

BURIAL SITES INVENTORY UPDATE 2023



Description

The Historic Preservation Program will present the annual update to the Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory to the Planning Board for adoption. This includes modifications made to the Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory since May 2022 along with a summary of activities carried out as part of the burial sites program in the past year.



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SUMMARY

- Staff recommends that the Planning Board adopt the Updated Burial Sites Inventory.
 - 6 new sites were added to the inventory based on new information;
 - 1 approximate site record was moved to a new location based on historical research;
 - 1 approximate site was changed to a new location and reclassified as known based on a review of Maryland Historical Trust archaeological files;
 - 3 approximate sites were reclassified as known sites based on a review of information in the associated files.
- Staff will provide a briefing on additional updates on compliance review, field visits, public outreach, and research.

Burial Sites Inventory Program

Draft

Work, Public Hearing, Planning Board

Date

May 25, 2023

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Planning Board Information

MCPB

Item No. 9

2023 Burial Sites Inventory Updates

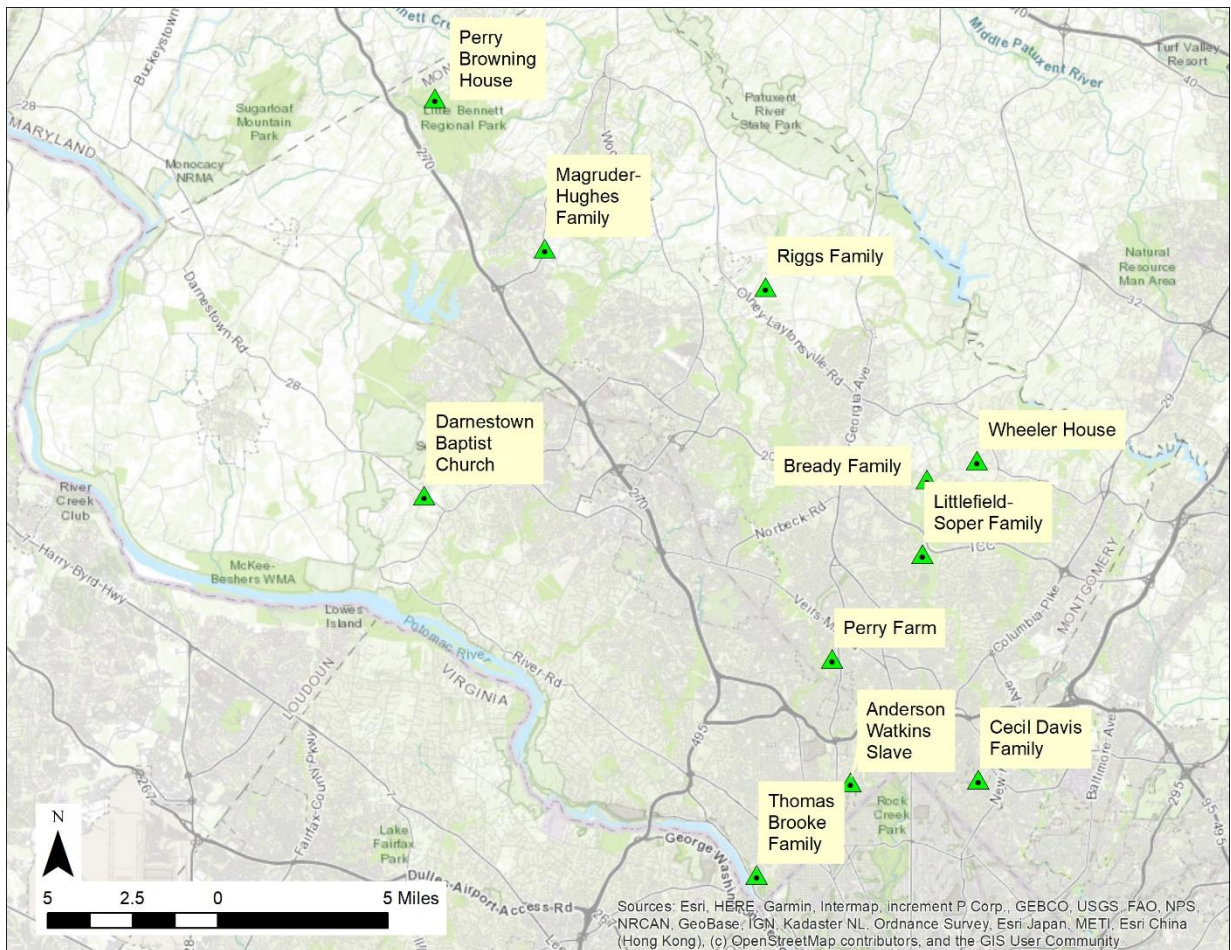


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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The Montgomery County Guidelines for Burial Sites 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 June 2, 2022 for the Planning Board’s adoption.

Montgomery County recognizes the significance of cemeteries 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 these 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 a 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. A location 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

SUMMARY

Efforts to refine and improve the information contained in the Burial Sites Inventory are constantly ongoing. The Historic Preservation Office responds to information or inquiries brought to the Planning Department by members of the public and through ongoing research by staff. As required by the

Burial Sites Guidelines, applicable property owners were notified in writing by certified mail about substantive changes to Burial Sites Inventory records on their property.

Details of the revisions to the Burial Sites Inventory are shown in **Table 1**. Individual site forms are included in **Attachment A**.

Revisions (11 total) to the Inventory made since last year include:

- 6 new sites were added to the inventory based on new information;
- 1 approximate site record was moved to a new location based on historical research;
- 1 approximate site was changed to a new location and reclassified as known based on a review of Maryland Historical Trust archaeological files;
- 3 approximate sites were reclassified as known sites based on a review of information in the associated files.

Table 1: Revisions to the Burial Sites Inventory

ID Number	Cemetery	Type	Basis for Change
HP-206	Bready Family	Make known	Plat record
HP-208	Cecil Davis Family	Make known	Plat record
HP-216	Riggs Family	Change Location, make known	MHT Archaeology Files
HP-225	Darnestown Baptist	Make Known	Review of files
HP-236	Anderson Watkins Slave Cemetery	Change Location	Historical Research
HP-353	Wheeler Farm	New Approximate Location	Historical Research
HP-354	Brooke Family	New Approximate Location	Historical Research
HP-355	Browning Family	New Known Location	Archaeological Fieldwork
HP-356	Littlefield-Soper Family	New Approximate Location	Historical Research
HP-357	Perry Farm	New Known Location	Historical Research and Plat record
HP-358	Magruder Hughes	New Approximate Location	Historical Research

DISCUSSION

The Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory, initially adopted by the Planning Board in 2019, represented the cumulative work of many volunteers carried out over more than 10 years. That work was extensive, but not exhaustive. Ongoing research to improve the inventory has added 19 new sites

since 2019. We continually review files and conduct research, particularly on approximate sites to refine those locations and identify the locations of burial sites missing from the inventory.

