KFS 1993).

That portion of the archeological site within the narrow right-of-way produced nineteenth and twentieth century materials within an area disturbed by previous road construction and bulldozing. Artifacts recovered at the Oak Hill Inn were domestic in nature and could have been associated with either the residential occupation at the site or with the use of the structure as a tavern. Although a blacksmith shop was reported to have been present on the property, no evidence of this was found in the right of way testing. If it existed, it was likely located outside of the highway right-of-way. Baist's 1893 map shows a structure to the east of the tavern, and the map also indicates that the structure was outside of the right-of-way. No intact features were found during the excavations. This portion of the site lacked contextual integrity and is not likely to yield significant research data; therefore archeologically it does not meet the eligibility criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Results of the Phase I and II Fieldwork at The Stone Barn (N-508; 7NC-B-35I)

Phase I investigations were conducted in the right-of-way in front of the Stone Barn remains in October of 1992. Five TUs were excavated between the stone wall in front of the barn and the highway, and a sixth TU was excavated on the north side of the stone wall near Stone Barn Lane, where the property owners said a well might have been located (see Figure 35).

The soil profiles in TUs 1, 2 and 5 consisted of an Ao horizon which had developed on a deep fill. An organic horizon was evident below the fill. In TU 5, this buried plowzone or Ap was only an inch thick, and it was likely that the road construction in the past had removed most of the original surface, but in TUs 1 and 2, the horizon was 10 inches thick. The buried Ap horizon ended on subsoil, which was gleyed in TU 2. Artifacts recovered from the Ao and fill layers of these units included four redware sherds, one whiteware sherd, two coarse stoneware sherds, 26 bottle glass fragments (including some machine made glass), a window glass fragment, two wire nails and a cut nail, a horseshoe fragment, three chunks of coal, three of mortar, an oyster shell fragment and a plastic automobile tail light cover fragment. The buried Apb yielded an ironstone sherd, two coarse stoneware fragments, five bottle glass fragments (one mold blown), two window glass fragments, four chunks of coal and eight of mortar, a rubber shaft cover, and a curry

comb fragment. The rubber shaft cover came from TU 5 in which the Apb was only 1” thick, and may have come from the overlying fill layer.

The remainder of the units, as well as auger testing (with eight auger tests) conducted in the area, did not show the buried Ap. TUs 3 and 4 revealed soil horizons consisting of an Ao that had developed on subsoil. TU 6 had an Ao on a fill horizon, which rested on subsoil. Although many artifacts were recovered from the Ao horizon and the fill in the units, they were mixed, including several types of ceramics, glass of various dates, metal, rubber, plastic and other materials. One horseshoe fragment was recovered from the Ao horizon in TU 5, and may have been associated with the barn.

The area of the buried Ap horizon was small, and the November, 1992, and January, 1993, Phase II evaluation consisted of the excavation of two 3 by 5 foot units, TUs 6 and 7, to sample that soil horizon. TU 6 was excavated by the southeast corner of the stone barn ruins, in the general location of the well. A 4” layer of moist clayed loam yielded a few brick fragments, several small chunks of plaster, and a nail (appeared to be modern). The underlying soil layer was a mottled micaceous clay fill with silty loam streaks and rocks. A clear glass fragment and a few brick fragments were recovered from this layer. Excavation was halted at circa 15” below surface.

TU 7 was excavated in between TUs 1 and 2. In TP 7, the A horizon produced a redware spall, a pearlware sherd, 17 bottle glass fragments, two wire nails, a hex machine bolt and washer, and a mortar fragment and a piece of coal. The fill yielded three whiteware sherds, a creamware sherd, five sherds of window glass, eight fragments of bottle glass (one from a green mold blown bottle with a tooled lip), and a cinder. The Apb produced 13 sherds of window glass, nine fragments of bottle glass, two flat pieces of glass, a mortar fragment, and 16 leather shoe fragments.

The area of the site where the buried A horizon was found measured about 60 feet along the road right-of-way.

Summary and Recommendations

The Stone Barn archeological testing revealed the presence of an archeological site (7NC-B-35) which yielded both domestic artifacts and artifacts such as fragments of one horseshoe, found near the surface, and one curry comb in a buried Ap horizon, associated with the use of the barn. A well was reported to have been located with the project right-of-way, although the testing in the area where it was reported to be revealed no evidence for such a feature. If this is the general location of the well, it may be farther away from the Pike, and out of the proposed right-of-way.

Although the portion of the archeological site in the right-of-way by the Stone Barn had a buried surface, the ceramics recovered appear to date to several time periods. Because the buried A had been plowed and the range and number of artifacts recovered were limited, the assemblage does not lend itself to further analysis. It is unlikely that additional work would yield significant research data, and based on the archeology it was not considered to be eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D.



PLATE 18
Oak Hill Inn



PLATE 19
The Stone Barn ruins

The Oak Hill Schoolhouse (N-12083; 7NC-B-34), Phases I, II (1992) and III (1994)

Introduction and Site Description

The Oak Hill Schoolhouse (District 22 School) was located at 4805 Lancaster Pike, about half a mile west of its intersection with Centre Road and on the north side of the Pike. The structure [demolished since the time of this survey] consisted of a one-story, rectangular red brick building with a chimney in the front wall. The windows were 6/1 double hung on the front and 8/1 double hung on the side. Trim elements included brick pilasters and corbeled brick above the windows. The front door was in the center of the wall and had a Colonial Revival surround. The side and rear additions dated to the mid-twentieth century, and a side porch was clad with aluminum. The gabled roof was finished with asphalt shingles (Benenson et al. 1988).

The school was in operation from before 1820 and is shown as the Oak Hill School on Heald's 1820 Roads of New Castle County (Appendix II: Map 1), and as S. H. 22 on both the 1849 Rea and Price Map of New Castle County (Appendix II: Map 2) and the 1850 Price and Rea Map of Delaware. Subsequent maps, including the 1868 Beers Atlas (Appendix I' Map 3), the 1881 Hopkins Map of New Castle County (Appendix I: Map 4), and the Baist Atlas of 1893 continue to show the school. The last records for the school indicate that it closed during or shortly after 1919 (School District #22 Ledger, 1842-1918; Mowry 1974).

The grounds at the site included a lawn and shrubs in front of the house and an orchard behind the house. The project area included the entire property during the November 1992 Phase I and II testing. Much of the topographically lower rear (north) yard, with the exception of a few test units directly behind the structure, did not produce significant archeological remains. Although some of the rear, front, and east side yards are included in the archeological site boundaries, data recovery excavations were confined to an area on the west side of the house, where a sealed buried plowzone and a stone feature (a well) had been found in Phase I and II testing (discussed later in this section of the report), both dating to the period of use as a school. After the initial testing, construction was begun on a two-story dwelling in what had been the orchard. As a result of the construction activities, an underground domestic gas line had been installed, crossing the site 12 feet west of the structure. This line had to be avoided during the Phase III mitigation excavations.

The Oak Hill School operated until about 1919, but seems to have been used in some capacity until 1924, and was later converted to a private residence. The structure on the property at the time of the Phase I and II surveys was thought by the historic architectural firm to be the one that had been built, according to school records, in about 1854 (Benenson et al. 1988; KKFS 1988i). This is based on an 1855 Annual Report for the New Castle County Schools that lists District 22 as having a new building. No mention is made of the material used to construct the school. This would have replaced the stone schoolhouse, described in the 1836 deed as being new, in which the sale of a lot by James and Sarah Caldwell to the Committee of District Schools 22 is recorded. Yet another, earlier school must have existed, since Oak Hill School is shown in the same location as the current structure on Heald's 1820 Roads of New Castle County.

The 1834 date for the standing structure may be inaccurate, since the school ledger found in the State Archives includes two entries on May 11, 1833 to G. W. Brenton, the first for building a house (\$817.01) and a second for building a schoolhouse (\$654.36), indicating that a new building was erected at that time. The core of the structure appears to match the stated size of 26 by 30 feet in the 1855 Annual Report for the New Castle County Schools.

Because of its conversion to a residence and subsequent alterations and additions compromising the architectural integrity of the house, the structure was not considered to be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C (Benenson et al. 1988); however, the Phase I and II excavations demonstrated that the Oak Hill Schoolhouse archeological site was eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D, as it had the potential to yield significant research data about one room schoolhouses in rural Delaware. None of Delaware's rural schoolhouses reported to date have been excavated at the Phase III level, and because of its buried sealed deposit, the site offered a unique opportunity to test Phase II results obtained at other sites. The Phase III excavations were confined to the sealed buried plowzone and the stone feature (the well) on the west side of the structure, since this alone appeared to have research potential.

General History of Delaware Schools

The first distinct organizations for Delaware schools, as described by Mowrey (1974), were Independent Private or Church schools (1658-1817). The Swedish church congregation in Christiana established the first school in Delaware in 1699. Education was promoted and organized under the auspices of independent congregations. As such, a church building usually served as the schoolhouse and a minister as schoolmaster. The Dutch and English followed with schools established in New Castle and Wilmington, respectively (Madden and Postlethwait 1969:12).

The earliest legislative support for education consisted of Acts of the Assembly that granted property for the construction of schoolhouses. In 1744, an act was passed to ratify all conveyances of lands or houses for purposes of education:

“Be it enacted....That all gifts, grants, or bargains and sales made of lands or tenements within this government, to any person or persons in trust for societies of Protestant churches, houses of religious worship, schools, almshouses, and burying-grounds, or for any of them, shall be, and are thereby, ratified and confirmed to the person or persons to whom the same were sold, given or granted...” (Powell 1893:139).

