



## Burial Sites Inventory Annual Update

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The Historic Preservation Program will present the first annual update to the Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory to the Planning Board for adoption.

### Overview

This presentation will present modifications made to the Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory made since May 2019 along with a summary of activities carried out as part of the burial sites program in the past year.

Staff recommends:

- \* 21 updates to the Burial Sites Inventory; and
- \* No changes to the Burial Sites Guidelines at this time.

### Background

The Montgomery County Guidelines for Burial Sites (I.B.1-2) states that:

*“The Planning Board’s designee will update the Burial Sites Inventory, including additions, revisions, and exclusions/deletions, as new information becomes available so that it reflects the most current and accurate information”* and that

*“Additions, revisions, and exclusions/deletions shall be presented to the Planning Board annually at a briefing.”*

This presentation includes the revisions to the inventory made since May 2019 for the Planning Board’s adoption.

Montgomery County recognizes the significance of cemetery and burial sites to the community. In 2017, the County Council passed two laws to help preserve and protect these unique and fragile resources. Section 33A-17 of the Montgomery County Code requires the Montgomery County Planning Board to maintain an inventory of burial sites in the county and Montgomery County

Ordinance 18-31 (2017) requires that all human burial sites be preserved and protected as a condition of the preliminary plan of subdivision review and approval process. Preservation of these unique archaeological resources will further protect the cultural heritage of Montgomery County. The Planning Board adopted the Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory and Guidelines on May 16, 2019. The Planning Department has made this data available to the public via the [MCAtlas webportal](#).

A burial site is defined in the ordinances as the “physical location where human remains were buried in the earth or entombed in mausoleum or columbarium. A burial site includes a cemetery, but does not include the sprinkling of ashes from cremated remains.” The Burial Site Inventory is the list of burial sites officially adopted by the Planning Board, pursuant to Section 33A-17 of the Montgomery County Code (Planning Procedures). It is maintained and updated as needed by the Planning Department’s Historic Preservation Office and consists of a GIS data layer and associated documentation. The inventory and preservation of these unique archaeological resources will further protect the cultural heritage of Montgomery County.

The confidence and precision of burial sites in the inventory varies. Some sites are well documented, or clearly visible on the surface today, and their location was confirmed through field observation. Other burial grounds are known through oral or archival history sources, but the burials have been removed, or the exact location is unknown. Sites in the inventory are divided into two broad categories:

- Known sites confirmed in the field or through historical research
- Approximate Sites, exact location and condition unknown

Staff may redact some locational data consistent with the provisions of Montgomery County Code 18-31 if there is reason to believe the site is at risk for damage from vandalism. Locations considered sensitive or at risk will be represented by the boundaries of the lot within which it is located, but the location within the lot will not be displayed publicly.

### **Burial Sites Inventory Revisions**

Efforts to refine and improve the information contained in the Burial Sites Inventory are constantly ongoing. This includes the Historic Preservation Office responding to information or inquiries brought to the Planning Department by members of the public and through ongoing research by staff. Revisions to the Inventory made since last year include:

- 1 site changed from a known location to an approximate location based on a review of the record;
- 2 sites removed from the inventory because they did not meet the definition of a burial site for the purposes of the county ordinance;
- 3 sites added to the inventory based on new information; and,
- 15 sites whose location was changed based on new information or a review of existing information.

Administrative changes included adding attribute fields for Planning Board confirmation, and date of Planning Board hearing, and assigning or reassigning internal ID numbers for consistency of record keeping. As required by the Burial Sites Guidelines, property owners were notified in writing by certified mail about changes to Burial Sites Inventory records on their property. Revisions to the Burial Sites Inventory are shown in Attachment A.

### **Guidelines for Burial Sites**

In May 2019, the Planning Board also approved a set of Guidelines for implementing the Burial Sites Inventory and for conducting reviews of preliminary plans for parcels including burial sites. Following adoption, the Historic Preservation Office and Communications Division have produced a formally formatted copy of the guidelines that includes images and explanatory graphics. This hard copy has been included for the Planning Board and is made available to the public for free on the Historic Preservation website or at the Information Counter at Planning Department headquarters in Silver Spring. The Guidelines are currently in use to support two preliminary plan projects involving burial sites. Staff does not recommend any changes to the Guidelines at this time.

### **Burial Sites Program Initiatives**

Ongoing Burial Sites Inventory initiatives include:

- Updating the informational forms accompanying sites listed on the Burial Sites Inventory.
- Conducting educational programs for Planning Department Staff, regional archaeologists, and the general public.
- Conducting outreach for agencies of Montgomery County Government.
- Performing public training on gravestone cleaning and recordation.
- Refining the location of approximate burial sites.
- Carrying out research into burial sites likely missing from the inventory (e.g. burial sites of enslaved people).