The update to the status of the Bready, Cecil Davis, Riggs family cemeteries and the Darnestown Baptist Church cemetery are the result of routine review of cemetery files focused on improving the information available about approximate sites. There were 77 approximate cemetery sites in the inventory as of last year's update, and we continually conduct research to identify more exact information about their locations.

The work to refine the location of the Anderson Watkins Slave Cemetery began in May of 2022 in response to inquiries from the Chevy Chase Historical Society. The cemetery is referenced in an 1864 deed. That deed does not include the exact location of the 6-acre parcel, but it does reference adjoining properties. Painstaking research and mapping of the adjoining deeds and analysis of historical maps have suggested a much more likely location for the cemetery than what was originally included in the Inventory. Staff shared the results with the Chevy Chase Historical Society, who in turn shared the information with their members. Staff met virtually with one member of the public who attended the Chevy Chase Historical Society presentation who had questions about how the conclusions were reached.

Research into the location of the Wheeler Family graveyard was prompted by review of Maryland death certificates. Maryland Death certificates after 1911 include the place of burial, and William Wheeler's 1915 death certificate states that he was buried "on the farm at Ednor." Review of historic maps and deeds for the area around Ednor found the location and boundaries of the farm occupied by Wheeler. The approximate location of the cemetery is in the ROW of Medinah Court within 200 feet of where historic maps indicate the house was located. This positioning is based on analysis of family cemeteries in the inventory where both the cemetery and family house locations are known. That research indicates that most family burial plots were within 500 feet of the family home.

The Perry and Brooke Family cemeteries were brought to the attention of staff by members of the public. The Perry Family cemetery is shown in a 1955 plat map while the Brooke Family cemetery is referenced in late 19th-century newspaper items. In the case of the Brooke Family Cemetery, staff conducted historical deed and map research to identify the most probable location for the original family plot. The location of the Perry cemetery was surveyed as part of a plat, but the identity of those buried was unknown. Historical research found that at least one of those interred there included Erasmus Perry (1760-1828) who served in the American Revolution and is the namesake of the Montgomery County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The burial ground could also have included other Perry family members as well as those the family enslaved.

The records for the Littlefield, Browning, and Bready family cemeteries were identified or revised through the combined archival research and fieldwork of Montgomery Planning and Parks staff, while the Magruder-Hughes site was found by Montgomery Planning deed research.

Three of these cemetery locations (Riggs, Bready and Brooke) are known to have had graves relocated in the past. It has been the practice of the Planning Department to include the original locations of moved cemeteries in the Inventory because of the high potential that some graves or associated materials will remain in the original location. Archaeological investigations in the region demonstrate that graveyard removals are often incomplete, and there are known cases where unrecorded burials remained in cemeteries thought to have been entirely exhumed. The Riggs family moved their ancestors' remains to St. John's cemetery in Olney when they sold the property in 1930. But more burials were found in unmarked graves in 1981 during development of the former farm into the Oaks Landfill. The Dunlop family graves were moved in 1926; however, during subsequent residential development, additional graves were reported from the same location. The Simon Hill Cemetery in Hyattsville was purportedly moved 50 years ago, but archaeologists working in 2017 found dozens of graves left behind.

This possibility is particularly relevant for the graves of people held in slavery. Prior to emancipation, the graves of people held in slavery may have been in or near the burial grounds of their enslavers, but may have been unmarked, marked with perishable materials such as wood, or marked with unmodified fieldstones that may not be obvious as grave markers.

BURIAL SITES INVENTORY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

To better integrate burial sites data into a single system that is sustainable for the long term, Historic Preservation staff worked with Information Technology and Innovation Division staff beginning in 2021 to migrate the Burial Sites Inventory to the Planning Department's Hansen information system, which maintains regulatory and development application data. In 2019, the Inventory consisted of information stored in 3 places: a GIS database, volunteer generated pdf information forms, and additional information in a Microsoft Access database. Staff integrated the information from the GIS attributes and volunteer forms in a single relational database in Hansen in 2022. This past year, staff synchronized edits between GIS and Hansen to complete the integration process. This means that data are entered once in Hansen, and our GIS systems pull the data from there. Eliminating multiple data entry points will help prevent errors in the information system. Staff are in the process of generating new information forms for all cemetery records, though additional work will be needed for the forms to be ADA compliant.

Staff also worked on changing the way approximate sites are displayed to the public in MCATLAS. Because boundary information is available for only a small number of sites in the inventory, the locations are displayed as a point. In the case of approximate sites however, this can lead to a misleading understanding of the location's precision. Working with GIS staff, historic preservation staff identified an alternative display tactic in MCATLAS where the size of the point for approximate cemeteries grows larger as a user zooms in closer to the location. This helps convey that the exact

location is not known, and that the point is intended to convey an area within which the site may exist.

ONGOING PROJECT RELATED CONSULTATION

Staff continue compliance review on projects including development plans, mandatory referrals, and National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 undertakings. Staff have worked with applicants to conduct archaeological investigations as appropriate for defining cemetery boundaries for development applications. Staff attended consulting party meetings and reviewed archaeological technical reports and a draft programmatic agreement for MDOT SHA's Op Lanes project to add managed lanes to the Beltway and I-270. Coordination for the Op Lanes project involved collaboration with representatives of the Cabin John Citizens Association and Friends of Moses Hall concerning the potential impacts of the project on the Morningstar Tabernacle #88 Cemetery in Gibson Grove. Staff have also worked with MDOT SHA on potential impacts to the Poor Farm Cemetery site in Rockville. Staff continue to coordinate additions and revisions to the Burial Sites Inventory with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and Montgomery County Government.

FIELD VISITS

Historic Preservation staff routinely perform field visits to cemetery sites in the Burial Sites Inventory to confirm or improve mapped locations and learn more about how small family, church, and community cemeteries are sited and laid out. Staff visited 28 sites on or under consideration for listing in the Inventory since the last inventory update in 2022. Staff have visited over 100 sites listed in the inventory since the program was initiated in 2018, accounting for approximately 1/3 of the total sites.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND OUTREACH

We are regularly contacted by members of the public with questions about cemeteries in the Inventory or with inquiries about cemeteries not yet included. More than 40 individuals contacted the Planning Department more than 80 times in the last year about a range of cemetery sites and issues. Outreach efforts since the last update have included contacting property owners and land-management agencies about newly added cemetery sites through certified mail and responding to inquiries about these additions. These inquiries also included the interest of a local boy scout in finding an African American cemetery for an eagle scout project. Montgomery Planning coordinated with the scout, the scout's troop and interested members of the public in identifying an appropriate site at the Jerusalem, Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Norbeck.

