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Piedmont Field trip notes

Piedmont: 45

We saw only one gated community in the Piedmont.
Goats were almost as common as in the Southeastern Plains

Greene County, GA

I-8 N of I-20 Delorme p. D-6. Farm to forest. Forest recently harvested. Appeared to be pine.
One mile N was GA Forestry Commission office and fire tower.
Pine plantations. Fairly dense rural settlement pattern on Highway 44. Pasture

Taliaferro County, GA

Abandoned chickens?

Wilkes County, GA

Grassland without fences and pastures but few cattle visible.
Near Washington silos and corn being cut for silage. Dairy cattle.
Washington; small lumber. International Paper sign at the edge of town on spur 44 (a plant?).
International Paper had an office at the east end of town.
Grazing.

Lincoln County, GA

Horses, old, abandoned chicken houses; wealth. Retirement around Strom Thurmond Lake?
Lincolnton had Mayfair mills

McCormick Count, SC

Many real estate businesses
Goats all up and down the road from Atlanta

Edgefield Co, SC

Stone outcroppings (granite?)
red soil, larger trees, hardwoods.
Wield with trees windrowed with sorghum planted
Lumber mill 11 miles west of Saluda

Saluda CO, SC

Cattle, pines with oak
Saluda: had Milliken operation with several working on Sunday afternoon
Industrialized agriculture buildings that were too far off the road to determine the animal (3 mi. w. of 391 & 378 intersection).

Lexington CO, SC

Lake Murray. Each peninsula had a road network and houses

Peach orchard W of Lexington

We saw more real estate signs in Piedmont on Sunday afternoon than we observed all week in the Southeastern Plains.

Block 45-269—Richland CO, SC

DeLorme P. 36

Columbia, South Carolina and its western suburbs. Urban. Mix of old and new businesses along the motel road and on 176. Many old businesses that were closed as if something newer and bigger had pushed them out of the market.

The size of parking lots and lawns increased as we moved to the newer edge of town.

P. Prison on Highway 176. This was only one part of a large law enforcement complex that included juvenile corrections law multiple law enforcement training facilities and offices (just E of Harrison Forest).

Tall pines. Houses in cul-de-sacs.

Brick factory on I-20

Employment—nothing stood out, but with hindsight public services did.

Fire academy.

Columbia, SC MSA was 450,000-500,000. Fort Jackson out of the block but partially in a Southeastern Plains block is home to 121,000 military retirees and family members.

New house in the woods on SSR 38 near Limrick Rd (p. 36, D-2). Limrick golf course is the Richland County Golf course.

P. golf 36, D-2

Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church. New church by the old church.

Houses with large lawns along Highway 321

NE fringe of the city had more junk, low value uses, and rundown housing.

Sharpe Rd. Mix of houses, all low density. Some were old and poor, a few were new.

Hastings Point Subdivision. Houses on sandy soil.

Mix of poor and rich, big and little, new and old. No zoning?

Heritage Hills subdivision

Amback International

Brickyard Village. A new, modest income subdivision off Brickyard Road.

No young plantations. Perhaps because land owners foresee that their property can be sold for urban uses more profitably than planting trees and waiting 20 years.

Out of Block-Out of Ecoregion (on SE Coastal Plains)

Highway 1 had much growth to Pontiac.

Block 45-215—Lancaster and Chesterfield Counties SC

DeLorme SC 28-29

Land clearing, power line upgrades, fine sandy soil (C-4 E of Taxahaw)

Pine plantations

Mixed hardwood/pine (C-4) near Forty Acre Rock Heritage Preserve

Farmland making a transition to woodland near the Preserve. Also mobile homes with pickups. Also abandoned house.
 Freshly cut forest W of Taxahaw (C-4)
 New fence, hunting club.
 Jimmy Barker Turkey Farm B-3
 Corn in valley of Lynches River B-4
 Piedmont rocks
 Deforested land on H 9 E of Lynches River. Logging trucks nearby.
 Walmart Grocery Distribution Center at Pageland on H 601 N of town.
 Soybeans

Block Summary

COVER	USE
trees	forestry
cleared patches of grass	residential
large openings	farms (there were only a few)
crops	corn, soybeans, (ag. was on uplands and Lynch River Valley)
farm buildings	turkeys and ?
trees	forestry

Land cover change: cut trees. Vacant buildings.
 Land use change: new Walmart warehouse; rural housing and cleared land near Pageland.
 Housing was middle and low income. Strip development near town.
 No block surprises. Seemed typical of the Piedmont.
 Growth is not symmetrical around a town. A sample of one axis may mislead.
 Driving forces: Tendency to oligopoly with the large Walmart grocery warehouse. Demand for forest products. The agricultural economy did not seem to be important.

