8. William A. Worth House (N-13529)
West side of Centerville Road, southwest of its intersection with Hillside Road
Tax Parcel 07-025.00-056
(Cultural Resource Survey Form in Appendix A)

Description: This property consists of an early twentieth-century Colonial Revival-style house, a garage, a shed, and a springhouse. The house is set on a hill, approximately 550 feet west of Centerville Road at the end of a long asphalt drive (Plates 31 and 32). The house is basically a symmetrical 2½-story, U-plan structure with symmetrical wings and one-story porches on each side. It is constructed of uncoursed stone, with a five-bay-wide main section. The first-story windows have 8/12/12 triple-hung wooden sashes and paneled wooden shutters. The second-story windows consist of 12/12 double-hung wooden sashes with louvered wooden shutters. Four-inch molded casing surrounds each window. Massive rough-squared stone lintels with keystones cap each window opening. The main entrance to the house is a central, four-foot-wide paneled door on the east elevation. It has a dentiled entabulature supported by fluted pilasters. Three dormers pierce the east elevation of the main section's roof. These are gabled dormers with molded returns, having double-hung windows with arched top sashes and large decorative wooden "keystones." The roof is covered with cement-asbestos shingles. The main section has two brick interior end chimneys. On a datestone on the southern gable of the main section is inscribed: "J.R.W.-1937-W.A.W."

The 2-bay wings on each side of the main section are similar in design to the main section, each having 12/12 double-hung windows on the first and second stories, and a single dormer with a 6/6 double-hung window. The wings have westward-extending cross gables at the rear which are one bay deep, forming the house's U-plan. Each wing has a brick interior end chimney. A single-story enclosed wooden porch is attached to each wing. These porches have flat roofs with wrought-iron balustrades, and multipane fixed sash windows supported underneath by sections of wooden panels. Thin steel pillars support the porch roofs. According to the current owners, the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, these porches, which were originally only screened-in, were enclosed in 1994.

A stone wall which is attached to the north wing's east elevation extends approximately 75 feet, terminating at a 5x2-bay side-gabled stone garage. This garage is similar in construction to the main house, but is 1½-story, having two dormers on its southern slope and three on its northern slope (Plate 33). All the windows are 6/6 double-hung wood. The west elevation gable has a one-story, stone shed-roofed extension. Modifications appear to be limited to the interior, which appears to have been converted to offices and storage space.

About 75 feet east of the garage is a small front-gabled shed constructed of concrete block, but with a stone/stucco exterior finish (Plate 34). The roof is clad with cedar shingles. A small stone springhouse is set into a hill at the northeast corner of the property near Hillside Road (Plate 35). It is square, and has a pyramidal roof with asphalt shingles and a central roof cupola. A stone stairway on its south elevation leads to an entrance door. It appears to date from the same period as the main house.

Applicable Historic Context: Piedmont Zone, Urbanization and Early Suburbanization: 1880-1940 ±; Themes: Architecture; Major Families, Individuals, and Events; Property Type—Early Twentieth-Century Colonial Revival.

Evaluation: This house was built by William A. Worth and Jane R. Worth in 1937. In 1994, the house was sold to the Intercollegiate Studies Institute by the heirs of Jane R. Worth (NCC Deed 1849-55). William Alexander Worth was a prominent industrial figure in Delaware during the early twentieth century, having established the Worth Steel Company in Claymont (north of Wilmington) during the early 1920s. The Worth Steel Company was one of the leading industries in Delaware during the early twentieth century. Worth served as vice-president and treasurer of the company, beginning in 1923 (Bevan 1929:81). The house was his home from its construction in 1937 until his death in 1983 (NCC Will 82093). The house and outbuildings possess a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and feeling. The William A. Worth House is best evaluated for National Register eligibility as a contributing element in the proposed Centerville Road Historic District, which is described in the Summary and Conclusions chapter of this report.