In the fall of 2022, Preservation staff were contacted by a descendant about the location of the Wesley Union Cemetery in Potomac. Staff provided information about the history and location of the site in

Planning inventory files and met her on site. The County Executive's office has expressed interest in how Montgomery County can assist descendants in addressing concerns raised about the cemetery's current condition. On several occasions, staff met with members of county agency staff, Executive branch staff, and Council staff about the history and background of the cemetery as well as about relevant guidance for the investigation and preservation of cemeteries in our Burial Sites Guidelines.

Other members of the public contacted preservation staff about the location of a cemetery associated with the farm of the Warring and Crawford families near Germantown. These members of the public asked whether a burial site associated with those the Warring family enslaved could be on the grounds of Roberto Clemente Middle School. Staff visited the site, conducted detailed historical research and examination of engineering plans from the construction of the school and concluded that the most likely location for such a burial ground would be in the vicinity of the historic house associated with the Warring and Crawford families and not school ground. This location has already been listed in the inventory since 2019. Staff prepared a brief report about the findings to share with MCPS and the interested members of the public. Staff also met with the interested residents virtually to go over the findings of the report in detail. Other requests for information or advice have been made regarding Ash Memorial Cemetery in Sandy Spring as well as the Windsor, Awkard, and Ricketts Family cemeteries.

Staff conducted a virtual training for accessing burial sites and historic preservation data in MCATLAS on October 17, 2022 and posted a recording on the Department YouTube channel. In January 2023, staff participated in a panel presentation on African American cemeteries at the Society for Historical Archaeology meetings in Lisbon. Planning staff have been assisting members of St. Mark's Church in Boyds with detailed mapping of their cemetery since February 2023. Staff also assisted the Menare Foundation with mapping at the Button Farm Cemetery. These mapping efforts included training members of the public in the use of low-cost, easy-to-use mapping equipment that the Planning Department acquired this past year. Staff were asked to participate in a panel presentation on African American cemeteries held at the Sandy Spring Slave Museum scheduled for May 21, 2023.

Planning staff regularly consult with other agencies about cemetery-related issues. This has included assisting staff from the County Executive's office with questions regarding potential rehabilitation of a privately owned cemetery in Potomac and assisting the City of Rockville Planning Department with questions regarding the Poor Farm Cemetery site and the Avery Road Cemetery site. HP staff have also assisted the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs with preservation questions involving a burial site in Queen Anne's County.

ONGOING AND FUTURE RESEARCH

INVENTORY REFINEMENT

Research in the Burial Sites Inventory program has found evidence for cemeteries not previously listed in a variety of sources: Maryland Inventory of Historic Places forms, archaeological site forms, plats, deeds, Natural Resources Inventory/Forest Stand Delineation plans, historical newspaper ads, death certificates, and USGS maps, in addition to physical evidence of undocumented cemeteries being found through fieldwork. The review of Maryland Inventory of Historic Places (MIHP) forms identified other potential cemetery sites not included in this update, and further research is needed on these before they are ready to be listed in the Inventory, but otherwise review of MIHP forms and archaeological site forms is complete. Systematic review of the other documentary sources listed present daunting logistical challenges because there are tens of thousands of pages of material to review. It is possible that machine learning techniques may be useful to find cemetery references on maps such as USGS maps, plats or NRIFSD drawings. Systematic review of tens of thousands of pages of handwritten 19th-century deeds may not be possible at this time.

GRANT FUNDING

Historic Preservation applied for a Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) Non-Capital Grant to develop a historical context for cemeteries in Montgomery County. Few of the cemeteries in the Inventory have been individually listed in the county Master Plan for Historic Preservation, and none is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. No formal context to understand the significance of these sites has been developed. With the support of Heritage Montgomery and the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Historic Preservation proposed to author a countywide historic context survey focusing on these fragile resources that would classify burial sites by type, time period, cultural associations, geography, and other factors. When Historic Preservation learned that MHT would not be able to fund the proposal, the Planning Department included the study as a FY24 budget request item.

MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Staff began working on identifying archaeological and cemetery sites that may merit consideration for addition to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation in 2020. This involved reaching out to potentially interested public groups within the county about their interests and concerns. Staff have continued to work in the past year to identify and correct GIS data errors within the Master Plan data, especially with respect to the overlap between Master Plan sites and cemetery sites. Montgomery Planning is conducting research that will inform future evaluation of cemetery sites for inclusion in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and has requested funding in FY 2024 for a contractor to develop a cemetery historical context that will be a critical component of such evaluations. As of May 2023, this budget item has been identified by Council staff as a high priority item. If funds for the study are appropriated, Historic Preservation anticipates beginning this work in summer 2023.

GROUND PENETRATING RADAR SURVEY

Nonprofit preservation groups in Montgomery County regularly request support for conducting non-invasive archaeological studies to identify cemetery boundaries and the extent and location of graves within burial sites included in the Inventory. Use of ground penetrating radar (GPR) has proved to be effective in accomplishing this work; however, the Planning Department does not presently have the equipment or expertise to conduct such studies and the costs for hiring a consultant to do the work is out of reach for most small volunteer organizations. Historic Preservation has initiated conversations among MHT archaeologists as well as M-NCPPC archaeologists working in both counties about acquiring the equipment and expertise to conduct GPR studies where appropriate. MHT recently acquired GPR equipment, and their archaeologists received training from the vendor. Now MHT archaeologists use this equipment for a small number of select projects across the state supported by MHT. Historic Preservation is considering adding purchase of GPR equipment to a future fiscal year budget request. Staff continue to consult with M-NCPPC archaeologists about the parameters of when such equipment would be used versus situations where a developer should be expected to hire a consultant to do this work.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: BURIAL SITES INFORMATION FORMS



Montgomery County Planning Department
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID: HP-206
Name: Bready Family Cemetery

Description:
Nineteenth-century family cemetery

Community: Religious: Family: African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials: 4+ Visible Markers: Formal Entrance: Cemetery Sign: Active:

Earliest Year: 1850 Latest Year: 1878 Is the Site Extant?:
Moved

Is the Location Sensitive?: Sensitive Contact: Sensitive Reason:

Location Confidence: Known Location Confirmed:

Volunteer Forms and External Web Links (Montgomery Planning is not responsible for content. Links provided for informational purposes only)

2006 Survey Summary:
https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/MCCI_Summaries_2004/MCCI_Summary_ID_206.pdf

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:
https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/Cemeteries/206_Bready_Family_Layhill/206_Bready_Family_Layhill_2018/206_Bready_Family_Layhill_2018_Survey.pdf

FindaGrave.com:
<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2506505>

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

Other Website:
<https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/Medusa/mapintermediate.aspx?ID=9844&ID1=9844&ID2=DOE-MO-0168&S>

Master Plan Historic Resource No.:

Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board:

Confirmation Date:

Site Survey Date:

Revision Date:

Yes

05/16/2019

08/02/2018

Site Surveyor Name:

Glenn Wallace & Chiquita Sorrels

Data Originator:

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

Notes:

The burials were purportedly moved to Norbeck Memorial Park on October 13, 2000 per Montgomery Preservation, Inc. volunteers.