The Friends School, founded in 1748 in Wilmington, is recognized as the oldest continuously operating school in the State of Delaware (Charter Centennial Celebration Committee 1932:61). The first public school, the Wilmington Grammar School, was chartered in 1773 (New Castle County Deed Book H2:6-7). Land for the school house located between Marshall and King Streets in Wilmington was leased on April 2, 1785 by Jonathan Davies, a Philadelphia merchant, to the Wilmington Grammar School trustees for five shillings and good will. Debts of £1,500 borrowed for expenditures in erecting the school house in Wilmington forced its closure in early 1788, and the land was

transferred by the trustees to the creditors William Smith, Benjamin Wynkoop, and Miers Fisher (New Castle Deed Book Z1:565; G2: 366-367).

The first effort toward public school funding was undertaken by the General Assembly in 1796. The Assembly enacted the “First Act for the Establishment of Public Schools” that created a school fund that would become the basis of financing a public school system (Mowrey 1974:3; Powell 1893:139). The fund was supported by fees collected on marriage and tavern licenses, gifts, donations and bequests (Madden and Postlethwait 1969:13). The fund was to be applied for the “purpose of instructing the children of the inhabitants thereof in the English language, arithmetic, and such other branches of knowledge as are most useful and necessary in completing a good English education” (Powell 1893:139).

Despite good intentions, Delaware’s earliest attempts at a public education system were less than successful. William Hall, Secretary of State, senator and judge, commented on the state of affairs in 1803:

“Neighbors or small circles united and hired a teacher for their children. There were in some places schoolhouses. The teachers frequently were intemperate, whose qualification seemed to be an inability to earn anything in any other way. A clergyman who had some pretensions as a scholar, but had been silenced as a preacher for incorrigible drunkenness, stood very prominent as a teacher. In the best towns it depended upon accident what kind of teacher they had. But even in the best neighborhoods teachers of the young frequently were immoral and incapable; and in the country generally there was either a school of the worst character or none at all” (Powell 1893:143).

Schools were begun in each of Delaware’s 23 Hundreds for poor children and became popularly known as “Paupers schools” (Mowrey 1974:3). The 1817 Act was enforced for several years but was unpopular among the majority of the population who considered it a “poor children’s fund” (Powell 1893:140). The Free School Act of 1829 divided the state into school districts, standardized teacher’s salaries, created an administration of clerks, commissioners, and county superintendents, and appropriated state funds (Powell 1893:143-44). Section 1 stated that every parent, guardian or other person having control of a child or children between the ages of seven and 14 years was required to send them a day school for at least five months each year (School Laws 1908: Chapter 121, Volume 24).

School districts consisted of two-mile segments of rural areas with a single designated schoolhouse. If a district were to become overcrowded, a new district would be created rather than build a second school within a single district (Mowrey 1974:4). The new districts were usually created if a sufficient number of pupils, usually 35, could be found (Catts et al. 1983). The school was considered a corporation with the title of “School District Number ___”. Each school property was designated a standard sized plot, not to exceed half an acre, and each school was required by law to display a flag.

Each district was required to hold annual school meetings to determine how money would be raised (subscription or voluntary contribution) for that district. Schools were to be opened on the first Monday in October and to continue as long as the funds permitted (Powell 1893:144). The term “Free School:

“... was applied to the school law to indicate two facts: First that the people were left free to choose the length of time their schools would be in operation during any one year, and the amount of money to be raised by taxation for the support of the same, thus placing upon the people themselves, voting in the school meetings, the power and responsibility of determining whether they would have a good school, an inferior one, or no school; second, making the title show that the schools in the state were free for every white child to attend without reference to any money having been paid by its father or guardian” (Willard Hall in Powell 1893:144).

The Act of 1861 made it the duty of each school committee to levy \$25.00 for each school district in New Castle County. This act meant that no child could be deprived of an education by the district voters due to lack of funding. It also limited the amount of tax that could be levied in excess of this amount (Powell 1974:147-8).

Until the last quarter of the nineteenth century, schoolhouses in Delaware were still considered rudimentary in curricula and design. Each school house was typically a one-room, porchless structure with a single door, constructed of logs or unsmoothed timber (Powell 1893:151). Each of these structures was usually located on a public road within the center of a district. Desks or tables were arranged around the walls or back to back (Powell 1893:151-152). The building was heated by a coal or wood burning stove. The interior was austere - windows were often curtainless and a blackboard or perhaps a map of Delaware were the only wall embellishments. Reading, writing and arithmetic were taught and eventually English grammar, geography and geometry were introduced, but textbooks were uncommon (Powell 1893:153).

Additional laws were enacted in 1875 and 1887 to improve the quality and organization of the education system. The 1875 law created a State Superintendent and a State Board of Education, required teacher certification, and raised the amount of revenues each county was expected to raise for education (Powell 1893:154). Higher revenues raised on the county and state levels enabled over \$129,000.00 to be devoted to better constructed schools and facilities (Powell 1893:155). An 1879 supplement to this law created a grading system for students. Three grades were recognized. “First grade” consisted of satisfactory performance for three years, “Second grade” for two years and “Third grade” for a single year (Powell 1893:154).

The 1887 law abolished the position of State Superintendent in favor of local control of schools, and articulated the specifics of teacher certification exams in addition to other particulars (Madden and Postlethwait 1969:16). An 1887 amendment to the 1885 law mandated that all public school children be instructed in “...physiology, and hygiene, with special reference to the effects of alcoholic drinks, stimulants, and narcotics upon the human system, such instruction to be given orally in primary schools where pupils cannot read” (Powell 1893:158). Other amendments followed, to provide fee text books for students, to begin a school census at intervals of two years, and to raise teacher’s salaries (Powell 1893:159).

In 1897, upon the state’s decision to rewrite the constitution, the education system was again required to reform many of its policies. Educational funds were mandated for the sole purpose of education (Madden and Postlethwait 1969:17). The Board of Education was given the authority to collect statistics on the status of the system. Non-white

students were allocated state funds for the first time in the educational system's history. In 1907, a law was enacted which added penalties to the required compulsory attendance of at least five months out of the year (Madden and Postlethwait 1969:18).

Between 1919 and 1930, Delaware's public school system became modernized. The 1919 School Code was enacted to standardize school districts and re-organize them according to population growth (Mowrey 1974:4). In 1969, Delaware public schools were again re-organized by a new school code (Mowrey 1974:5).

Oak Hill School Historic Background

Heald's 1820 Roads of New Castle County shows the Oak Hill School to be in the same location as the current structure, although the original structure had been replaced by 1836, when a deed references a new school building. An 1807 deed that appears to be security for a loan between Jarvis Scullion, a weaver from Christiana Hundred and William McMullen, schoolmaster, was found at the Delaware Historical Society (Armstrong Collection, Box 69, Folder 24). Scullion purchased the Oak Hill Inn property in 1810, but probably he was in the area prior to that. Other lands that bounded the 49+ acre tract were owned by William Armor (now owned by his son James), James Armor (formerly John Stilley's land), Thomas Springer, and John Hendrickson, deceased. The Armor/Stilley property lies between Oak Hill Tavern and Oak Hill School, while the name Hendrickson can be found to the north of the area on the 1849 Rea and Price Map of New Castle County. Perhaps the school was operating that early, but this cannot be confirmed by the School Ledger (discussed below) that begins in 1842.

The school is shown as S.H. 22 on both the 1849 Rea and Price Map of New Castle County and the 1850 Price and Rea Map of Delaware. According to the Cultural Resource Survey form, the Twentieth Annual School Convention of New Castle County also lists a new building in District 22 (Benenson et al. 1988). Including a ledger entry for yet another new school building in 1883, various sources seem that four different school buildings have occupied the site between 1820 and 1883. The half mile distance from a major intersection, Lancaster Pike and Centre Road, is within the range of two to eight tenths miles discussed by Catts et al. (1983) for schools in Pencader Hundred. This report characterizes schoolhouses as community centers, with functions such as socials, meetings and baseball games.

A parcel of land surrounding the site of the Oak Hill School in Christiana Hundred was conveyed for \$225.00 from James and Sarah Caldwell to the Committee of School District No. 22 on April 16, 1836. The 1929 school law states that the land set aside for schools will be no more than one-half acre (School Laws 1908:25). This parcel, less than a quarter of an acre in size, was described as bounded by the lands of John Hendrickson (deceased), Jarvis Scullion, the Lancaster Turnpike and John Davis' line. Mentioned in the description is a new stone school house within the property bounds. The deed references the school house parcel being conveyed to James Caldwell in fee by Edward Tatnell and wife (New Castle County Deed Book V6:257). Further deed research traced the school property back from the present to Charles G. and Anna Swift Rupert, developers of the Sedgely subdivision adjacent to the site. The Ruperts transferred three tracts of land, which included lands they bought between 1902 and 1918, to the Rupert Investment Company, of which Mrs. Rupert was president. Included in this transfer was

a tract that was made up of a farm called Sedgely and a portion of the Brown (Oak Hill) Farm. Its boundary description specifically excludes the school property, bounding the school land on its north and west sides. Two additional tracts described are farther to the northwest (New Castle County Deed Book F42:491). A search of the deed indexes turned up no deed that transferred the school property to the Ruperts or to any other party, a transaction that should have taken place in the 1920s or later based on the closing date of the school after 1919.

A transcription of a set of 1830 New Castle County school records documents the geographic boundaries of 72 free school districts. A list of the meeting places for the 72 county school districts shows that 48 schools met in schoolhouses, 17 met in taverns, five met in private houses, one met in a hotel and one in a town hall.