PLATE 31: William A. Worth House, View to South

PLATE 32: William A. Worth House, View to Northwest

PLATE 33: William A. Worth House Garage, View to Northeast

PLATE 34: William A. Worth House Shed, View to East

PLATE 35: William A. Worth House Springhouse, View to East

9. William A. Dickson House (N-524)
West side of Centerville Road, at its intersection with Hillside Road
Tax Parcel 07-025.00-011
(Cultural Resource Survey Form in Appendix A)

Description: This property consists of a single dwelling, a garage, a springhouse, and a shed. The dwelling is a 2-story, 3x1-bay, side-gabled stone I-house dating from the late eighteenth century (Plates 36 and 37). The plan, which was originally rectangular, has been made irregular by additions which appear to range in date from the mid-nineteenth to the late twentieth centuries. The oldest section is constructed of uncoursed stone, covered with a thin layer of stucco. The principal facade, which faces south, has a one-story, screened-in porch with shed roof. The first- and second-story windows consist of wooden 6/6 double-hung sashes. The main entrance is a central door, flanked by two evenly spaced windows. The windows are set into openings having wooden frames constructed of 4-inch-wide rough-hewn timbers. The roof covering consists of slate. The main section has two interior gable-end chimneys constructed of brick.

The additions appear to have been built in three stages, beginning with a 1-bay, 2-story frame ell at the northeast corner of the north elevation which appears to date from the mid-nineteenth century. Its windows are 6/6 double-hung wooden sashes. Attached to the north gable of this ell is another one-story gabled section which appears to date from the mid-twentieth century. This section has both 6/6 and 1/1 double-hung windows. Both of these sections have asbestos siding and slate roofs. A third section, which is set into the inside corner of the ell, is a one-story frame structure which has vinyl siding and a metal standing-seam roof. The windows are vinyl-clad casements. This addition appears to date from the mid- to late twentieth century.

A mid- to late twentieth-century garage stands east of the house (Plate 38). It is a side-gabled, 2-bay building constructed of concrete block treated with stucco. Its roof is covered with asphalt shingles. South of the garage, by a stream near Centerville Road, is a stone springhouse which has a thin stucco coating (Plate 39). On the west gable is a datestone which reads: " W.D. 1790." The springhouse has a slate roof. Northwest of the house is a gabled stone shed, appearing to date from the mid-nineteenth century, which has a later concrete floor (Plate 40). The gables are pedimented and have wooden shingles. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

Applicable Historic Context: Piedmont Zone, Early Industrialization: 1770-1830 ±; Theme: Architecture; Property Type—Late Eighteenth-Century I-House.

Evaluation: Ownership of this property has been traced back to William and Susanna Dickson (also spelled Dixon or Dixson), who owned the land in the late eighteenth century. The datestone on the springhouse confirms that the springhouse was constructed in 1790, and the house, which has similar construction features, appears to have been built during the same period. Tax records from 1803 record William Dixon as owning 101 acres of land containing a stone house, a stone barn, a stone stable, and a stone gristmill (NCC Assessments 1803-4). In 1812, the Dicksons sold the land containing the house and farm buildings, but apparently not

the gristmill, to Reverend Samuel Henderson (NCC Deed M-3-419). Henderson sold the property to David Murphey in 1813 (NCC Deed L-3-524). Murphey owned the land until 1835, when he sold it to Richard Williams (NCC Deed S-4-441), who in turn quickly sold it to Joseph Guest in 1836 (NCC Deed V-4-359). Rae and Price depict J. Guest as the owner of a residence on this site in 1849 (see Figure 4), and Beers depicts Mrs. Guest as the owner in 1868 (see Figure 5). In the late nineteenth century, the land had passed to the ownership of William J. and Margaret Mandy, and was sold to Thomas Coleman DuPont in 1912 (NCC Deeds T-23-258 and X-23-128). Thomas Coleman DuPont sold this parcel to Ellen DuPont Meeds in 1926, and in 1937, Meeds sold it to Deborah B. Halsey Wilson (NCC Deeds M-40-339 and Z-34-343). Following her purchase, Wilson erected a new stone dwelling several hundred feet west of this house, and may have demolished one or more outbuildings in the process, as stone walls associated with this twentieth century-dwelling incorporate a datestone similar to the one on the springhouse. The datestone contains William Dickson's initials and is dated 1792. In 1970, after the death of Mrs. Wilson, the land was sold to Charles and Kathryn W. Cruice, who in turn sold the parcel to its present owners, J. Seth and Barbara Cruice, in 1989 (NCC Deeds Z-83-173 and 902-78).