Technical information about the locational information shown in the online map.

Public Display Scale:

Is there a Restriction on Sharing Information?:

1: 0

GIS Source Date:

GIS Source Datum:

Boundary Type:

10/15/2018

Point

Horizontal Accuracy:

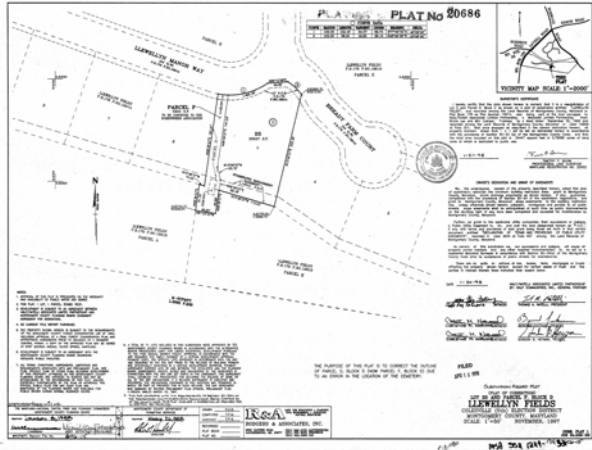
GIS Data Source:

MCCIR 2018

Additional Information:

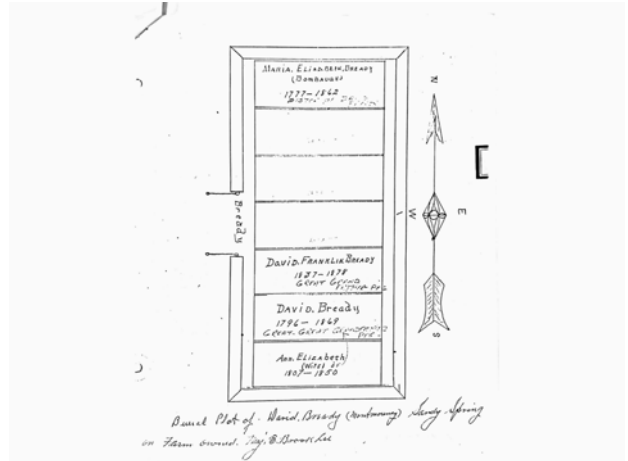
A Maryland Inventory of Historic Places Inventory Form for the associated family house can be found at: <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/Medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M%3B%2023-131.pdf>.

Images:



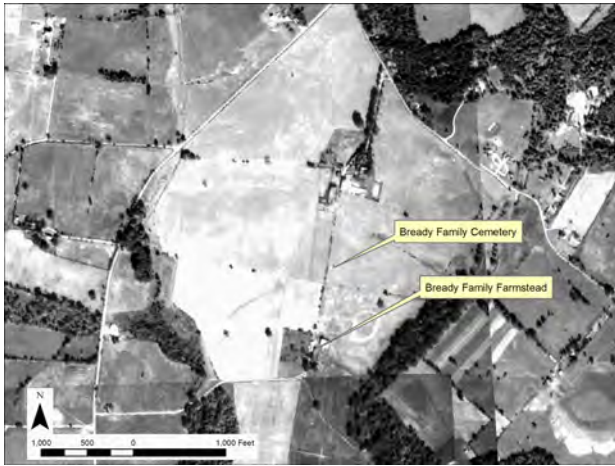
HP-206_001
Plat 20686 showing cemetery location

Date 04/16/1998
Photographer



HP-206_002
Burial Plot Map

Date 08/02/2018
Photographer MPI



HP-206_003
Bready Cemetery on 1951 Aerial Photo

Date 03/24/2023
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-206_004
Bready Cemetery on 1951 Aerial Photo with 1951 USGS topographic lines

Date 03/24/2023
Photographer Brian Crane

MARKER ID GIVEN NAME FAMILY NAME DEATH YEAR



Montgomery County Planning Department
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID:

HP-208

Name:

Cecil-Davis Family Cemetery

Description:

Family cemetery possibly dating to the 18th century.

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

Latest Year:

Is the Site Extant?:

Unknown

Is the Location Sensitive?:

Sensitive Contact:

Sensitive Reason:

Location Confidence:

Known

Location Confirmed:

No

Volunteer Forms and External Web Links (Montgomery Planning is not responsible for content. Links provided for informational purposes only)

2006 Survey Summary:

https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/MCCI_Summaries_2004/MCCI_Summary_ID_208.pdf

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/Cemeteries/208_Cecil-Davis_Family_Takoma-Park/208_Cecil-Davis_Family_Takoma-Park_2018/208_Cecil-Davis_Family_Takoma-Park_2018_Survey.pdf

FindaGrave.com:

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2650159>

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

Other Website:

Master Plan Historic Resource No.:

Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board:

Confirmation Date:

Site Survey Date:

Revision Date:

Yes

05/16/2019

05/19/2018

12/15/2018

Site Surveyor Name:

Glenn Wallace

Data Originator:

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

Notes:

Mentioned in deed reservations from 1863 through 1923. The location is shown on Plat number 366 dated May 1924. The site is described as a "Grave Lot" in a 1986 deed (Liber 7360 Folio 876). There are no visible markers.

Technical information about the locational information shown in the online map.

Public Display Scale:

Is there a Restriction on Sharing Information?:

1: 0

GIS Source Date:

GIS Source Datum:

Boundary Type:

10/15/2018

Point

Horizontal Accuracy:

GIS Data Source:

2006 inventory

Additional Information:

The cemetery is mentioned in deed reservations from 1863 through 1923: "one quarter of an acre in the grave-yard which is hereby excepted and reserved" 1863, Liber JGH 9 Folio 68; "exclusive of one quarter of an acre in the grave yard, which is hereby excepted and reserved" 1878, Liber E.B.P. 19 Folio 234; "exclusive of one quarter of an acre reserved as a Grave Yard" 1880, Liber E.B.P. 23 Folio 10; "less 1/4 of an acre in grave yard lying in said description" 1912, Liber 230 Folio 275; "excepting 1/4th of an acre contained in the graveyard located at the southwest corner of the tract above described" 1923, Liber 328 Folio 351.

It is referred to as a grave lot in deeds dated 1932 and 1986: from Joseph Davis to James Augustus Davis, Sr. "known and distinguished as and being one-fourth acre, Grave Lot in Samuel J. Fenton, deed, and more particularly located as unnumbered lot in Section 3, Block G. Flower Avenue Park in Montgomery County, Maryland" Liber 548 Folio 153; the same language is repeated in 1986 in a deed from Delores Elizabeth Gates, Barbara Ann Smith, and William H. Berkeley to Dorothy Williams (Liber 7360 Folio 876).