Eight hundred and fifty-eight families in Christiana Hundred were enumerated during the 1850 U. S. Census. Thomas Armor (age 35), school teacher for Oak Hill School, is listed with his wife and two children for House 831/Family 847. The majority of residents enumerated in Christiana Hundred were laborers and farmers. Other occupations frequently listed in this census were powder manufacturers, oak coopers, and skilled workers, who were associated with the building trades from the states of Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. First generation Irish who were listed as mainly engaged in weaving (New Castle County, Delaware Census, 1850:316-373).

Fire insurance records compiled for New Castle County (1941) did not list Oak Hill School #22 as the district had been merged into two other school districts by the 1920s. However, the insurance records provided comparative examples of one-room schools in Delaware, most of which predated the early twentieth century. Photographs that accompany fire insurance records show the schoolhouses to be of either brick or frame construction and having various outbuildings. For example, the Walnut Greene School depicts a one room slate roofed structure, with a privy along the road near the front entrance to the building and a well with a gazebo or belvedere on the opposite side of the structure. Harmony School on Limestone Road is shown with two free standing privies behind the building. In almost all of the photographs, a flagpole is shown in front of the school, an observation that concurs with the 1829 School Law.

The Oak Hill School District Ledger is of particular importance to the understanding of the history of Oak Hill School in terms of the materials recovered from the excavations. This ledger included class lists, teacher's salaries, accountant's entries, and school committee meeting minutes. The ledger begins in 1842; 27 students were enrolled at this time. There are no references to the layout or the number of buildings on the property, although figures on the purchase of construction materials and repairs made are included for some years. The ledger lists the purchase of lumber, nails, glass, putty and hinges in 1842. Two entries concerning construction materials were made in October 1844, one for lumber and repairs on the schoolhouse and the other for glassing the schoolhouse. An advertisement for a teacher was also placed at this time.

Children attended school ten months per year, from October to July. The total expenditures for 1842 were \$280.90, and the usual yearly budget up to 1880 is generally \$200 to \$300 dollars. The only indication from the ledger that there is a new building in the mid-1800s is the jump in total expenditures; in 1854, expenditures totaled \$297.05,

but in 1854, expenditures jumped to \$720.85 in 1855. Expenses remain somewhat higher in 1856, totaling \$445.49, and in 1857, had dropped back to \$314.81. According to the ledger and minutes of the school committee meetings, school funds were raised by tuition (voluntary contributions) from the children's parents and supplemented by state school funds until 1880, when taxes replaced tuition. This roughly corresponds to the 1861 School Law that required district school voters to increase their share of school building maintenance through taxation.

From 1842 through 1855, the accounts ledger lists funds allocated for the purchase of cord wood, usually oak or hickory, indicating that the school was heated by a wood burning stove during those years. By 1856, and until 1918, the ledger begins to list tons of stove coal, and in 1856 an entry indicated as well the payment of \$12.08 for a stove and pipe. These entries, indicating a switch from wood to coal, appear just after the new school was built. An entry for September, 1859, "to Avilin D. Pickles for stoves" may mean that more than one stove was used. The stoves were periodically cleaned and repaired according to entries made through 1918. In July 1918, an entry to "C.S. Blackwood to install heater in schoolhouse" is probably indicative of a switch to a coal burning furnace rather than gas or electric heat. Ten thousand pounds of coal were ordered for the school as late as 1919.

References to the school interior include expenditures in 1846 "to Joseph C. Seeds for making blackboard", and in 1850, "to James Armor for repairs, including mending benches, 6 lights and putty". Additional desks and benches were purchased for \$42.59 in 1867. Classroom supplies were not itemized until a single entry in 1879, when a painting blackboard and four boxes of crayons were purchased.

In 1883, a new schoolhouse was constructed, according to two entries on May 11 "to George W. Brenton for building house, \$817.01" and "cash paid (\$654.36) to G.W. Brenton for building schoolhouse". The expenditures for that year abruptly escalated from \$472.48 in 1882 to \$1849.99 for 1883 (Table 4). The material used to construct the schoolhouse is not specified. One entry in July of 1888 for painting the schoolhouse could imply frame construction, but this could also refer to painting the interior. The next reference to buildings materials does not occur until 1895.

Between 1885 and 1918, numerous improvements were made on the structure and the yard. These improvements very likely corresponded to the 1875 School Law amendment requiring improvement of school facilities. Window shade (1887) and curtains (1910) were purchased, as were supplies for the students. Maps and charts were purchased (1888), the blackboard was coated (1891), and textbooks, drawing books and pencils were acquired (1895, 1900). Fire insurance was paid for the first time in 1886. The insurance includes furniture in 1887, possibly indicating that new desks were purchased. A porch was added in April of 1897. It was likely a frame addition according to an entry "to Fred Mammle for paint on flagpole and porch." The flagpole was erected and painted according to entries on April 8 and 9, 1897. A ceremony may have resulted according to an entry on May 27 to Mrs. F. Z. Warren for expenditures for flag raising. Display of the United States flag had been a requirement since the 1829 School Act (School Laws 1908:23), but this entry was the first reference to one at Oak Hill School.

On January 31, 1895, \$25.00 was paid to George Taylor for digging a well, and again on February 10, he was paid \$12.72 for digging and walling a well at the schoolhouse. A pump and tubing for a 26 foot well was purchased for \$10.00 in 1896. The well was cleaned out in 1901 and again in 1903. References to construction materials may indicate construction or repairs of either the schoolhouse or its outbuildings. In 1896, \$20.40 was expended to James Oberly for 2400 bricks and to Kent and Weeks Lumber Company for 436 feet of lumber. It is unknown if these materials were used to construct a well house similar to the one observed in photographs of the Walnut Greene School in Christiana Hundred (Public Budget Commission 1941), or an outhouse or shed. The construction materials could also have been used to construct the porch in 1897.

Bushes and lime were purchased for the yard in 1900. An entry for 1903 for “cutting down tree and cleaning yard” indicated new allocations for landscaping and yard maintenance. There are only two direct references to privies in the ledger. In 1905, \$6.00 was spent for painting outhouses and materials. A second entry in 1915 accounted for \$1.00 for cleaning outhouse. In 1918, an entry for \$5.00 for cleaning toilets may corresponds to a change to indoor plumbing.

From 1907 through 1911, \$1.00 to \$4.00 was spent per year for “work on census reports”. This corresponds to the 1897 school reforms that encouraged statistical accounting by Delaware’s schools. Classroom supplies were more frequently listed between 1904 and 1918 and included such items as ink, chalk, a clock, dustless crayons, composition books, arithmetic books and readers. In December of 1918, a brick chimney was added to the structure. Forty-six dollars and ninety cents was allocated for “building chimney at school, laying bricks, lime and mortar, and flashing around chimney”. In 1919, entries included sulphur candles and disinfectant, a reflection of that year’s influenza epidemic.

Student lists for 1842, 1844 and 1860 were also included within the ledger. The lists highlight the groups of brothers and sisters who attended school together. As could be expected, surnames correspond to those shown on historic maps within a two mile radius of the school. Class size ranged from 27 students in 1842, 76 in 1844, and 37 in 1860.

Teacher’s salaries remained fairly constant over time, although females earned slightly less than males. According to the ledger, some students were able to pay or reduce their tuition by teaching a quarter. Sally Banning is listed as a student in 1842 as well as a teacher. Her salary is listed as \$35 per quarter. Such was also the case for Smith Armor, Amanda Armstrong and Ruth Windle. Armor and Windle were listed as students in 1843 and as teachers in 1844. Amanda Armstrong, listed as a student in 1844, became a teacher in 1860. It was not until 1875 that certification was required for Delaware teachers and it may have been common practice to use local graduates of the school as teachers.

In compliance with the 1919 School Code, which standardized and reorganized school districts, the Oak Hill School District was split. By July of 1931, one part of the Oak Hill School District had become part of the Alexis I. DuPont Special District (Mowrey 1974:7). The other part of the Oak Hill District was merged with the Marshalltown 77 District in 1932 (Mowrey 1974:12).

Phase I and II Archeological Investigations, November 1992

At the time of the investigations, the grounds consisted of a lawn and landscaped shrubs. Mulberry and cherry trees marked the north-west corner of the site, two large maple trees were standing on the west side of the house. The Phase I and II at the Oak Hill Schoolhouse were carried out concurrently, and consisted of the excavation of 22 test units and one 3 by 19 foot trench (Figure 36). The TUs were 2.5 feet square, and TU 7 was expanded to a 4 x 5 foot unit.

TUs 1 and 2 were excavated in the front of the structure on either side of the sidewalk. TU 1 showed recent fill zones up to 20" underlain by a layer of sand, a layer containing numerous brick fragments, and a layer of ash. A buried plowzone, which overlay subsoil, was discovered under the ash layer. Two cut nails and a brick fragment were recovered from the buried plowzone. TU 2 exhibited a similar profile except that there was a layer of rock and gravel from 20-22", derived from the construction of a parking lot. The Apb yielded a piece of porcelain in TU 2. It is probable that the fill zones, the ash layer, etc., in both TUs are related to the extensive alterations the structure had gone through since its conversion from a schoolhouse to a private residence. The fill zones produced numerous twentieth century artifacts including a 1940 Lincoln Head penny and a ferrous metal toy soldier who appeared to be wearing circa World War II military garb. The ash level yielded primarily architectural artifacts.

On the west side of the house, TUs 3-6 were excavated in a slightly lower part of the yard area. TUs 3-6 were excavated in a topographically lower part of the yard. These, as well as the western end of Trench 1, showed that the western yard had not been filled except for the area next to the building. The soil profile consisted of a plowzone overlying subsoil, and the plowzone in the remainder of the yard contained a temporally mixed group of artifacts. A concentration of artifacts was found in TU 4, but many of the items were twentieth century glass.

