

Spring Valley, Washington DC
FUDS POI Descriptions

- 1. Circular Trenches.** Identified as the Sedgwick Trench. The Army performed extensive field testing of Chemical Warfare Agents (CWA) such as mustard, phosgene, chloropicrin, and cyanogen chloride at this site. The Sedgwick Trench is comprised of circular trenches approximately 200 feet in diameter. Livens and 75 millimeter (mm) shells with agent were statically fired in the center of the circular trenches.
- 2. Possible Pit.** Possible location of a pit used for disposal of scrap metal, duds, and other material associated with Sedgwick Trench. Conclusion was drawn by analogy with the circular trenches and associated disposal pits (POIs 13/14). Located adjacent to Sedgwick Trench.
- 3. Small Crater Scars.** Consists of small crater scars.
- 4. Possible Pit.** Possible location of a pit used for disposal of scrap, metal, duds, and other material associated with Sedgwick Trench. Conclusion was drawn by analogy with the circular trenches and associated disposal pits (POIs 13/14). Located adjacent to Sedgwick Trench.
- 5. Possible Pit.** No additional historical information is available for this area.
- 6. Possible Target or Test Site.** Location of a possible target or test site referred to on a 1918 topographic map as a "TARGET" area. Located on a tree-covered hill adjacent to POI 9. No additional historical information is available for this area.
- 7. Possible Test Area.** Possible test area that was originally fenced-in. POI 7 encompasses approximately 41,000 sq. ft. A ground scar and small white areas similar to the mustard test fields were visible within the fenced-in area. Reports indicate these areas were as small as 3 feet square and were used to test for agent persistence. Given the proximity of POI 7 to the Sedgwick Trench (POI 1), it may have also been used as a holding area for animals used in the field tests at AUES.
- 8. Possible Target or Test Site.** Location of a possible target or a test site referred to on a 1918 topographic map as a "TARGET" area. Located on a tree-covered hill adjacent to POI 9. No additional historical information is available for this area.
- 9. Possible Firing or Observation Stalls.** Location of a possible remote firing location or observation stalls. No additional historical information is available for this area.
- 10. Possible Target or Test Site.** Possible static test site. Site is located approximately 400 feet east of a possible firing line.
- 11. Scattered Ground scars.** Identified in a 1918 photograph by ground scars visible on the crest and reverse slope to the west of a hill. A possible firing line or observation stalls (POI 9) are located approximately 350 feet east of this area. RI report indicated seven statically fired 75 mm shells have been located on the surface by a field survey crew in the area around the site. Numerous subsurface fragments have been located by magnetometer detection.

- 12. Possible Graded Area.** No additional historical information is available for this area.
- 13. Circular Trenches.** Identified as circular trenches that measure approximately 200 feet in diameter. The trenches were used for field testing of CWA, such as mustard, phosgene, chloropicrin, and cyanogen chloride. Initial use of the trenches is believed to have been between July and September 1918.
- 14. Pit.** Located adjacent to POI 13. Identified as a disposal pit for scrap metal, duds, live rounds, and laboratory glassware. The initial use of the pit is believed to have been between July and September 1918. It is also the location of the buried ordnance discovered at 52nd Court during Phase I of Operation Safe Removal.
- 15. Ground Scar.** Identified as a ground scar in a 1918 aerial photograph. It is speculated POI 15 was part of the Chemical Persistency Test Area (POI 16).
- 16. Chemical Persistency Test Area.** Located on the former Weaver Farm. This large area, approximately 375,000 sq. ft. was cleared of vegetation and sprayed with mustard agent to test for agent persistence.
- 17. Possible Pit.** No additional historical information is available for this site.
- 18. Small Crater Scars.** In a 1918 aerial photograph, several small craters that make up POI 18 are visible. This site may be a former impact area.
- 19. Old Mustard Field.** Labeled on a 1918 aerial photograph as an "old mustard field". However, no other historical information describing this area is available. If new areas were used for testing (POI 16 for instance), this area could have been abandoned and marked on a photograph for information purposes.
- 20. Ground scar.** Two powder magazines were believed to be located at this site, where ground scars were identified in 1918 aerial photographs. Extensive disturbance at the same site is visible in a 1927 aerial photograph. These photographs do not clearly show whether the magazines are surface or subsurface features.
- 21. Two-chambered shell pit.** This concrete-walled shell pit consists of a central explosive chamber flanked by one observation chamber. The shell pit was used to test the physical properties of explosives, smokes, and CWA. A concrete roof presently covers the shell pit.
- 22. Shell pit.** Has been incorporated into the foundation of a house.
- 23. Three-chambered shell pit.** This concrete-walled shell pit was used to test the physical properties of explosives and CWA. A concrete roof presently covers the shell pit.
- 24. Probable Pit.** Incorrectly located during the RI. No additional historical information is available on this site.
- 25. Possible Trenches.** No additional historical information is available on this site.

- 26. Small Crater Scars.** Consists of small crater scars.
- 27. Probable Trench or Ditch.** No additional historical information is available on this site.
- 28. Probable Trench or Ditch.** No additional historical information is available on this site.
- 29. Ground Scar.** No additional historical information is available on this site.
- 30-36. Training Trenches.** All seven POIs identified as trenches of various kinds. The trenches were used to train troops in trench warfare techniques and weren't used for any chemical testing.
- 37. Mill Creek.** Based upon historical records search, activities related to AUES are unlikely to have been performed at this POI.
- 38. Bradley Field/Major Tolman's Field.** Test area where shells containing adamsite (diphenylchloroarsine [DA]) were fired. This area is located approximately 400 feet south and west of POI 1 (Sedgwick Trench) at the bottom of a ravine surrounded by woods.
- 39. Static Test Fire Area.** Includes POIs 10 and 11 within its boundaries. Approximately 80 feet wide, and its western edge extends 1700 feet along the eastern boundary of Dalecarlia Parkway. Currently unimproved land that is believed to have been used as a static test fire area for munitions containing chemical agents.
- 40. Ohio Hall**
- 41. History Building**
- 42. Physiological Laboratory**
- 43. Gun Pit**
- 44. Chemical Research Laboratory**
- 45. Explosives Laboratory**
- 46. Canister Laboratory**
- 47. Research Laboratory**
- 48. Dispersoid Laboratory**
- 49. Pharmacological Laboratory**
- 50. Gun Pit**
- 51. Fire and Flame Laboratory**
- 52. Electrolytic Laboratory**

POIs 40-52 were various laboratories and structures located at AUES.

53. Baker Valley. Suspected to have been located near the western perimeter of the original grounds of AUES based on comments written on the back of 1918-1919 photographs. The photographs of Baker Valley were taken within the fenced area and oriented toward the west. Baker Valley is located on the southern slope of the hill where the shell pits (POI 21/22/23) were built.

American University. According to historical photographs of AUES, many small, temporary buildings and several other buildings and features associated with research, development and testing of CWAs were located in the area currently occupied by the AU baseball field. During operations of AUES, several accidents were documented that may have resulted in the release of CWAs.