The engineer's certification in Plat 366 (May 1924) reads: "That, the "one-fourth of an acre contained in the graveyard" is not a part of the subdivision; but is shown for convenience only;" the plat shows the "Davis Family Lot containing one-fourth of an acre" at the corner of Prospect Street and Greenwood Avenue.

Jane Lutes Cromer signed a sworn affidavit before a Notary Public on December 8, 2000 stating: "I, Jane Lutes Cromer, observed evidence of a cemetery located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Greenwood and Prospect Avenues in Takoma Park, Maryland. During the period 1921-1975, I resided at 8214 (formerly 814) Flower Ave. and at 8208 (formerly 808) Flower Avenue, Takoma Park, MD, located less than three blocks from Greenwood and Prospect Avenues. On numerous occasions in the early part of this period, I passed by this property and I observed its appearance as a burial site, including the presence of several small headstones."

Partial Transcript: Evening star. [volume] (Washington, D.C.) 1854-1972, August 08, 1937, Page F-2, Image 48

GRAVEYARD LINK IN HISTORY

Area Is Probably Last Resting Place of Some Prominent Citizens of Montgomery County
Well-Kept Garden in Present Condition
Early Takoma Park. By John Clagett Proctor.

IN THE early days there were many private burial plots in and around Washington, which were here when the Capital was moved to this location in 1800, and some of these could be identified for a considerable number of years afterward. One of the most notable of these was the Burnes graveyard, which stood on the south side of H street, between Ninth and Tenth streets, about where is now the Printecraft Building, and here was the famous Van Ness Mausoleum until 1872, when it was removed to Oak Hill Cemetery. However, although so many of the early burial places hereabout are known, still, occasionally suspicion of an unknown one bobs up, as was recently the case when an excavation was being made in downtown Seventh street, and a human skull was unearthed. In this case there was no record of a burial place in this particular location, and it is quite probable the skull was brought to this spot from some nearby graveyard, or it might have been just a part of a homo specimen.

But once in a while a hitherto unknown graveyard does show up and proves very interesting, as one the writer recently investigated in response to a letter addressed to the Editor of The Star, in which the author said: "Being a constant reader of The Star ever since I can remember, and quite

interested in unusual and quaint things and doings or customs of by gone days, my eye caught this little clipping I am inclosing with my letter in Thursday or Friday evening's Star. It is interesting to me, because I have in my care an old family burial plot, dating back many many years in the past, and all the markings of the graves have been done in the manner mentioned in mis clipping, by my ancestors. I am making this a sort of pastime or hobby, if it may be called that. When I came into possession of this piece of ground, it was covered with old brambles and honeysuckle, weeds and, indeed, most everything had covered the entire one quarter acre; with great care and lots of work I have made it over into a pretty nice park. I thought maybe Mr. John Clagett Proctor might be interested. I read his writings every Sunday and they are quite interesting to me. I have the deed to the property and other information, should anyone be Interested and would like to call and see me. Most sincerely.

J. A. DAVIS

901 Prospect Avenue,
Takoma Park, Md.

The clipping referred to by Mr. Davis, as taken from The Star, follows;

MARKING OLD GRAVES.

There is a burying ground near Webster, Mass., in which the graves are marked with field stones; large ones Indicate old men and the small ones young men.

WHEN the writer called on Mr. Davis, whose home and cemetery are at the comer of Prospect and Greenwood avenues, at the extreme north end of Takoma Park, Md., he found a man much fascinated by the work he has been doing - in beautifying and caring for the graves of some of his early ancestors.

Mr. Davis is not an old man, or for this reason we might attribute his great reverence for the dead, but to him caring for this sacred plot is a matter of sentiment, aroused, perhaps, by the fact that he inherited the one-quarter acre of ground, upon which also stands his home, from an uncle, who stipulated that this particular piece of land should always remain in the family.

According to Mr. Davis, in all there are about 125 persons buried in this plot, and this includes his great-grandfather and great-grand mother. Hezekiah Davis and wife.

At an early date the farm here about, which must have been of considerable acreage, was known as the Cecil Plantation, having been inherited by Anna Cecil, who, according to the family Bible, married James Davis, May 5, 1799, and Scharf, in his "History of Western Maryland, practically substantiates this in his Montgomery County records, where he records the issuing of a marriage license to James Davis and Anney Cisell, April 25, 1799.

The parents of Anna Cecil, who was born July 12, 1775, were Gabriel and Mary Cecil, and beside Anna, the children of the latter included: Samuel Cecil, born October 4, 1752; Eleanor Cecil, born April 19, 1754; John Cecil, born October 9, 1757; James Cecil, born February 8, 1759; William Cecil. January 31, 1761; Mary Cecil, born January 31, 1763; Jemima Cecil, born November 25, 1766; Thomas Cecil, born March 20, 1771, and Anna, who married James Davis,

The age of this burial plot (there apparently being no records to go by) is believed to run back at least as far as 1734, and that the Cecil family lived somewhere in this neighborhood at that time. Indeed, not long since, James A. Davis, who lives on the place, found a confirmation certificate issued to Mary Cecil during the year mentioned, by the then rector of St. Paul's Church, more generally known as Rock Creek Church, and she was probably the mother of Gabriel Cecil, who was the father of Anna, who married James Davis. This certificate is now one of the prized relics in the library of the Washington Cathedral.

The family name, Cecil, is a very old one in Maryland history, and the writer was able to pick up at random the name of Joshua Cecil, who is mentioned as living in Calvert County as early as 1695, though it is likely the family was among the pioneer settlers, for there was a known friendship between the Calverts and the Cecils before the charter of Maryland was issued to George Calvert, the then Lord Baltimore, June 20, 1632.

The friendship between these two families is said to have been increased when Sir Robert Cecil, Queen Elizabeth's principal secretary of state, later recommended George Calvert as clerk of the Privy Council of King James, and though George Calvert never came to America, having died before the execution of the patent to Maryland, named in honor of Queen Henrietta Maria, yet his son, Cecil Calvert - undoubtedly named in honor of his friend, Sir Robert Cecil - did settle here as history so notably records. Of course, Cecil County, in the northeastern part of the State, is named either for some member of the Cecil family or for Cecil Calvert, Lord Baltimore.

In glancing over the first United States census, for 1790, but two heads of families of the name Cecil were found then living in Montgomery County, Md., these being Archibald Cecil and Kinsey Cecil. At this time the former was married and had two sons under 16 years of age and two daughters, while Kinsey Cecil was married and had one son under 16. At this time there were also living in Frederick County William Cecil, sr., and William Cecil, jr. John Cecil was then living in Queen Anne County.

As to the Davis side of the Cecil and Davis families, the family Bible records the issue of James Davis and Anna Cecil as being Thomas Truman Cecil Davis, born March 10, 1800; John Briscoe Davis, born January 14, 1802; Philip Sabret Cecil Davis, born October 14, 1806; Eliza Davis, born January 10, 1809; Sabret Cecil Davis, born August 20, 1811; Hezekiah Davis, born September 6, 1813; Samuel Cecil Davis, born February, 1816. and Benjamin Davis, born May 28, 1818.