The eligibility of this resource must be evaluated in light of the Delaware *Historic Context Master Reference and Summary*, which states that the survival rates for historic resources in the Piedmont Zone during the period of Early Industrialization: 1770-1830 ±, are good for dwellings, workers' housing, taverns, and major architectural buildings, although historic landscapes and cultural resources from this period of significance are highly threatened in this zone.

The William A. Dickson House meets National Register Criterion C, as it represents the distinctive characteristics of a early nineteenth-century stone I-house. Although the house and existing outbuildings at the William Lowther Farm possess integrity of location, physical and documentary evidence shows that several of the historic outbuildings which were associated with this property are no longer extant, including a stone barn and stable, and a mill operation. These demolitions, as well as the construction of a new garage and the construction of the Deborah B. Halsey Wilson House west of the William Dickson House, have diminished the property's integrity of setting, feeling, and association. Additions and alterations to the house throughout the twentieth century have diminished the property's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The William A. Dickson House does not meet National Register Criteria with regard to integrity. The house must be considered a non-contributing element in the proposed Centerville Road Historic District, as it does not date to the period of significance of the district (Urbanization and Early Suburbanization: 1880-1940 ±) and is not representative of the themes and styles characteristic of the district (Settlement Patterns and Demographic Change/Commuter Suburbs; Early Twentieth-Century Revival Styles). The Centerville Road Historic District is described in the Summary and Conclusions chapter of this report.

PLATE 36: William A. Dickson House, View to East

PLATE 37: William A. Dickson House, View to Southeast

PLATE 38: William A. Dickson House Garage, View to North

PLATE 39: William A. Dickson House Springhouse, View to East

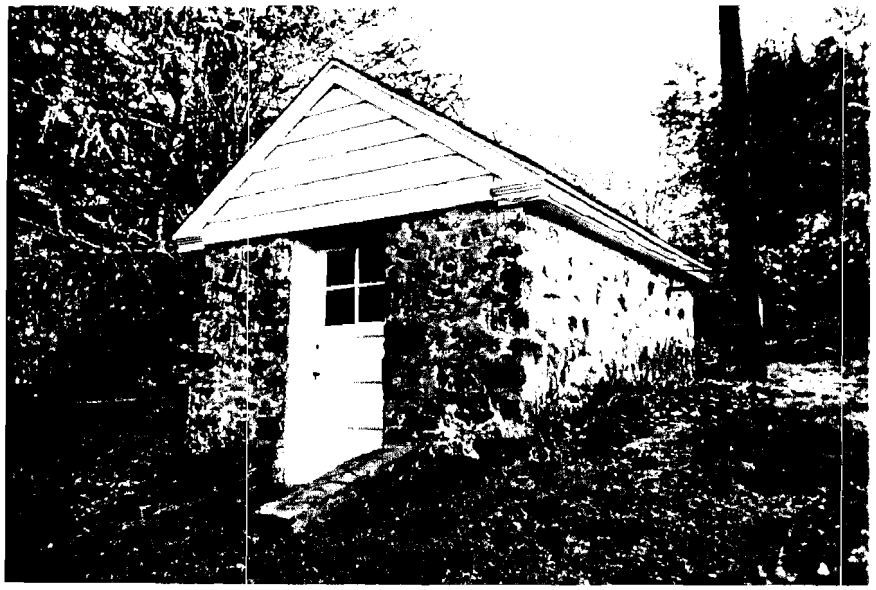

PLATE 40: William A. Dickson House Shed, View to West

10. Deborah B. Halsey Wilson House (N-13530)
4001 Centerville Road
Tax Parcel 07-025.00-011
(Cultural Resource Survey Form in Appendix A)