East of these a 4 by 5 foot test unit (TU 7) was excavated in a level area next to the structure; a 19 foot long trench (Trench 1) was excavated from one corner of this unit toward the west. TU 7 and most of Trench 1 exhibited several fill zones overlying a buried plowzone. In both TU 7 and in Trench 1, remnants of mortared stone walls were discovered at a depth of 2 feet below surface. In TU 7 the west side of the wall produced burned rock, coal, brick, nails and mortar. A buried Ap was evident on the east side of the wall, and appeared to extend below the wall. This Apb yielded an undecorated whiteware sherd, 16 window glass fragments, two cut nails, a ferrous metal fragment, one brick fragment, four fragments of coal, and a quartz flake. Large amounts of brick were noted but not collected. The unit was expanded to 4 x 5' to follow the feature, and Trench 1 was excavated perpendicular to the wall in an attempt to determine how far the wall/foundation continued. Figure 37 shows the Trench 1 soil profile. All of the fill horizons had been surfaces long enough to form thin organic horizons. Both walls rested on the buried plowzone. Between these walls was a very loosely packed area of stone, brick, mortar, coal and ash. The feature was hypothesized to be a well, or possibly a privy, based on its size. In the buried Ap in these excavations, one sherd each of whiteware and pearlware, three slate pencil fragments, cut nails, a lot of window glass, a small amount of bottle glass and some fragments of brick, iron and coal were recovered.

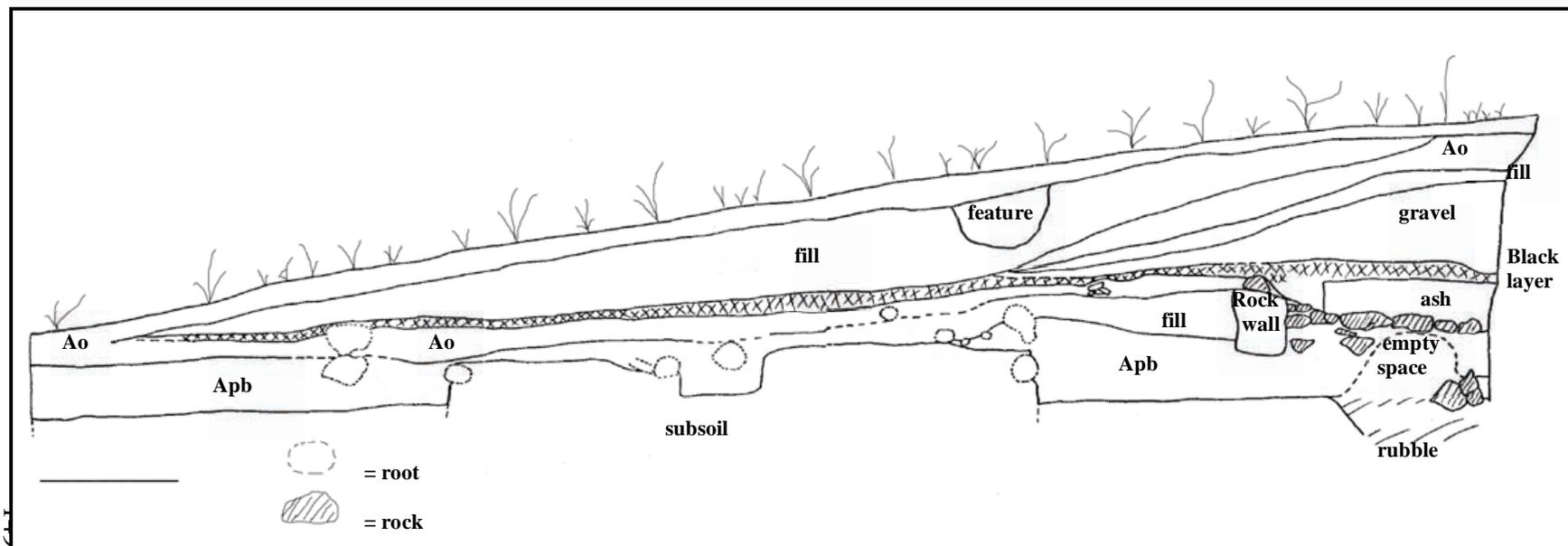


FIGURE 38
Oak Hill School, Trench 1 Profile, North Wall

A quartz flake was also found. The buried Ap in these units, as well as in TUs 1 and 2, appeared to represent a nineteenth century surface, and it is in this portion of the yard that Phase III mitigation excavations were conducted.

Twelve test units were excavated in the back yard. Generally, the soil profiles in much of this area consisted of a plowzone overlying subsoil, and the artifacts recovered were few. An area of the yard around test units 13, 16 and 19 had been disturbed, and test units showed fill zones overlying the plowzone. Both the fill zones and the plowzone contained a mixture of nineteenth and twentieth century artifacts. A single sherd of white salt glazed stoneware was present in the modern plowzone in TU 15. TU 9 had a recent plowzone overlying a fill zone that rested on subsoil. The fill proved to be a pipe trench. TU 16 was heavily disturbed; it may have been the location of a fruit tree at one time, as there was a small orchard in the back yard. TUs 8, 10, 13 and 19 exhibited an A horizon overlying a fill zone which varied in depth over a buried Ap horizon. Artifacts from the modern A and the fill dated from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Apb produced only a few pieces of bottle and window glass, a piece of slate, a cut spike and small fragments of brick and coal.

TU 20 was excavated at the rear of the modern garage, which is attached to the east side of the original structure. The soil profile showed several layers of fill overlying an Ap horizon which, in turn, overlay the subsoil. The Apb yielded a mixture of nineteenth and twentieth century materials including whiteware, hand painted porcelain, bottle and window glass (including some machine made bottle glass). Cut and wire nails, a crown cap, aluminum foil and a pair of pliers. Another TU excavation was attempted between the garage and the structure but was abandoned when a layer of cement was reached.

TUs 21 and 22 were excavated east of the garage. The soil profiles in both TUs consisted of an A horizon developed on fill, an ash and mortar layer, a buried Ap horizon, and subsoil. In TU 21, the A horizon and fill produced a whiteware sherd, an ironstone sherd, clear bottle glass, two crown caps, a brick fragment, a mortar fragment, and a cinder. The ash/mortar layer yielded a clear bottle fragment, a cut spike, and brick fragments. The Apb yielded a clear pressed glass fragment, a brick fragment and an 1898 Indian Head penny. TU 22 produced bottle glass, cinders, brick and burned shell from the A horizon and the fill. The Apb produced only a single window glass fragment.

These units exhibited an A horizon developed on several fill layers overlying a buried Ap horizon, then subsoil. All of these soil horizons, including the buried Ap, produced a mixture of nineteenth and twentieth century artifacts, but the materials recovered were predominantly modern trash.

Phase III Mitigation, May 1994

As per the Delaware Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan, this investigation was guided by research questions, objectives, and methods for a Phase III archeological investigation. Extensive documentary research was carried out in order to illuminate the history of the school. Fieldwork objectives were guided by the following questions:

- 1) What material cultural remains are preserved that may be associated with the activities of a nineteenth century schoolhouse?

- 2) What types of structures, outbuildings, archeological features comprised a typical schoolhouse yard? How did this change over time?

The objectives of the excavations were to recover a representative sample of the cultural resources associated with the schoolyard, to investigate a stone feature identified in the Phase I and II excavations as a possible well, and to interpret the site within local and regional history. As none of the schoolhouses which had been excavated at the time of this work had been carried to the Phase III level, it was thought that if the results for this project reflected the results at such sites as the Welsh Tract Schoolhouse (Catts et al. 1983; Catts et al. 1986), the information gleaned from a Phase III excavation at the Oak Hill Schoolhouse could guide such decisions at other sites.

A title search for the property was conducted at the New Castle County Courthouse in Wilmington and the Delaware State Archives in Dover. Primary and secondary historical documents were researched at the State Archives, including historical maps, state education documents and bulletins, fire insurance records, district boundary descriptions and the accounts ledger for the Oak Hill School. DelDOT site reports and other comparative literature were consulted.

An area about 35 feet square on the west side of the schoolhouse comprised the project area for the Phase III excavations (Figure 38). It was here that the 1992 testing located a buried ground surface and a stone feature. A site datum was established at 18.5 feet north of Lancaster Pike. A datum was also established at each square and mapped from the site datum into a site plan. Distances, elevations and angles were recorded using a transit. Since the existing brick structure was scheduled for demolition, a newly built residence on the property, north of the project area, was cross-referenced into the site plan.

Trenches A and B were excavated parallel to the side of the structure using a 2.5 foot wide backhoe bucket to the depth of the buried plowzone at circa two feet below the existing ground surface. The stone feature, found in previous excavations, was thought to be a well; this was uncovered during the stripping of Trench A. A baulk was left between Trenches A and B, where a domestic gas line had been installed when the new house was constructed on the property. According to a gas company representative, the line consisted of a one-half inch pipe analogous to PVC piping, and inadvertently breaking the pipe would not present significant safety problems. It was tunneled horizontally through the ground from Lancaster Pike, north to the newly built residence on the property. The ground surface west of this (Trenches C and D) was completely stripped to the buried surface. A baulk was also left between Trenches B and C.

The buried surface beneath the machine stripped areas was excavated by means of nine five foot square units using hand tools. Each unit was given a number identification. These were excavated by natural stratigraphic layers to subsoil. All soils excavated from the units were screened through 1/4 inch hardware mesh screens. Artifacts were bagged and labeled by their provenience, and soil and charcoal samples were collected where appropriate. Soil profiles were recorded for the trenches and the excavation units. Soil colors were recorded using the Munsell Soil Color charts. The stone feature was manually cleared, partially excavated, mapped and photographed.