Among the Davises recorded as living in Montgomery County in 1790 are Griffith Davis Ephraim, Forrest, three persons by the name of Charles and Baxter, Jeremiah, William, John, John V., Joseph, Levi, Lodowick, Mary, Morris, Nathan, Robert, Thomas and Walter Davis.

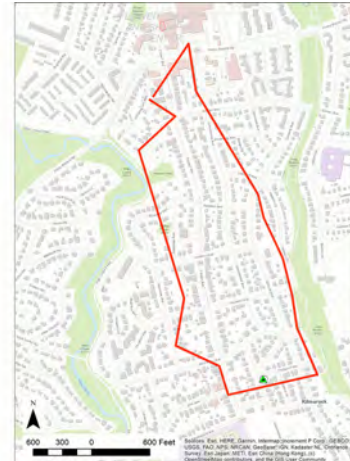
Benjamin Davis, who lived in the little log house which originally stood near Carroll and Garland avenues, died 35 or 40 years ago, when what was left of his farm, except the cemeterial plot, was sold to Mr. Thompson, who removed the little house to Greenwood avenue, where it now stands near the old apple orchard which once belonged to the Davis family. Later it was weatherboarded over the logs, and remains in this disguised way today.

Images:



HP-208-01
1924 Plat. The Cemetery is located in the Davis Family Lot.

Date
Photographer



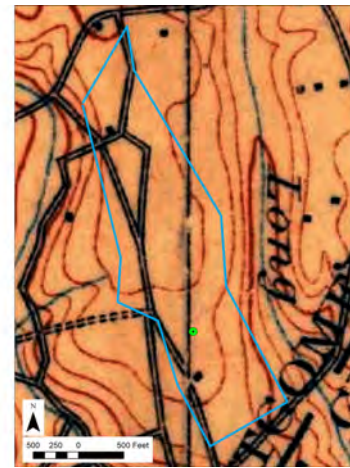
HP-208-01
Boundary of 1863 deed with first reference to cemetery. Green triangle is the location of the Cemetery.

Date 11/18/2022
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-208-03
1937 Washington Star Article

Date
Photographer



HP-208-04
1714 Kilmarnock Patent (blue) on 1900 USGS map. Cemetery shown as green dot. Note house 500 feet south of cemetery.

Date 11/21/2022
Photographer Brian Crane

<u>MARKER ID</u>	<u>GIVEN NAME</u>	<u>FAMILY NAME</u>	<u>DEATH YEAR</u>
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Montgomery County Planning Department
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID: HP-216
Name: Riggs Family Cemetery

Description:
Small 19th-century family cemetery.

Community: Religious: Family: African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials: 12 Visible Markers: Formal Entrance: Cemetery Sign: Active:

Earliest Year: 1839 Latest Year: 1891 Is the Site Extant?:
Moved

Is the Location Sensitive?: Sensitive Contact: Sensitive Reason:

Location Confidence: Known Location Confirmed:

Volunteer Forms and External Web Links (Montgomery Planning is not responsible for content. Links provided for informational purposes only)

2006 Survey Summary:
https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/MCCI_Summaries_2004/MCCI_Summary_ID_216.pdf

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:
https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/Cemeteries/216_Riggs_Family_Laytonsville/216_Riggs_Family_Laytonsville_2018/216_Riggs_Family_Laytonsville_2018_Survey.pdf

FindaGrave.com:

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

Other Website:

Master Plan Historic Resource No.:

Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board:

Confirmation Date:

Site Survey Date:

Revision Date:

Yes

05/16/2019

04/22/2018

Site Surveyor Name:

Jeff Miller

Data Originator:

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

Notes:

Some graves moved to St. John's Episcopal Church cemetery in 1921. Archaeological work in 1981 found 12 graves 8 of which still included partial human remains, including partially exhumed graves of children and adults.

Technical information about the locational information shown in the online map.

Public Display Scale:

Is there a Restriction on Sharing Information?:

1: 0

GIS Source Date:

GIS Source Datum:

Boundary Type:

10/15/2018

Point

Horizontal Accuracy:

GIS Data Source:

MCCIR 2018

Additional Information:

Archaeological investigations were carried out by James Sorensen and June Evans in 1981 prior to the land being used as a sanitary landfill.

Sorensen, James D. and June Evans (1981) Oaks II: An Archeological Investigation of a 200-Year-Old Rural Farmstead in Piedmont Montgomery County, Maryland. (Potomac River Archeology Survey, American University) MHT # MO 44.

Historical research in this report indicates that the graves of the following individuals were moved:

Samuel Riggs, 1813-1882
Milcah W. Riggs, 1812-1874
Mary E. Wood, 1854-1891
Mary W. Riggs, 1788-1864
Hezekiah T. Riggs, 1817-1851
Margaret V. Riggs, 1847-1878
Louisa G. Riggs, 1852-1863
Gilbert T. Riggs, 1838-1839
S. Tilden Riggs
Milcah Myers, June 1865-August 1866
Wm. H. Riggs, 1863-1865
Willie Wood, 1875-1878

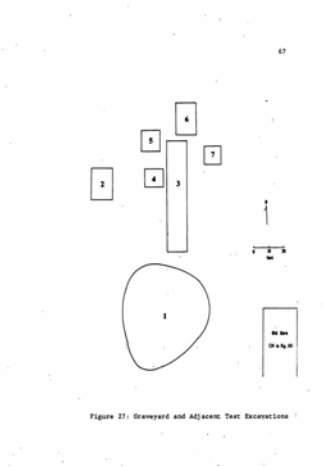
The authors indicate the following children could also have been buried on site:

Daughter, June-September 1878 (un-named?): Daughter of Margaret Riggs
Everline Riggs, daughter of Reuben Riggs, August 1815-October 1816.
William Henry Riggs, son of Samuel and Milcah Riggs, 1836-?

The excavations identified 12 graves, one of which may have originally included two bodies. Eight of the graves still had human remains, mostly from the lower bodies. Most of the upper bodies had been removed during grave relocation in 1921.

The authors also investigated whether the graves of enslaved persons might also have been in the vicinity, but state in the report that they did not find any. They conclude that the graves found were associated with the Riggs family. However, a March 1983 article in the Montgomery County Sentinel reports that remains recovered from the Riggs Farm in 1981 assumed to be those of people the Riggs family had enslaved were reburied at the Poor Farm cemetery. This is later repeated in: "The Archaeological Research Design and Scope Of Work for The Poor Farm Cemetery, Montgomery County, Maryland" by Deborah Vrabel, National Park Service 1986.