Description: This 2-story stone Colonial Revival-style house with an irregular plan is situated west of the William A. Dickson House at the end of a drive opposite Hillside Road (Plates 41 and 42). The materials and construction of this house are similar to those of the William A. Worth House. It is a side-gabled structure with its primary facade facing east. The building consists of five distinct sections: a 2-bay main or entrance section which has a 1-bay gabled wing attached to its north gable, and two side-gabled sections and one cross-gabled garage attached to its southern gable. Attached to the south elevation gable of the main section is a 2-bay wing, to which is attached another 2-bay wing. The cross-gabled garage is two bays wide. Windows consist primarily of 6/6 wooden double-hung sashes with 4-inch wooden surrounds; however, the main section has 9/6 double-hung windows on its first story. All first-story windows have recessed panel shutters, and the second-story windows have louvered shutters. Massive stone lintels and keystones identical to those on the William A. Worth House suggest that the same builder constructed both buildings. The roof, which is pierced by four brick chimneys, is clad with slate. A front entrance on the east elevation of the main section has a fanlight transom. Two shed-roofed, screened-in porches extend westward from the west elevation. A datestone set in the north elevation gable reads: "R.E.W. -1939- D.B.H.W."

South of the house lies a 1x2-bay, front-gabled, concrete-block garage on a concrete slab, with an asphalt-shingled roof (Plate 43). This garage dates from the mid-twentieth century. An in-ground concrete pool is situated near the north elevation of the house (Plate 44). A stone wall leading from the house to the pool has a datestone embedded in it which appears to have come from a building historically associated with the William A. Dickson House. It reads: "W D S 1792." This appears to refer to William and Susanna Dickson, owners of the land during the late eighteenth century (NCC Deed M-3-419). North of the pool is a small frame shed with board and batten siding dating from the mid- to late twentieth century (Plate 45).

Applicable Historic Context: Piedmont Zone, Urbanization and Early Suburbanization: 1880-1940 ±; Theme: Architecture; Property Type—Early Twentieth-Century Colonial Revival.

Evaluation: The title history of this property is identical to that of the William A. Dickson House. The house was built in 1939 after Deborah B. Halsey Wilson purchased the land (NCC Deed 40-339). J. Seth and Barbara Cruice currently own this property (NCC Deeds Z-83-173 and 902-78). Although it is a fine example of early twentieth-century Colonial Revival architecture, it does not possess the high-style architectural qualities which distinguish other local examples of this relatively common architectural style, such as the neighboring William A. Worth House, and does not appear to meet National Register Criteria A, B, or C. The house may, however, be considered a contributing element in the proposed Centerville Road Historic District, which is described in the Summary and Conclusions chapter of this report.