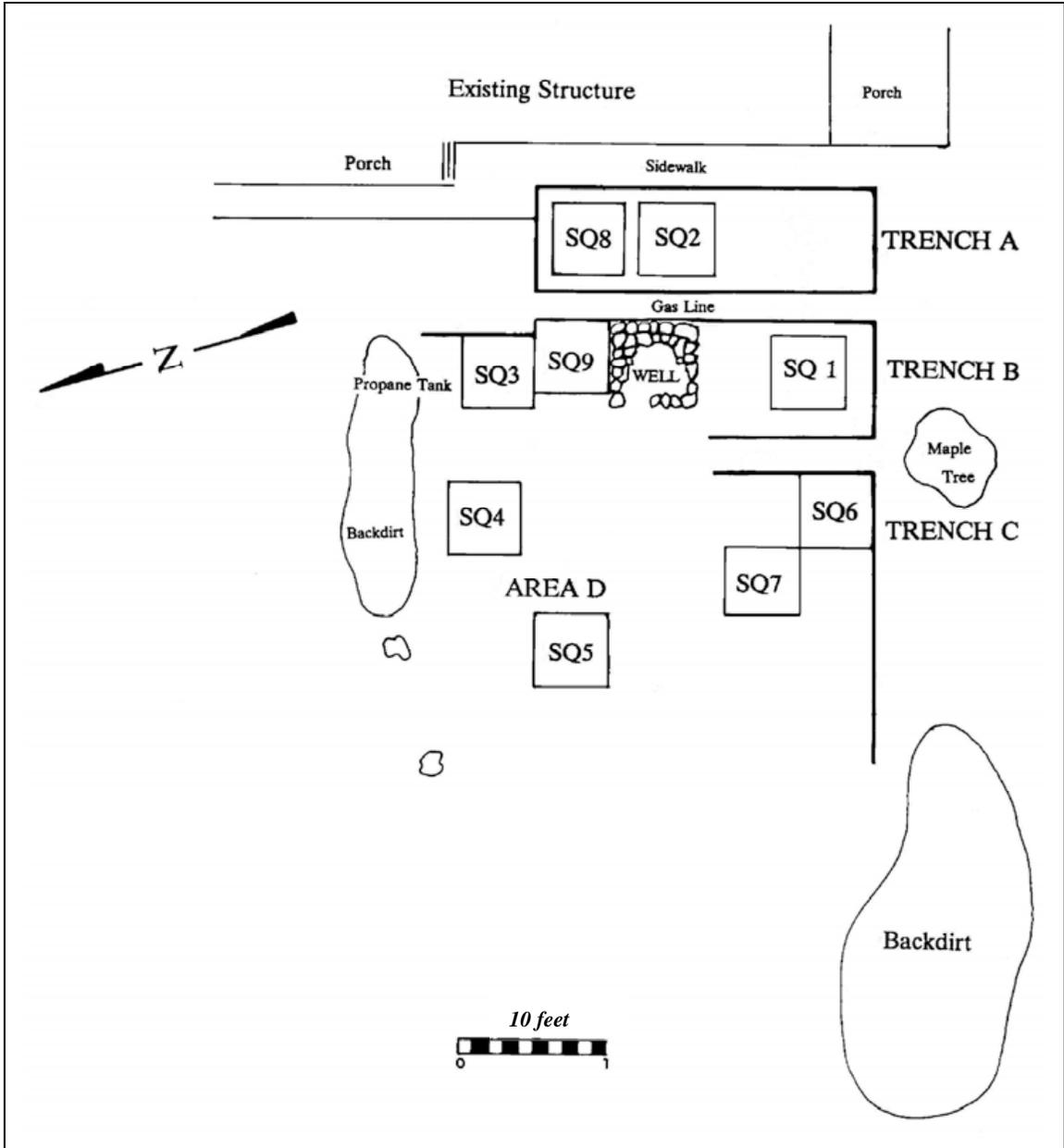


FIGURE 39
Oak Hill School, Plan Map of Phase III Excavations

Subsequent to excavation, the stone feature was filled with rock and covered with plastic. The entire area was mechanically reburied and tamped. After the site had been reburied, the gas line, a propane tank and the stone feature were flagged for the demolition crew as per a request by DeDOT archeologist, Kevin Cunningham.

Phase III Archeological Investigations (June, 1994)

The focus of the Phase III data recovery excavations was on an approximately 35 square foot area west of the house where the buried plowzone and the stone feature had been identified (see Figure 38). The intent was to define the function and spatial extent of the feature as well as to systematically sample the buried surface. It was of particular interest to determine whether or not the artifact assemblage of the nineteenth century Oak Hill Schoolhouse was comparable to other excavated schoolyards such as that at the Welsh Tract (Catts et al. 1983). It was hoped that data recovery at the schoolyard would enhance our understanding of the activities associated with Delaware's nineteenth century rural educational institutions. It was also expected that the site would yield comparative data for this site type, few of which have been subjected to full scale excavation.

The area was first machine stripped of topsoil. Trench A, extending to circa 19' long by 6' wide, was then excavated with the backhoe to a depth of 2.5 feet below surface to the top of the buried plowzone. Along the east wall, the first level (Level 1a) consisted of a twentieth century concrete sidewalk overlying gravel, which extends to a maximum depth of one foot below surface. A second artificial fill, Level 1b, consisted of a loose, ashy black soil mixed with coal, slag, clinkers, cinders and mortar, and extended to about 1.5 feet below surface. This fill was 1.2 feet thick at the northern end of the trench, but thinner at the southern end of the trench. In the southern end of the trench, at 1.2 feet below the surface, an accumulation of intact glass bottles and jars was observed during the backhoe excavation. About thirty of the jars (examined and discarded in the field) were machine made, clear glass Gerber baby food containers, circa mid to late twentieth century. A sample of other bottles and jars and miscellaneous artifacts was collected. Several medicine and cosmetic jars dating to the late twentieth century, terra cotta flower pot fragments, an ironstone saucer fragment, can fragments, a brass screw and a brass bracket fragment were collected.

Level 2 was a fill level that consisted of a mottled clay-loam mixture with inclusions of brick, mortar, and builder's sand to a depth of 2.2 feet below surface. Six whole bricks and numerous brick fragments were found. No other artifacts were recovered from this level.

These fill levels directly overlay the buried plowzone or Apb horizon (Level 3), a .2 to .4 foot thick layer of brown silty clay loam. The Apb horizon was underlain by a dark yellowish brown silty clay subsoil, or B1 horizon, and a yellowish brown compact silty clay B2 horizon, neither of which produced artifacts. The west wall of Trench A (Figure 38) exhibited an even, slightly downward slope from north to south. The strata present in this wall lacked the sidewalk level (Level 1a) but otherwise matched the east wall in terms of fill strata and depth.

Trench B was machine excavated on the west side of the buried gas line parallel to Trench A. The top of the stone feature identified in the Phase II excavations was