Images:

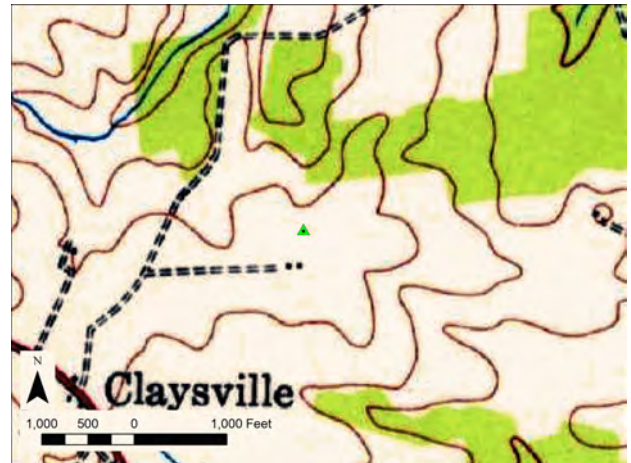


HP-216-01

Map of 1981 archaeological investigations.
Trench 3 contained grave features.

Date

Photographer



HP-216-02

Location of graves on 1944 USGS
Topographic map

Date

Photographer



HP-216-03

Green triangle indicates area where
archaeologists found graves in 1981 shown
on 1979 Aerial photograph.

Date

Photographer

MARKER ID

GIVEN NAME

FAMILY NAME

DEATH YEAR



Montgomery County Planning Department
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID:

HP-225

Name:

Darnestown Baptist Church Cemetery

Description:

Darnestown Baptist Church Cemetery (Pleasant Hills Cemetery).

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

115

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

1843

Latest Year:

1948

Is the Site Extant?:

Is the Location Sensitive?:

Sensitive Contact:

Sensitive Reason:

Location Confidence:

Known

Location Confirmed:

Volunteer Forms and External Web Links (Montgomery Planning is not responsible for content. Links provided for informational purposes only)

2006 Survey Summary:

https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/MCCI_Summaries_2004/MCCI_Summary_ID_225.pdf

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/Cemeteries/225_Darnestown_B_Pleasant-Hills_ME_Darnestown/225_Darnestown_B_Pleasant-Hills_ME_Darnestown_2018/225_Darnestown_B_Pleasant-Hills_ME_Darnestown_2018_Survey.pdf

FindaGrave.com:

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2213820>

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

Other Website:

Master Plan Historic Resource No.:

Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board:

Confirmation Date:

Site Survey Date:

Revision Date:

Yes

05/16/2019

09/14/2018

Site Surveyor Name:

Ingrid Fraley, Ryan Pike

Data Originator:

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

Notes:

A Methodist church and graveyard were on this site until 1844. In 1846, it became the Darnestown Baptist Church - organized by Rev. S. R. White - and remained in operation until 1873. The property was purchased in 1951 by Mr. Kelley, a farmer. He buried the tombstones at the head of each grave in 1951 after receiving signed releases from relatives of the deceased.

Technical information about the locational information shown in the online map.

Public Display Scale:

Is there a Restriction on Sharing Information?:

1: 0

GIS Source Date:

GIS Source Datum:

Boundary Type:

10/15/2018

Point

Horizontal Accuracy:

GIS Data Source:

MCCIR 2018

Additional Information:

The following is excerpted from the contents of an email from Toby Mattingly, January 12, 2018 included in the Montgomery Preservation, Inc. volunteer prepared inventory form:

When we purchased our lot to build a house at 15408 Spring Meadows Drive, in 1989, we were told there was an old cemetery on the corner lot, adjacent to Route 28. On our original plat, there is no information about the cemetery, but, when we purchased the corner lot from Teddy Miller, in 2002, it is shown. The cemetery was in use prior to 1951, per info provided by Tom Kelley, former landowner.

The driveway entrance to the church, which was a Methodist Church originally but was later used by the Baptists, was once visible off Darnestown Road (Route 28.) The ruts are still faintly there. It was a log structure. Miller originally had the driveway entrance to this corner lot, almost at the end of the lot, off Route 28. The County wasn't happy with that, as they had plans to widen Route 28 to include a passing lane and left turn lane, at Route 118. The County had no qualms about acquiring a right of way and putting in their road knowing there was a cemetery adjacent to the road. I'm not so sure some graves might have been compromised at that time, especially at the end closest to Route 118, where the road is the widest.

Unless one has penetrating ground radar, I don't think we'll ever know exactly where the graves are located. Teddy Miller gave us a different plat, showing about 20-30 x marks, all neatly arranged in the upper quadrant of the lot. Did the Baptists have a separate cemetery from the Methodists, or did they just co-mingle the graves? I can't find that other plat, but I will keep looking. It was obviously done to satisfy the County, and to get permission to develop the lot. The original plat for the lot just shows a small area with a cross and it's marked "Cemetery".

I have a copy of the History of Western Maryland, which includes Frederick, Montgomery, Carroll, Washington, Allegany and Garrett Counties. (Misspelling is on the title) Volume I, written by J. Thomas Scharf, and originally published in 1882. The article about the church says it was built over a half century ago, and that was in 1882. That would date it about 1832, well before the Civil War. It lists the names of persons buried there. This info comes from Montgomery County Historical Society. In pencil, it's noted that the lady who provided the historical information to us was Terri Sackett. Her phone [redacted]. This was included in the final information when the county sent the stamped plat, tax assessments, etc. to us.

We also have a copy of the original list of grave sites, prepared by J. Thomas Kelley, III, which was again, part of Historical Society records. It lists 115 or more people as being interred in the church cemetery, which would obviously be more people than what Teddy Miller showed on his plat of the land.

When I asked the older/now retired Miller employees where the markers were for these graves, I was told that old farmer Kelley—that would have been Thomas Kelley, Sr.—wanted to farm all the land, so he took down the grave markers, and buried them in a hole on the property. He supposedly used the marble ones as door sills/steps, at his big farm house. I never checked out the farm house, although we frequently bought corn from Mr. Kelley prior to building our home here in 1990. The original entrance to the Kelley farm, was off Route 28, as Kelley Farm Drive didn't exist. Also, the older carpenters and workers from Miller Co. showed me where they had filled in the old well on the lot. It is an area where today an old pine and a wild cherry tree grow together, surrounded by a huge ground hog hole.

There are chunks of marble scattered among the trees growing along the edge of the lot. I'm not sure they were originally where they are now. They could have been tossed into the woods if they were broken when the markers were being removed by Mr. Kelley. There is an aloe plant and a

crabapple tree, obviously not native to the site. They too could have been tossed into the woods if someone was clearing the land for farming.

Images:



HP-225_01

Approach to cemetery from Spring Meadow Drive, facing north

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike



HP-225_02

Center of cemetery, facing north

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike



HP-225_03

Center of cemetery, facing west

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike



HP-225_04

Center of cemetery, facing south

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike



HP-225_05

Center of cemetery, facing east (Darnestown Road/Rt. 28)

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike



HP-225_06

Panoramic from west to north to east

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike



HP-225_07

Panoramic from east to south to west

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike



HP-225_08

View along Spring Meadow Drive toward Darnestown Road/Rt. 28

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike

MARKER ID

GIVEN NAME

FAMILY NAME

DEATH YEAR



Montgomery County Planning Department
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID:

HP-236

Name:

Anderson-Watkins Slave Cemetery

Description:

African American burial ground mentioned in 1864 deed.

