

**4.3.19 K-07607. Former Dover Air Force Base Beacon
Barratts Chapel Road
SM-00-122.00-02-29.00**

Description: This approximately one-acre property is located on the north side of Barratts Chapel Road to the east of Buffalo Road. A small abandoned structure is located at the northwest corner of the parcel. It is surrounded by a padlocked chain link fence and overgrown with vines and brush. The current owner identifies the structure as a former Dover Air Force Base beacon (Caulk, personal communication 2008).

The beacon is a simple frame structure with plywood panel walls and a concrete slab foundation (Caulk, personal communication 2008). It has a flat roof and two wood pedestrian doors on the west side. It was probably constructed *ca.* 1954.

Applicable Historic Context(s): Upper Peninsula Zone; Suburbanization and Early Ex-urbanization (1940-1960±); Transportation and Communication; Settlement Patterns and Demographic Changes; Government.

Historical Overview: The approximately one-acre lot currently associated with resource K-07607 is comprised of two small parcels. Prior to 1954, the property was part of a large agricultural complex K-02739. On February 2, 1954, a Declaration of Taking was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware in Condemnation Proceeding Civil No. 1602 for an approximately 0.23-acre parcel called Tract 38 (Kent County Deeds 1982). The deed conveying the property from Henry Auberman to the United States of America was recorded in February of 1956 (Kent County Deeds 1956). The 1956 USGS map (see Figure 10) indicates a structure in the approximate location of K-07607.

On May 3, 1965, the United States Army Engineer District Baltimore purchased an additional 0.76-acre parcel from Auberman (Kent County Deeds 1965). The deed indicated that the property, called Tract 77, was being acquired for "Project Dover Air Force Base." When the 1956 USGS map was photorevised, the label "Dover A.F.B." was applied to the parcel/existing structure.

Based on this evidence, the Former Dover Air Force Base Beacon may have been built as late as *ca.* 1967, but it is more likely that the structure was built *ca.* 1954, as indicated by the USGS map. On February 9, 1982, a Quitclaim Deed recorded the sale of the two parcels to the owners of the adjacent farm K-02739 (Kent County Deeds 1982). The

owner confirmed that the structure has been abandoned since ca. 1982 and that no equipment remains inside the building (Caulk, personal communication 2008).

Evaluation: The structure is a simple utilitarian shed that no longer houses any equipment associated with its former role as a beacon for the Dover Air Force Base. It has been abandoned for more than 25 years, and it is in poor condition. It has lost integrity of setting (too overgrown), association, and feeling. K-07607 does not retain the integrity to convey historical significance.

K-07607 Photographs



Structure, west and south elevations, facing north.



Structure, west and south elevations, facing northeast.

K-07607 Mapping



K-07607 tax parcel on 2002 aerial photograph (Delaware DataMIL 2008).



K-07607 tax parcel on 1937 aerial photograph (Delaware DataMIL 2008).