

HISTORY OF THE BLUE BALL DAIRY BARN & MILK HOUSE

1862 Jonas N. Miller sells the 188-acre Blue Ball farm to Henry, Elizabeth and Lammott du Pont.

1909 Alfred I. du Pont buys the Blue Ball farm for construction of the Nemours estate. Mansion, upper gardens, and estate grounds designed by Carrere and Hastings. Lower grounds designed by Massena and du Pont.



1947
Charles Phillips (standing on Blue Ball Barn ramp), husband of Ethel Gooden, daughter of Harvey Gooden, proprietor of barn.



1948
Sandy Phillips with grandfather Harvey Gooden and horse in front of Blue Ball Barn.

1914 Alfred I. du Pont builds the Dairy Barn, Milk House and surrounding yard walls, as part of a farming operation that produced food for mansion residents.

1943 Harvey and Rutherford Gooden begin independent commercial dairy operations at the farm, paying rent to the du Pont family.

1960s Gooden builds Milk House on east side of the Dairy Barn for milk storage.

1977 Nemours Estate instructs Gooden to stop dairy operations at the farm. House and outbuildings, except the Dairy Barn and Milk House, are demolished.



1947
The Blue Ball Tavern looking south along Route 202 Concord Pike.



1969
Corncrib and outbuildings next to Blue Ball Barn. The boy in front of the corncrib is a neighbor and friend of the Phillips family.

1983 Blue Ball Dairy Barn and Milk House property sold to Al-Zar, Ltd., of Florida.

1999-2002 Ownership of the Blue Ball Barn and Milk House property is transferred to the State of Delaware.



1969
Boys on tractor in front of Blue Ball Barn. Boys (from left to right): Bill Phillips, Michael Phillips, neighbor and friend of family, Paul Phillips. Phillips boys were grandsons of Harvey Gooden.