Out of Block

poultry

Union County, NC

Open cropland with open land. Forests. Mostly soybeans with some corn. Poultry. Resembles the Southeastern Plains. No cattle.

Cabarrus CO, NC

Pine plantations with new hog buildings (D-1)
 New large rural Corning plant. Rural industry. D-1.
 Troughton Barbecue in West Concord

Block 45-170. Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Rowan, and Iredell Counties; Mooresville

This block is just north, northeast of Charlotte (14 miles) and includes I-85 and I-77. The block also includes part of Kannapolis and all of Mooresville and Davidson along with part of Huntersville. It also includes part of Lake Norman on the Catawba River. The lake is large.

Cabarrus County portion

Soybeans.

International Business Park. This was a new, large (517 acres) partially filled business park near I-85. Tenants included Sysco and Seymour.

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College.

New Coddle Creek Reservoir had been constructed since my DeLorme was printed but before the EDC DeLorme was printed. The water intake valve indicates that it serves as a public water supply.

Mecklenburg County portion.

Red soil, mobile home park, pine plantation, corn, horses, and a farmers' market.

Tom: "Perhaps the Piedmont does not have a typical sample.

soybeans.

New development

Davidson. Town Lake.

Power lines. Westmoreland Farm Subdivision. Pasture.

Davidson College (est. 1823).

Looks like Sunbelt growth to me.

Iredell County and Mooresville

Horse set.

New house

Mobile homes

Aeroquip Mooresville plant

Bird sanctuary signs at the city limit in are common in the Southeastern Plains and Piedmont.

Burlington denim in Mooresville was closed.

Summary: Upscale. New reservoir. Change is rampant. Agriculture is insignificant. This block was dynamic.

Driving Forces: Interstate access, access to Charlotte, Lake Norman.

Block 45-156—Catawba County, NC; Newton

Newton, NC; DeLorme p. 34

This block is sandwiched between Hickory and Statesville and includes the eastern part of Hickory and most of Newton and Conover. Interstate 40 bisects the block and I-77 is about ten miles east of the block.

soybeans, pine. Trees are mostly hardwood. Many fields had nothing but weeds with no sign of a crop harvested this year. The land was rolling. Corn.

Near Murray's Mill there was lots of traffic and the rural housing was dense on both sides of the road. The housing was modest. There were few crops.

Newton: Willemette Industries had a corrugated plant. Bassett Upholestry division. Piedmont Plate Products. Much industry including Moretz Mills, Carolina Mills, Allen-Lee Furniture, Hanes, and a new Corning building.

Soybeans double cropped with wheat. Cows. Dairy. Corn for silage.

Houses in Olde Savannah new subdivision. Trees. Kudzu.

Horses and houses.

Newton Summary: Less dynamic than 45-70 (Mooresville). Older housing, much industry, but most of it was old except for the new Corning plant. Persistent housing along the roads.

Block 45-119 Yadkin, Forsyth, Stokes, and Surry Counties, NC Dozier. Delorme 36 & 16

Winston-Salem west side and its western and northwestern suburbs and exurbs. Highway 52 slices through the NE corner and the Yadkin separates the western fourth of the block from the eastern, more urbanized 80%.

Hodge-podge of houses. Older houses. New houses.

Lewisville. Typical new Lowes Foods that is an anchor for a small shopping center.

Soybeans and new houses. Soybeans and corn.

Looks like Virginia

Spevco Inc. event scheduling

High density rural population.

Large Westinghouse-Seimans plant on Westinghouse Road.

Block 45-136, Randolph, Chatham, and Alamance Counties, NC. Liberty. Delorme 38

This is a rural block with its northern edge six miles south of Burlington and its northwest corner about six miles southeast of Greensboro. Its eastern edge is about 18 miles west of Chapel Hill and its northeast corner is about 25 miles from Duram.

Pasture and patches of trees (mostly hardwoods)

Land year's corn field not tilled. Silage field.

Less dense rural housing.

Liberty. Veneer plant was closed. Stout Furniture making was closed. We did not see significant land use changes in Liberty. There were logging trucks hauling logs through town.

Worcester Controls was open, but a new building in the Liberty Business park was closed.

Hay. Chicken truck. Ancient chicken building.

Chatham Co.

Gold Kist chicken farms.

Soybeans, and corn. Cutting horses and longhorn cattle. Beans double cropped with wheat.

More double-cropped beans. Ostriches. Cows.

Hobby horses in several places.

Theme—pasture and cattle.

Chicken houses.

Hay, corn, silo grass hay

Abandoned farmstead. Soybeans. Pasture.

Many silos, but it was unclear whether they are being used.

New rural water in the Cane Creek Mountains. Aggressive new rural housing.

Block 45-123. Alamance Co., NC. Burlington. DeLorme 38 & 18.