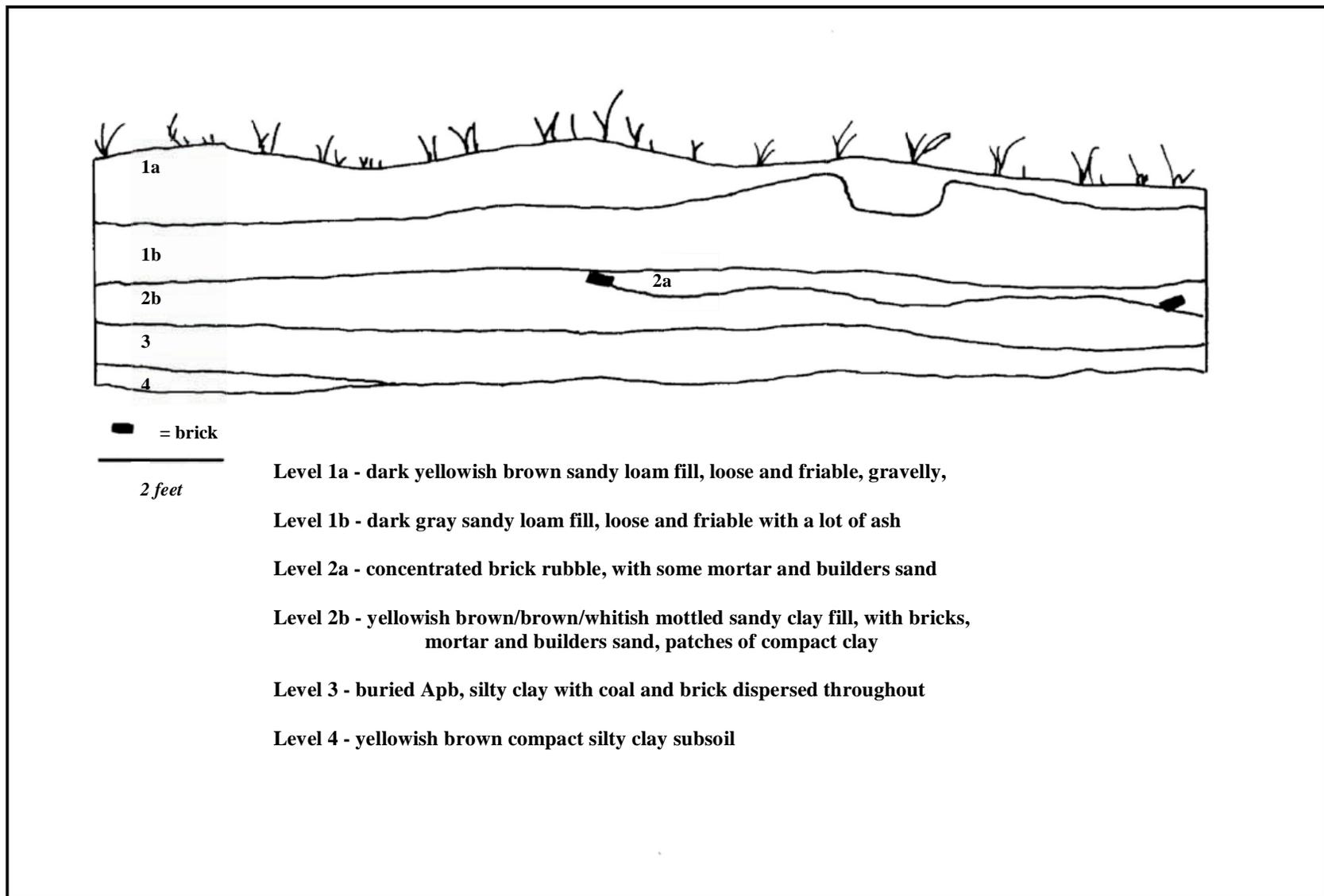


FIGURE 40
Oak Hill School, Trench A, West Wall Profile

encountered at two feet below the ground surface. The feature was then cleared by hand. The northern ten feet of the east wall profile of Trench B exhibited a disturbed stratigraphy, a mixture of the twentieth century fill levels observed in Trench A (Figure 40). Two to three feet of this disturbance was attributable to back fill from the Phase II excavations at this location, while the remainder was most likely altered by the installation of the propane tank and the gas line in recent years. The buried plowzone was found to be present under the gas tank disturbance. The remainder of Trench B exhibited a similar soil profile to that of Trench A, having three artificial fill levels overlying a buried plowzone. As in Trench A, an overall downward slope toward the western yard was observed. The west and south walls of Trench B exhibited a similar strata and slope, although the thickness of the various fill levels showed some change. This was further demonstrated by the south wall profile of Trench C, where Level 2 was absent and the fill levels continued to slope downward east to west. The fill strata as a whole shows considerable infilling that produced a gentle slope moving west from the schoolhouse.

The excavation of Trench B revealed the stone feature that had been found in the Phase II excavations in shovel test 7. The stone feature identified in the Phase II excavations was located ten feet west of the existing structure and 38 feet north of Lancaster Pike, at 2.5 feet below the ground surface. The feature, a six foot square of fieldstone construction, was partially excavated, mapped and photographed (Figure 41). Sand (probably the remains of mortar) was visible within joined stone crevices. The feature was found to be resting on the top of the buried plowzone.

A datum stake was established on the southwest corner atop an existing baulk for Trench C, and two levels, each a maximum of six inches in depth, were removed. The first level of soil in the feature was a very dark brown clayey loam; this produced a stoneware inkwell fragment, a porcelain horse figurine fragment, a piece of whiteware, a brick fragment, a piece of mortar and some coal and clinkers.

The second soil layer consisted of ashes, clinkers and cinders mixed with black loam. From this soil, 29 window glass fragments, 15 pale blue container glass fragments (including four base fragments and a neck and shoulder fragment from a mold blown bottle with a tooled lip), eight clear container glass fragments, a clear tumbler lip fragment, a clear mold blown bottle fragment with a tooled lip, a clear machine made container base fragment, a wire fragment, 16 brick fragments, and two plaster or mortar fragments were recovered. These artifacts seemed similar to Level 1b of the backhoe trenches, and this was a fill soil used to raise the level of the yard and to cover the well area. Excavation was terminated after approximately one foot of the ashy substance was removed and screened and it became apparent that the feature center was unstable. The center of the feature below the ashy layer was made up of loosely packed stones with no soil matrix. The stone layer extended at least six feet below the excavated portion of the ashy layer; a six foot engineer's ruler inserted into the center did not reach the bottom of the stone layer.

By this time it seemed certain that the feature was a well, and documents indicated it could extend another 25 feet. This posed excavation problems, since the feature could have a wall 25 feet or more deep on the eastern side. The excavations could not be stepped enough in this direction because of the presence of the existing structure. The