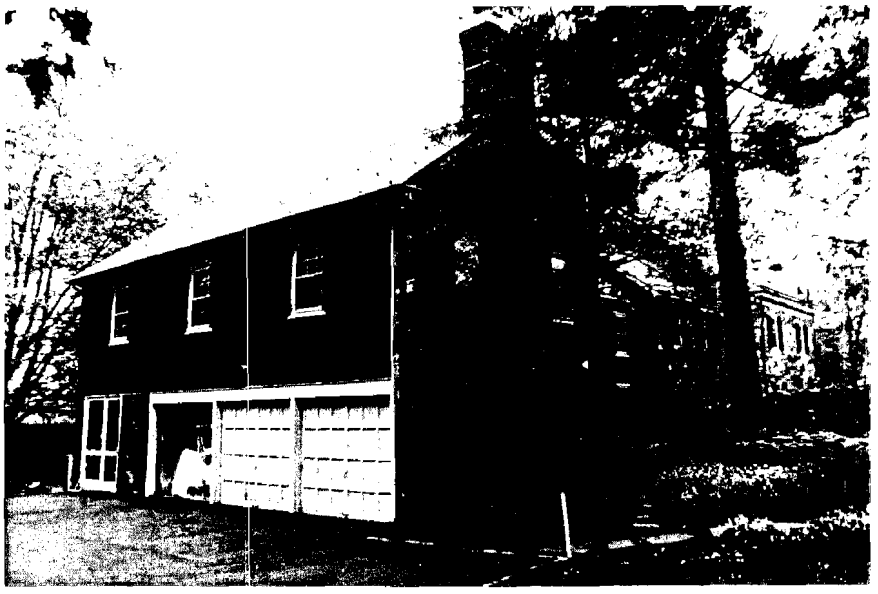

PLATE 41: Deborah B. Halsey Wilson House, View to Northwest

PLATE 42: Deborah B. Halsey Wilson House, View to Southeast

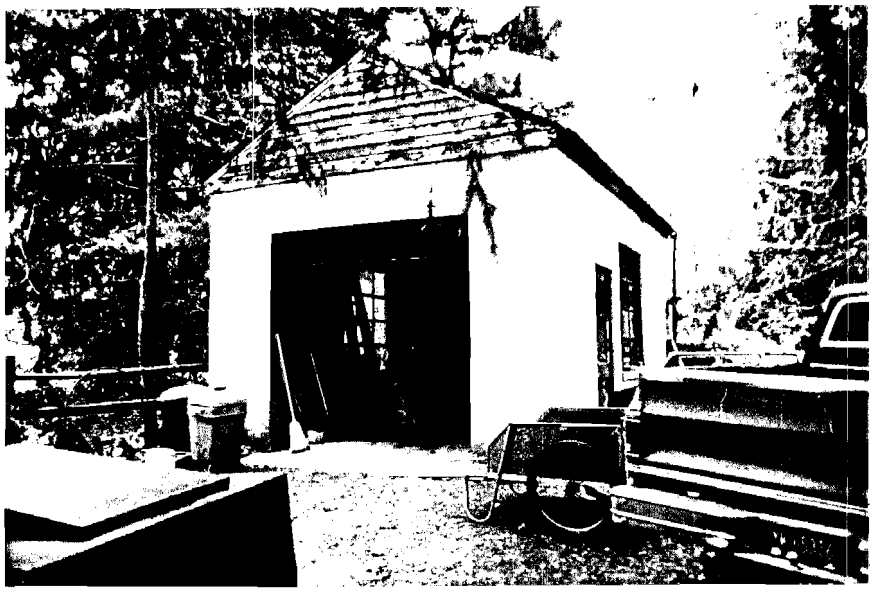

PLATE 43: Deborah B. Halsey Wilson House Garage, View to South

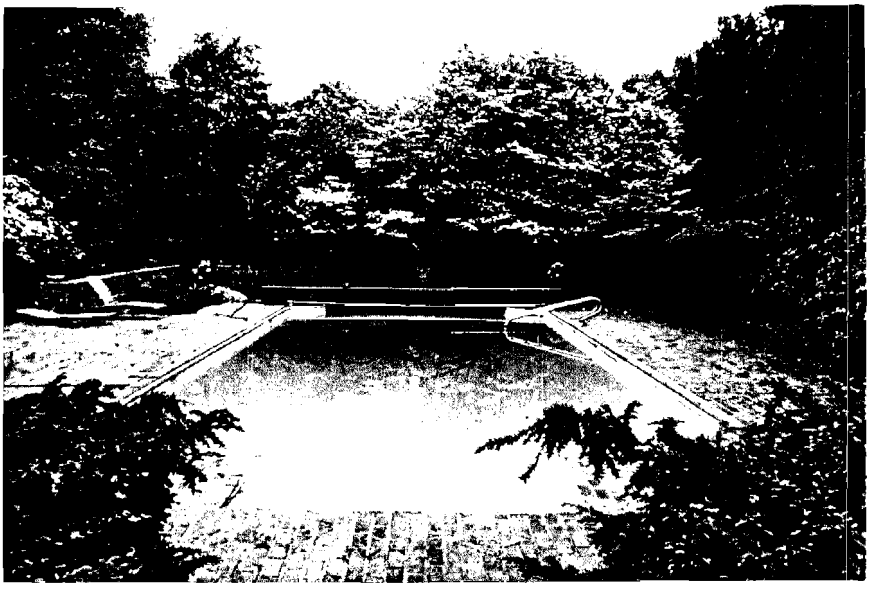

PLATE 44: Deborah B. Halsey Wilson House Pool, View to East

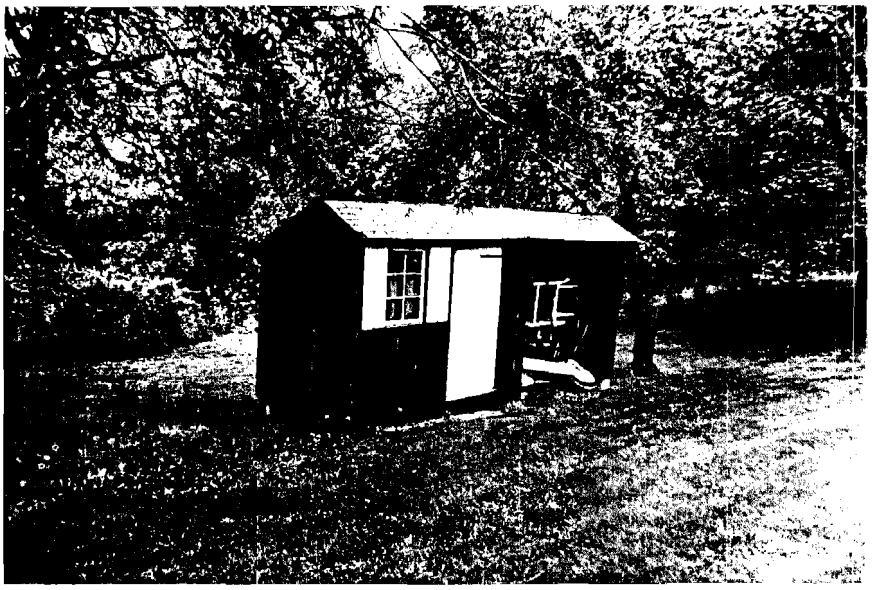

PLATE 45: Deborah B. Halsey Wilson House Shed, View to Northeast

11. Westbrae Tenant House (N-522)
1115 Hillside Road
Tax Parcel 07-025.00-13
(Cultural Resource Survey Form in Appendix A)

Description: This property consists of a dwelling and a garage. The house, which is set on a hill, consists of an original 3x2-bay, 1½-story side-gabled main block with a one-bay addition at the east gable end (Plates 46 and 47). The original section is frame, set on a stone foundation, with its principal elevation facing south. The first story of this elevation has a central entrance with a brick stairway and porch, covered by a shed roof. Windows on each side of the entrance have 6/6 wooden sashes. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles, and is pierced by a central interior ridge chimney. The 1x2-bay frame addition has a combination of 1/1 and 6/6 wooden sash windows. The rear of the house (north elevation) has a shallow roof pitch due to what appears to have been a late twentieth-century addition which raised the roof, creating a half story. Windows on the north elevation consist of a combination of late twentieth-century-style wooden 1/1 and 6/6 windows. The entire house is clad with vinyl siding.

A garage, which is constructed from a metal quonset hut with one curved side clipped to create an entrance bay, lies southwest of the house near Hillside Road. It appears to date from the mid-twentieth century (Plate 48).