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Planning Board **ADOPT** the Updated Burial Sites Inventory.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A: Burial Sites Inventory Change Log

**Attachment A: Draft Burial Sites Inventory Change Log**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>Revision</b>	<b>Basis for Change</b>	<b>Notes</b>
5/29/2019	HP-305 Dove Family Cemetery	Changed name, location, and certainty to known	Historical research (deeds) and site visit	No markers, but abundant vinca, and ground depressions. Also cedar trees
5/29/2019	HP-294 Boswell Family Cemetery	Changed location and certainty to known	Property owner and descendant showed site, also shown on NRIFSD survey	Family has been maintaining for many years. Small unmodified fieldstones in neat rows
5/30/2019	HP-167 Clark Family Cemetery	Changed location	Deed records and site visit GPS	
6/4/2019	HP-328 Solyom Family Cemetery	Changed location/redacted	Site visit showed it was mapped in wrong location. Owner requested redaction	
8/12/2019	HP-1 Young-Rensburg Family Cemetery	Changed location update form	Property owner and other local person show Montgomery Preservation volunteers correct location	
9/10/2019	all	Add attribute fields	Added attribute field "PB_Conf" and "Conf_Date"	Yes/no for PB confirmation of inventory entry. date field for PB hearing when adopted
11/27/2019	HP-45 Gaither (Benjamin) Family Cemetery	Changed location to 0 Brooks Ave Cemetery reservation behind 20 Brooks Ave	Chris Berger (City of Gaithersburg Planning) says deed research indicates a cemetery reservation behind 20 Brooks Ave.	
11/27/2019	HP-238 Bowman-Merrick Family Cemetery	Changed location	Move to address shown on form; GIS point was based on coordinates provided by MPI, review of the form and notes makes clear the coordinates were wrong	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>Revision</b>	<b>Basis for Change</b>	<b>Notes</b>
12/2/2019	HP-189 Reflection Terrace Memorial	Removed	Memorial, no burials present.	M-NCPPC Parks
12/2/2019	HP-13 Beechmont	Changed location	During meeting with Parks: point seems to be in wrong place per historic maps cited on form	In Rock Run SVP
12/6/2019	HP-121 Parklawn Memorial Park and Menorah Gardens	Changed location	Original coordinates were in road well to north of actual site. Large active cemetery plainly visible in aerial photography, and listed as cemetery in SDAT.	
12/10/2019	HP-36 Holland Family Cemetery- Prospect Hill	Changed location	moved small distance to reflect location shown on MPI form	
12/19/2019	HP-4 Welling Family Cemetery	Changed location	GIS location is slightly off and in wrong parcel from form map	same owner
12/19/2019	HP-245 Chilton- Dyer Family Cemetery	Changed location	GIS location slightly off from shown on form	also form says is sw from house. it is se from the house; same owner
12/20/2019	HP-177 Dorsey- Claggett-Owen Cemetery	Changed location	GIS location slightly off from site visible in aerial photography	same owner
12/20/2019	HP-278 Walker Family Cemetery	Changed from known to approximate	Form has as "lost"; GIS had as "known"	
1/31/2020	Wesley Union	Changed location to adjoining parcel	Field visit, geotagged photos, and review of file show it is in parcel owned by Debra Diamond and Jeffrey Joseph. Files show had been bought by Saul Joseph	
2/5/2020	HP-181 Open Door	Removed Record	This is not a columbarium, sprinkling of ashes only	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>Revision</b>	<b>Basis for Change</b>	<b>Notes</b>
4/6/2020	HP-291 Davis Family Cemetery	Added site as an approximate location	NRI-FSD shows location. NRI-FSD 420161040	
3/16/2020	HP-319 York Cemetery	Added known archaeological site in corrected location	in MHT files as an archaeological; site visit confirmed location. Listed as sensitive redacted site because recorded as archaeological site	Coordinated with MHT and DNR (located on state land)
3/24/2020	HP-276 Aqueduct Bridge	Changed location	based on site visit	Coordinated in NPS (in C&O Canal Park)
4/6/2020	HP-0 Brickyard Church and Cemetery	Removed record	Was a site lead with MPI: no locational information, no evidence of a cemetery	
4/6/2020	HP-293 Green Farm Cemetery	Renumbered	Renumbered from 900 to 293 to better maintain overall numbering system	
4/6/2020	HP-319 York Cemetery	Renumbered	Assigned number 319	
4/6/2020	HP-320 Ligon Lane Cemetery	Added	Based on NRI/FSD plans, assigned number 320	
4/8/2020	HP-321 Shepard Site	Numbered	Assigned number 321	
4/8/2020	HP-322 Cairn Site	Numbered	Assigned number 322	
4/8/2020	HP-323 Mason Island II Site	Numbered	Assigned number 323	
4/8/2020	HP-324 Winslow Site	Numbered	Assigned number 332	
4/8/2020	HP-325 Hughes Site	Numbered	Assigned number 333	
4/8/2020	HP-326 Seldon Island I Site	Numbered	Assigned number 334	
4/8/2020	HP-327 Harrison Island Site	Numbered	Assigned number 335	

Added Attributes