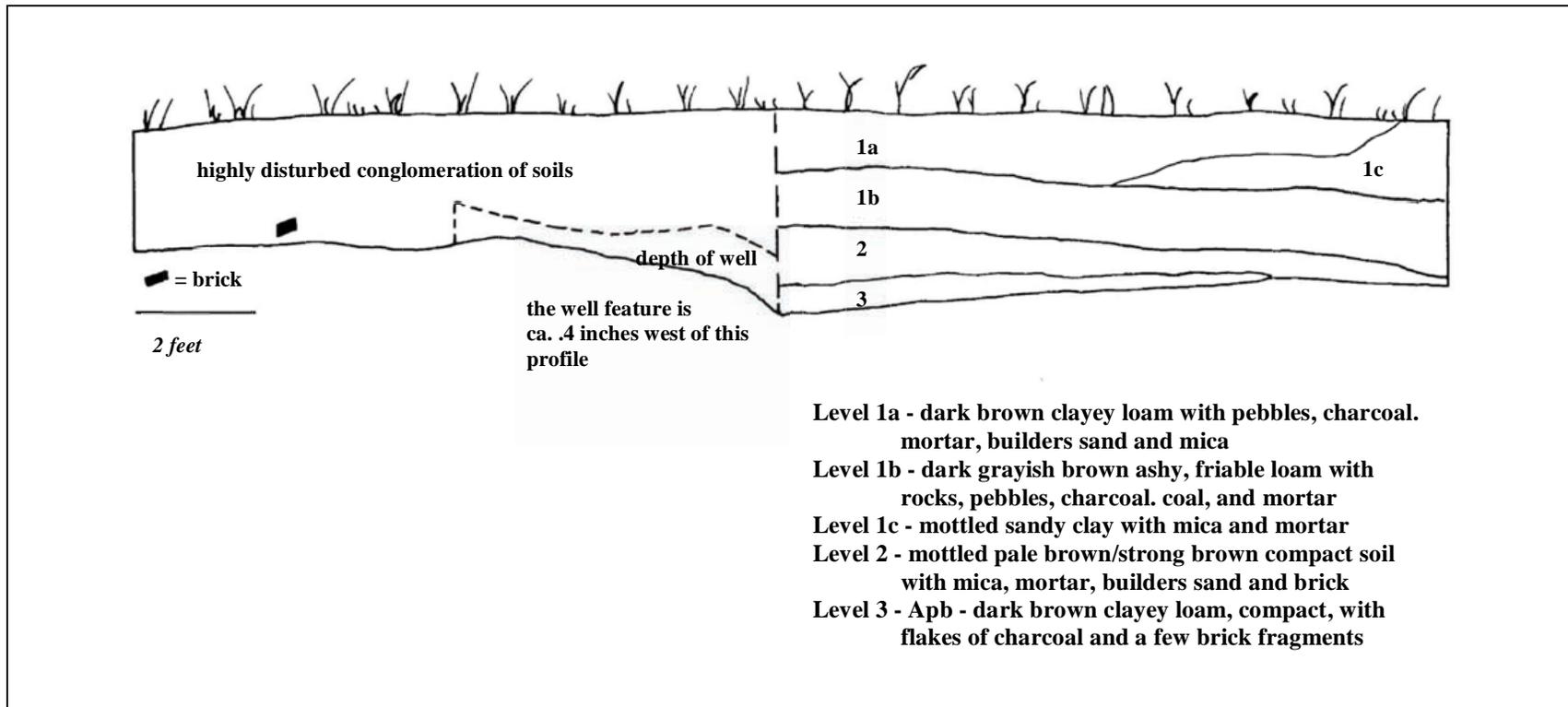


FIGURE 41
Oak Hill School, Trench B, East Wall Profile

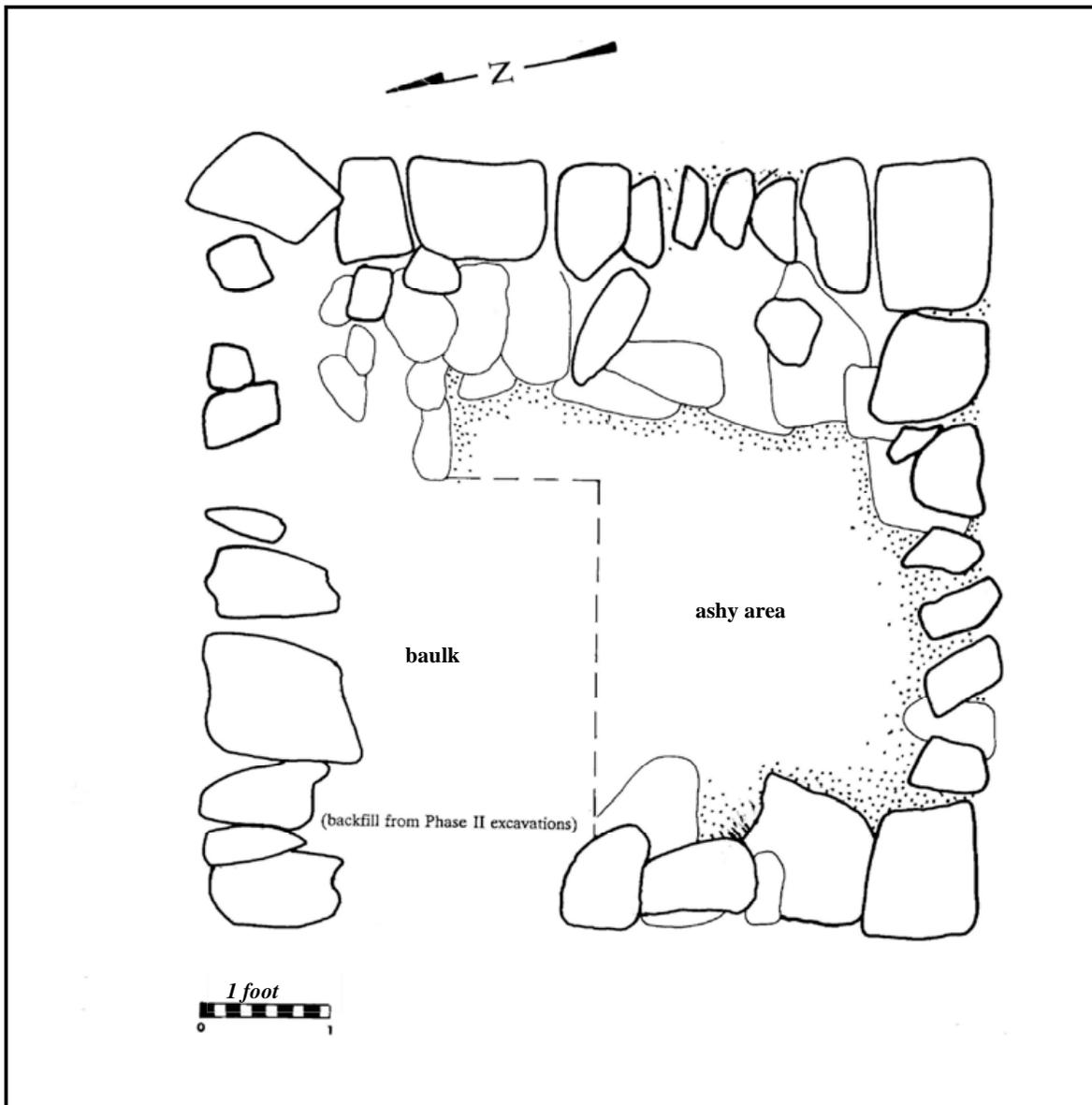


FIGURE 42
Oak Hill School, Trench B, Plan Map of Well, Bottom of Level 2

feature was most likely the well that the school ledger indicated was dug in 1895. Subsequent entries show that the well was periodically cleaned out, thus the potential for significant artifact yield appeared low. Because of the safety problems and the low probability of significant artifact recovery, and after consultations with DelDOT personnel and representatives of the State Historic Preservation Office, the excavations were terminated and the feature was reburied.

Square 1 was excavated at the southern end of Trench B, Square 9 was placed just north of the stone feature, and Square 3 was excavated near the north end of trench. The Apb horizon in these squares varied in thickness from .2 to .8 feet, with plow scars visible at the interface with the B horizon in Squares 1 and 9.

Trenches C and D were excavated in the remainder of the 35 square foot area that lies west of Trenches A and B, and were separated by Trench 1 from the previous excavations. The fill was removed to just above the surface of the Apb horizon. A large area of rotted tree root was noted in the northeast corner of Area C after the machine stripping. In addition, an area of burned wood intruded into the north wall.

Nine five foot square excavation units were excavated in the buried plowzone within the Phase III trenches in order to obtain a sample of artifacts from the nineteenth century school yard. Squares 2 and 8 were excavated within the northern 10 feet of Trench A. The buried plowzone in both squares was a very shallow layer, 1.5 to 2.5 feet thick, which produced large amounts of coal, some brick and mortar fragments, window glass, two cut nails and a slate pencil.

In Trench B, the buried plowzone from Square 1 produced five pearlware sherds, a whiteware sherd, two pieces of clear container glass, a cut nail, window glass and a large number of brick fragments. Square 3 yielded one Albany slipped redware sherd and one pearlware sherd, four container glass fragments, a brass button eye, three slate pencils and a clay marble. Architectural debris included a cut nail, a plaster fragment and approximately two to three gallons of brick fragments. From Square 9, three container glass fragments, a piece of a slate pencil, window glass and one and a half gallons of brick were recovered. The amount of coal, cinders and slag recovered from this trench was smaller than from Trench A, and continued to diminish with distance away from the house.

In the east side of the Square 9, a feature thought to represent a builder's trench was observed. This soil was excavated separately, but was later interpreted to be fill soils from previous land alterations. This soil was underlain by the Ab horizon. This level appears to be the same as Level 3 that was found in TU 7 during the Phase II excavations. A soil profile of this TU shows that this soil is at the same level as the wall remains on the east side of the stone feature, and fills the area to its east.

Squares 6 and 7 were excavated in the southeastern portion of Trench C. The Apb horizon in Square 6 consisted of only a .1 to .2 foot level which yielded only two brown lead glazed stoneware sherds, but produced 106 brick fragments and some coal. Square 7 was placed diagonally to the northwest wall of Square 6. After scraping the surface, a burned tree stump was revealed in the square. It occupied the northern 3/4 of the square and had disturbed the Ab horizon and subsoil around it. A one foot square was excavated outside of the tree root area, but no artifacts were recovered.

Squares 4 and 5 were excavated in the portion of the yard designated as Trench D. Overlying the buried plowzone in Square 4 was a soil layer no deeper than .3 feet deep that was filled with coal, charcoal, and building materials, including a large amount of window glass and a three cut nails. This soil was excavated separately as Feature 2. It bore a resemblance to Level 1b from the backhoe trenches, but had charcoal in the matrix. It is a layer rather than a pit of any kind, and yielded a temporally mixed assemblage; this layer may be more properly described as another level of fill spread over a portion of the yard. It did contain a large amount of glass, including 40 clear, 18 aqua, two brown, three bright green, 23 pale cobalt blue and four opaque white container glass fragments, a piece of a Boyd's cap liner, a wire staple, a slate pencil, and a kaolin pipe stem fragment. This feature was interpreted as burnt debris spread over the area as fill. The Apb horizon below this produced 25 window glass fragments, one brown and one clear container glass fragment, an iron button which may be from an overall, and a fairly large amount of coal and brick.

Square 5 was excavated five feet to the west of Square 4, and a very shallow remnant of the burned soil layer recorded as Feature 2 in Square 4 was noted and scraped. No artifacts were recovered. Below this, a black, square soil stain was present in the southeast corner of the square; a sharp odor resembling creosote was noted for this stain. In it was found one clear and one olive green container glass fragment, an 18" wire chain fragment, a coal fragment, a hickory bark fragment and a brick fragment. This feature was the result of twentieth century yard activity. The Ab horizon in Square 5 was .2 to .4 feet thick, and yielded somewhat fewer architectural remains and coal. It produced nine redware sherds, two stoneware sherds, part of an ironstone chamber pot or pitcher handle and an undecorated hard paste porcelain sherd that may be part of a doll's cup. There was a concentration of glass, with 20 pieces of glass in clear, pale green and olive green colors, including a clear, mold blown tooled lip fragment and an olive green free or mold blown bottle fragment with kick up. A slate pencil and four flat slate fragments were found. Other items included an iron twist off lid opener, a plastic ring and an Indian Head penny with an undecipherable date.

The excavations of the buried plowzone yielded large amounts of brick, some burned, and window glass. The brick was concentrated most heavily in the squares surrounding the well (1, 3, 6 and 9), and diminished somewhat in other squares. The window glass distribution overlapped that of the heaviest brick concentration, with Squares 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9 showing high counts of glass. Coal was especially prevalent in Squares 2 and 8, closest to the structure. The brick and glass were indicative of a demolished structure. Several possibilities for the origin of these artifacts have been considered, including the remains of a former school building, a well house, or an unidentified outbuilding. The concentration of brick around the well argues for the second of these interpretations, but the presence of window glass would seem to indicate a more elaborate structure. The coal distribution has been speculated to reflect coal storage next to the schoolhouse.

Of nine cut nails recovered from the buried plowzone, four were found in Square 5, which also produced the only appreciable amounts of ceramics and bottle glass. Nine redware, two stoneware, one ironstone and two porcelain fragments were recovered, as well as 20 pieces of bottle glass, a slate pencil, flat slate fragments, and an Indian Head penny. Three slate pencils were also found in Square 3, one was found in Square 8, and

in the Phase II Trench 1, three were found in the nineteenth century plowzone, and one was recovered from ashy soil. The pearlware from the buried plowzone was all found in Square 1. No features were found in the excavations, except for the well and some recent intrusions into the fill levels.

Interpretations and Conclusions

The Oak Hill Schoolhouse functioned as a school from at least 1820 until at least 1919. The ledger for Oak Hill School documents expenditures until 1919 (District #22 School Ledger); the 1919 Delaware Board of Education School Report documents expenditures for teacher's salaries, fuel, repairs and books (Benenson et al. 1988). A map documenting one room schoolhouses in 1921-22 does not show District 22 (in Cooper 1925, reproduced as Figure 58). By 1922, the Annual Report only showed transportation and insurance expenditures, while in 1924 the school was officially listed as closed, although transportation and insurance expenditures were still recorded for that year (Benenson et al. 1988). It was not until 1931 that part of the Oak Hill District was officially consolidated with Alexis I. DuPont Special District, and in 1932 another part of the district merged with the Marshalltown School District. Eventually, the structure was converted to a private residence.

Documents suggest that at least four successive schoolhouses once occupied the property. The Heald map of 1820 shows a school at this location, but its construction materials area not known. The deed giving the property to the School District in 1836 describes a new stone school house. The 1855 Annual Report for the New Castle County Schools lists Oak Hill School as having a new building, and although the Oak Hill ledger does not specifically state that a new building was constructed, when one examines the total expenditure from 1851-1860, there are only three years when the total expenditures exceed \$200 to \$300. In 1855, expenditures were \$720.85, in 1856 the total was \$445.49 and in 1857 the total was \$314.81. The sharp increase in expenses for 1855 may indicate the construction of a new building and, again, building materials used for the structure are not specified. The ledger does list the construction of a new building in 1883, however; when George Brinton was paid for building a schoolhouse. Presumably this is the core of the modern structure.