Applicable Historic Context: Upper Peninsula Zone, Urbanization and Early Suburbanization: 1880-1940 ±; Theme: Architecture; Property Type—Folk Victorian.

Evaluation: According to the previous cultural resource survey form for this property, this dwelling was built as a tenant house associated with the mansion house of Frank and George Rhoads (Westbrae; see below) in the early twentieth century (DESHPO Cultural Resource Survey Form No. 522). George and Frank Rhoads sold this property to Walter Pyle in 1918 (NCC Deed Q-27-82). Walter Pyle was an owner of the prominent C. and W. Pyle Leather Goods Company in Wilmington at the turn of the century (Conrad 1908:386; DESHPO Cultural Resource Survey Form No. 521). Walter Pyle died in 1919, leaving the property to his son, Walter Pyle, Jr. (NCC Will N-4-131). In 1936, Walter Pyle, Jr., heir of Walter Pyle, Sr., sold the house back to George A. Rhoads (NCC Deed B-40-533). Upon the death of George Rhoads, the property was sold to Frank and Amalia Manegold, and then by Amalia Manegold to Robert K. Beste in 1956 (NCC Deeds Q-42-37 and Q-57-18). Beste sold the property to its present owners, Peter and Jeanne Huang, in 1980 (NCC Deed Z-111-24). This property does not possess sufficient architectural or historical significance to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, extensive alterations and additions have greatly diminished the property's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Due to these extensive alterations, the Westbrae Tenant House would be considered a non-contributing element in the proposed Centerville Road Historic District, which is described in the Summary and Conclusions chapter of this report.