Interstate 85 bisects this block. Burlington is almost 100 percent within it. The block is 25 miles west, northwest of Duram, and six miles east of Greensboro.

Corn, logs. New South lumber mill. Lumber. Much rural non-farm housing, especially in the Cane Creek Mountains area.

Soybeans and corn. Hardwoods.

New modular housing subdivision just starting. Pine plantation. Quartz.

More mobile/modular house sales.

Burlington public water supply lake.

Burlington: Lindley Labs and some other industries leasing space in a closed mill. Company housing architecture. Garment Dyers, Mineola plant.

Elon College (4200 students affiliate with United Church of Christ. Over 5000 applicants for the 1000 freshmen slots. Has incorporated as a town adjacent to or surrounded by Burlington. 250 graduate students. No geography major, but one can minor in it.)

Glen Raven mill

Block 45-59. Pittsylvania, Franklin, and Bedford counties. Ajax. Delorme 27 & 43.

Twenty miles north of Danville and 20 miles southeast of Roanoke. Smith Mountain Lake on the Roanoke River is partially in this block. Located approximately equidistant from Roanoke, Danville, Lynchburg, and Martinsville.

Tobacco, hay, pasture.

Hispanic apple pickers.

The southeast section of this block was open land with even less forest than the DeLorme seems to indicate. Cropland.

Forestry.

Short, steep slopes.

Hay, pasture, forest, cleared land, pines.

Uplands clear with bottomland forested. Inverse of some other Piedmont samples.

Hardwood clearing.

Northern part of block forested. Roanoke River .

Tobacco. Old, abandoned tobacco barn. Harvested trees.

Stewardship sign. Virginia brick farmhouse. Wooded hills.

Smith Mountain heavily developed.

Smith Mountain Marina. Lake surrounded by houses, some without water views. Some areas had nice houses, others had mobile houses, and small trailers still on wheels. Are these people retiring?

Corn. Abandoned tobacco barns. pasture. Beef cattle. Kudzu. Juniper was common in this block—a sign of abused land. Spotty dense rural housing.

Hay, hay, pasture in Franklin County portion.

Block 45-48. Bedford and Campbell Counties. Huddleston. Delorme 43 & 44.

See Block 45-59 for context. These were adjacent. We made a relatively small circle in the south, central portion of this block.

New road. Real estate sign. Pre-development for Smith Mountain Lake.

Mostly hardwood.

Hardwood forest regeneration. Cattle. Hay. Small time pine forestry. Hay. Hilly. Tobacco.

Smith Mountain Lake. Heavily developed.

Forestry in the block was more disorderly and not clean. Fields were small.

END OF Block

Henry County: Stanley and Bassett furniture

**Block 45-297. Paulding and Cobb Counties. New Hope Georgia.
Delorme p. 19.**

This is a rapidly urbanizing area at the west edge of Atlanta. Interstate 75 passes within three miles of the NE corner of the block. Highway 278 across the south of the block is now a four lane highway. From the DeLorme this is a heavily forested block (except in the SE corner) surrounded to the N, W, and S by areas that are more cleared. The west of the block includes part of a series of wildlife management areas that appear to be public forests. We did not go into the western 1/5 of the block.

Heavy traffic. Kudzu. Lake estate developments from an arm of Allatoona Lake. Many houses for sale, some that appeared to be less than five years. New construction. More new construction. Pine plantation. Wealthy estate. New Duram Middle and elementary schools
Signs for three new subdivisions.

Zoning variance notice.

Small hay field.

Forest cleared with some trees left.

Subdivisions on all sides virtually all of the time in the eastern 2/5 of the block.

Country Club. New construction. Mini-mall anchored by a grocery store.

Burnt Hickory Lakes: This area looked very nice. Did a developer build lakes to add value.

West of 176 the development thinned in a relative sense. Older houses started appearing along the road sides but there were still housing developments in various stages of completion.

Moving away from Atlanta modular housing began to appear. Housing became more scattered in places and we saw new roads constructed without any houses built yet.

Summer Lake was a low-cost, starter house subdivision.

More mobile houses.

Area where trees had been harvested.

No industry.

Finally we found Industrial Blvd. off Dallas Rd. but the largest buildings were a prison and a senior center.

Shaw Industry with its woolen division plant 92.

Dallas town. An older town in the area of the Peri-metropolitan bow wave.

New elementary school

Land purchased to widen the road north of Dallas on H 61. Forest thinned on both sides.

Abandoned farm. Active chicken farm. Chatachochie Tech School.

East from Dallas on 278. New, four-lane road.

Forest, young pines, moving dirt (100 yards wide by .25 mile long—unknown). New industrial park with three new businesses and much open space. Thinned forest.

We crossed a threshold beyond (toward Atlanta) which both sides of 278 were solid new businesses.

East edge of the block a unknown regional distribution center.