Phase I and II excavations at the Oak Hill Schoolhouse demonstrated the presence of three twentieth century fill sequences overlying a buried plowzone, and a stone feature interpreted as a well. The buried surface was a plowzone that rested on a deflated B horizon. It is probable that the well was the one recorded in the School Ledger as being dug and walled in 1895. The well consisted of a square stone foundation, built on top of the buried plowzone and surrounding a hole that extends more than six feet below that surface as measured during field work. An 1896 School Leger entry was made for a pump and tubing for a 26 foot deep well. The interior of the feature was composed entirely of loose stone rubble that had been covered with an ashy soil containing construction materials. Although the well could not be easily excavated because of its proximity to the house and the gas line, it is questionable whether significant information could have been obtained from this context, both because of its relatively late date of construction, and because the Oak Hill School ledger recorded that the well was periodically pumped and cleaned.

Although no intact evidence for the location of auxiliary structures other than the well could be identified in the excavation units or from the historical documents, the amount of brick and window glass recovered from the nineteenth century surface indicates that at least one brick structure was razed on the property. Since some of the brick fragments were burned, it is possible that either the structure was burned, or that the burned brick is from a chimney. Since the current structure was probably the fourth in a series of schoolhouses, the brick may relate to the circa 1855 schoolhouse, for which construction materials are unknown. It is also conceivable that the brick fragments could be the result of the well being covered by a brick well house, which has been observed in historic photographs of one-room schoolhouses in other parts of Delaware (Public Budget Commission 1941), or perhaps these were the remains of another type of outbuilding.

A large amount of coal was discovered in the excavations close to the house, and it seems that the coal delivered to the school may have been stored in that area. The amount of coal decreased sharply with distance from the house. Artifacts found in the nineteenth century plowzone are not numerous except for the brick (480 fragments recovered), coal and window glass (125 fragments). Only 13 nails were recovered, but all of these were machine cut, indicating a date before 1890, when wire nails were first commonly used for framing.

The slate pencils, marble, inkwell and possibly the pieces of flat slate are items that relate to the use of the structure as a school house, although the slate could be roofing. Other indications of the presence of children may be the penny, the porcelain horse's head figurine fragment and the possible doll's cup. The types and low densities of artifacts mirror the results obtained from excavations at the Welsh Tract School (Catts et al. 1983) in Delaware and the nineteenth century McKim Free School (Doyle-Read 1994) and the early twentieth century Carroll Vocational School (DeLeonardis 1994) in Baltimore. The basis for low artifact densities at all of these sites corresponds to the premise put forth by Catts et al. (1983) that the children had few possessions to lose, although the low numbers of artifacts such as ceramics probably also reflects the lack of permanent domestic occupation.

The Phase III excavations at the Oak Hill School House produced artifacts that replicated the results of other studies, including the low densities of materials recovered. Evidence for auxiliary structures thought to be associated with these structures was limited to the large quantities of brick and window glass, which may have been the result of demolition of a previous structure. The low number of artifacts recovered during the Phase I and II studies from the buried plowzone led to the hope that a sealed surface would produce a relatively pure artifact sample, but the excavations and archival evidence showed that the buried plowzone was covered relatively late in the school's history.



PLATE 21
Trench 1, expanded from
TU 7, showing edge of well
and North wall profile

PLATE 22
TU 7, view of West wall
and the well (Feature 1)





PLATE 23
1994 project area, as backhoe excavation begins



PLATE 24
Trench A, North view



PLATE 25
Looking Northeast at cleared project area



PLATE 26
Looking South at Feature 1 in Trench B



PLATE 27
Trench B and Feature 1, showing East wall profile



PLATE 28
Looking South at the excavated well

Highfield Hall (N-12910), Phase I

Site Description and Historic Background

Highfield Hall, located on the south side of Lancaster Pike midway between Center Road and Centerville Road, was a three-bay, two and one-half story stone example of the Italian Villa style which was popular in the mid-nineteenth century; it was constructed circa 1845 (KKFS 1988j). The mansard roof was covered with slate shingles. A porte cochere in the Norman style was added to the west facade later in the nineteenth century. In 1911, the Masonic Home of Delaware acquired the 12 acre property, and renovated and enlarged the Highfield house. The Masonic Home (KKFS 1988k) was a two and one-half story, T-shaped brick complex with a gabled roof clad in slate shingles. It was constructed circa 1922 in the academic Georgian Revival style, with additions dating to 1957 and 1984, and was connected to the east end of the Highfield house. Its roof system was gabled and covered in slate shingles.

Several other structures and a monument are located on the property. Behind Highfield Hall are the wash house, the ice house and the carriage house. The wash house was frame and covered in board and batten siding and had a hipped roof. The ice house was a stuccoed structure, also with a hipped roof. The carriage house was a two-story stone structure with a hipped roof, and had a rear two-story frame addition. To the west of Highfield were the Sussex Cottage and a pump house. The Cottage was a two-story, two-bay brick dwelling built in 1948, and the pump house was a one-story brick building with a gable roof constructed at about the same time. There was also a cluster housing complex built in 1983-1984. A monument to Gunning Bedford, Jr., had been erected on the grounds between the Masonic Home and the Pike in 1921 (Benenson et al. 1988; KFS 1993).

The 1849 Rea and Price Map of New Castle County (Appendix I: Map 2) shows two structures located along this portion of Lancaster Pike, between Little Mill Creek and a tributary to its west. One of these is associated with the name P. Rambo and the other with J. C. Grubb. These appear to be on either side of the Highfield location. On the Lake and Beers Map of 1860, there are four structures between the streams. From west to east these are a toll house, the house formerly belonging to Rambo and belonging to A. J. Borrell at this time, an unidentified structure at the Highfield location, and the Grubb house (in the location of Limerick, see below). On the 1868 Beers Atlas (Appendix II: Map3) the same structures appear; Grubb's name is the only one listed and is close to the two center structures. In 1881, the Hopkins map (Appendix II: Map 4) shows the same group of structures, and "Highfield", J. C. Grubb Est., 115 acres, is written near the two center structures. Two maps produced by Baist in 1892 (Appendix II: Map 5) and 1893 show these properties in more detail. The structure on the west, probably the toll house, has no name associated, but appears to be in the northwest corner of a large tract belonging to Mrs. F. R. Vernon. Also on this property a house and an associated outbuilding are shown in the location of the stone farmhouse discussed previously (N-495). A house and outbuilding (probably the carriage house) are shown in the location of the Highfield estate on a smaller piece of property. No name is associated with the

property at this time. The house and an outbuilding at Limerick, to the east of these, are shown to be owned by Hy Wood on these maps.

Results of the Fieldwork

The Phase I excavations at Highfield Hall and the Masonic Home were designed to determine whether potentially significant archeological remains were present within the highway right-of-way. In addition, a trench was excavated adjacent to the monument to determine if human remains had been interred there.

Fourteen test units were excavated in the proposed construction area, parallel to the Pike (Figure 42). For the most part, the test units exhibited a uniform soil profile, showing a rather rocky plowzone, extending from 8" to 12" below surface, overlying subsoil, and few artifacts were recovered. In TU 1, however, the south half of the unit was fill relating to a buried pipeline. In TU 14, it appears as if the A and B horizons were scraped off to build a gravel drive which lay just west of the unit; rock and coarse sand occurred just under the recent organic mat. Additional test pits were not excavated beyond TU 14 because of the lack of artifacts in the previous testing in the right of way and the close proximity to Lancaster Pike and to an area of disturbance relating to an unpaved road entering the property on this side. Artifacts recovered included wire and cut nails, brick fragments, porcelain, redware and creamware sherds, bottle and window glass fragments, and a brass pocket watch.

A backhoe with a smooth bucket was used to remove the plowzone around the Bedford monument. The monument listed Bedford's and other names, and it was thought that his and other graves might be located around the monument. In a history of the Grand Lodge of the Masons it was stated that Bedford's remains and the monument itself were removed from the First Presbyterian Church at Tenth and Market Streets, Wilmington, in 1920, because the cemetery land was to be reused as a building location, and that the reinterment took place on the grounds of the Masonic Home of Delaware. The backhoe was used to strip the soil in three areas between the Pike and the monument to a depth of 10 to 12 inches. The first two trenches, closer to the stone marker, showed a clay subsoil without evidence of any stains that might indicate a burial. The third trench, closer to the road, showed fill and rubble below the plowzone, but nothing resembling grave stains. No graves were discovered and it may be that the names were added to the monument as some sort of remembrance, but the bodies were interred elsewhere.

Summary and Recommendations

Although Highfield was incorporated into the Masonic Home complex in the early twentieth century, all of the structures maintained a high degree of architectural integrity. The entire Masonic complex was determined to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, for its historical associations, and Criterion C, for its architectural significance (KFS 1993).

The Phase I archeological testing, conducted along the Pike within the right-of-way, produced some artifacts, and these were registered as archeological site 7-NC-B37. However, there were no artifacts from undisturbed contexts, and no features were found. That portion of the site within the right-of-way is not eligible for nomination to the

National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. An area between the monument and the road was graded and examined to see if any burials could be located. No stains resembling graves were found. No additional archeological work is recommended for these portions of the site, as no significant archeological resources were encountered.



PLATE 30
View of the Bedford
Monument and the backhoe
excavating



PLATE 31
The backhoe removes the
topsoil



PLATE 32
Shovel scraping in front of the Bedford Monument



PLATE 33
Excavation showing subsoil with no evidence of a burial stain