PLATE 46: Westbrae Tenant House, View to North

PLATE 47: Westbrae Tenant House, View to Southeast

PLATE 48: Westbrae Tenant House Garage, View to Northwest

12. Westbrae (N-521)
1101 Hillside Road
Tax Parcel 07-025.00-014
(Cultural Resource Survey Form in Appendix A)

Description: This property consists of a large dwelling, three garages, and a pool. The dwelling is a large 2½-story, stone Dutch Colonial Revival-style house dating from the early twentieth century (Plates 49 and 50). It is a 5x3-bay, side-gabled stone house with stone interior end chimneys which rise above a gambrel roof. The roof is clad with cedar shingles. Most windows are 6/1 double-hung wooden sashes with elaborate molded wooden sills and stone lintels with keystones. Both roof slopes have three pedimented dormers. The principal facade faces west, and has a central-gabled portico entrance with concave ceiling. Both gable ends of the house have one-story enclosed porches with flat roofs which have decorative wooden balustrades. The porch roofs are supported by round wooden columns of the Tuscan Doric order. The east elevation has a central porte cochere which has a flat roof surrounded by a balustrade. The porte cochere roof is supported by two Doric-order columns. Centered on the porte cochere roof is a small arched window with leaded panes. A datestone on the south gable wall reads: "C.F.R. 1907."

Northwest of the house is an in-ground concrete pool (Plate 51). East of the house stands a 1x2-bay, front-gabled frame garage with a combination of vertical beaded-board and plywood siding (Plate 52). The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. This garage, which appears to date from the early twentieth century, is in poor condition. Southwest of this garage is a 1½-story, gabled garage with an L-plan (Plate 53). The building appears to have been constructed in two phases. A 3x1-bay section, which appears to date from the early twentieth century, has a stone foundation, central stone chimney, and gambrel roof, with a single dormer on both its northern and southern roof slopes. A one-story ell attached to the north elevation of this garage has a brick chimney. This ell appears to date from the mid-twentieth century. Both sections are clad with a combination of german siding and asphalt shingles. Windows consist of a variety of fixed-pane sashes and 2/2 and 6/6 double-hung. The interior of the half story of the main section appears to be finished, and may have been used as living quarters at some time. A steel quonset-hut garage identical to the one on the Westbrae Tenant House property is situated east of this garage (Plate 54).

Applicable Historic Context: Upper Peninsula Zone, Urbanization and Early Suburbanization: 1880-1940 ±; Theme: Architecture; Property Type—Early Twentieth-Century Colonial Revival.

Evaluation: This property's chain of title is identical to that of the Westbrae Tenant House until 1955, when the Manegolds sold this part of the property to Theodore L. Cairns (NCC Deed L-56-434). In 1984, Cairns sold it to Eileen Ward, and the title changed hands three more times before the property was purchased by its present owners, Kenneth S. and Alice J. Piech (NCC Deeds A-126-59, R-125-113, 636-262, and 1545-21). The house was constructed by George A. Rhoads in 1907, and sold to Walter Pyle in 1918. Walter Pyle was an owner of the prominent C. and W. Pyle Leather Goods Company in Wilmington at the turn of the century (Conrad

1908:386; DESHPO Cultural Resource Survey Form No. 521). When the land was sold back to George Rhoads in 1937, he developed a small spring water business on part of the property, which became known as Westbrae Springs. Westbrae is a good example of the early twentieth-century Dutch Colonial Revival style, possessing integrity of location and a high degree of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The house is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element in the proposed Centerville Road Historic District, which is described in the Summary and Conclusions chapter of this report.

PLATE 49: Westbrae, View to Northeast

PLATE 50: Westbrae, View to Southwest

PLATE 51: Westbrae Pool, View to West

PLATE 52: Westbrae Garage No. 1, View to East

PLATE 53: Westbrae Garage No. 2 , View to Northeast

PLATE 54: Westbrae Garage No. 3 , View to East