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

0

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

0

Latest Year:

0

Is the Site Extant?:

Unknown

Is the Location Sensitive?:

Sensitive Contact:

Sensitive Reason:

Location Confidence:

Approximate

Location Confirmed:

Volunteer Forms and External Web Links (Montgomery Planning is not responsible for content. Links provided for informational purposes only)

2006 Survey Summary:

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

[https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/Cemeteries/236 Anderson-Watkins Slave Chevy-Chase/236 Anderson-Watkins Slave Chevy-Chase 2018/236 Anderson-Watkins Slave Chevy-Chase 2018 Survey.pdf](https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/Cemeteries/236_Anderson-Watkins_Slave_Chevy-Chase/236_Anderson-Watkins_Slave_Chevy-Chase_2018/236_Anderson-Watkins_Slave_Chevy-Chase_2018_Survey.pdf)

FindaGrave.com:

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

Other Website:

Master Plan Historic Resource No.:
35/069-000A

Historic Resource:
Master Plan Individual Sites

Confirmed by Planning Board:
Yes

Confirmation Date:
05/16/2019

Site Survey Date:

Revision Date:

Site Surveyor Name:

Glenn Wallace

Data Originator:

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

Notes:

Deed from George Watkins to Samuel Anderson dated June 3, 1864 reads: "It is understood and agreed upon by the said G.M. Watkins and Sam B. Anderson that the present Grave Yard on said Lot, never exceed one eighth of an acre of Land, shall be used by the said G.M. Watkins and Sam B. Anderson for the burial of Colored people as needed for that purpose."
Montgomery County Land Records Liber JGH 8 Folio 404.

Technical information about the locational information shown in the online map.

Public Display Scale:
1: 0

Is there a Restriction on Sharing Information?:

GIS Source Date:
10/15/2018

GIS Source Datum:

Boundary Type:
Point

Horizontal Accuracy:

GIS Data Source:
MCCIR 2018

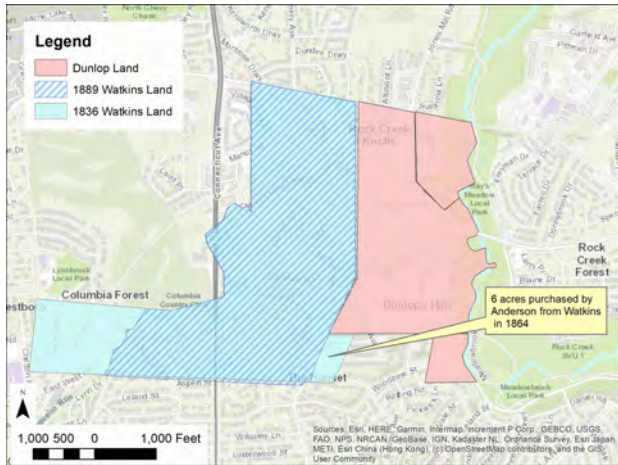
Additional Information:

The land included in the 1864 deed referencing the cemetery is described as "on the East side of the road leading from George Town D.C. to Brookville in the County and state aforesaid, adjoining the lands of Judge James Dunlop, and the said Sam B. Anderson, and commonly known as the lot whereon the overseer of the said G. M. Watkins lived supposed to contain six acres of Land more or less."

Figure 1 below shows the lands belonging to James Dunlop, Samuel Anderson, and G.M. Watkins. The boundary of Watkins land at the time of the 1864 sale is shown along with a later (1889) post-sale boundary. The remainder is an approximately 6-acre rectangle bordering all three properties, and thus most likely contained the land sold in 1864 and the referenced cemetery.

Figure 2 shows the approximate boundary of the 6-acre lot containing the cemetery on a 1926 USGS topographic map. The high ground along the road in the southwestern corner of the lot is the most likely location of the overseer's house referenced in the deed. That would make the next highest ground approximately 300 feet to the northeast a likely location for the cemetery.

Images:

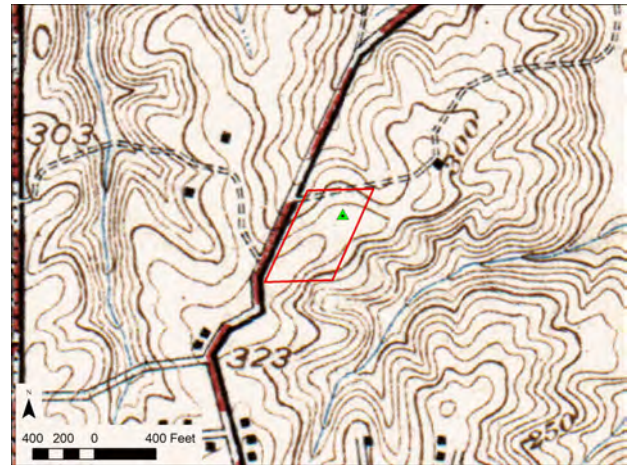


HP-236-01

Figure 1: Boundaries of properties adjacent to the cemetery referenced in an 1864 deed

Date

Photographer



HP-236-02

Figure 2: approximate boundary of six acre lot containing cemetery shown on 1926 USGS topographic map.

Date

Photographer

MARKER ID

GIVEN NAME

FAMILY NAME

DEATH YEAR



Montgomery County Planning Department
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID:

HP-353

Name:

Wheeler Farm Cemetery

Description:

Small family cemetery belonging to the Wheeler Family.

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

Latest Year:

Is the Site Extant?:

Is the Location Sensitive?:

Sensitive Contact:

Sensitive Reason:

Location Confidence:

Approximate

Location Confirmed:

**Volunteer Forms and External Web Links (Montgomery Planning is not responsible for content.
Links provided for informational purposes only)**

2006 Survey Summary:

[NA](#)

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

[NA](#)

FindaGrave.com:

[NA](#)

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

Other Website:

Master Plan Historic Resource No.:

Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board:

Confirmation Date:

Site Survey Date:

Revision Date:

Site Surveyor Name:

Data Originator:

Notes:

The Death Certificate for William P. Wheeler (aged 52) dated January 14, 1913 states that he was buried "on the farm at Ednor." Unknown whether other family members were buried on the farm.

Technical information about the locational information shown in the online map.

Public Display Scale: _____

Is there a Restriction on Sharing Information?:

1: 0

GIS Source Date: _____

GIS Source Datum:

Boundary Type:

11/16/2022

Horizontal Accuracy:

GIS Data Source:

Additional Information:

The cemetery location is based on deed records, including Liber PBR 270, Folio 203. That deed describes the boundary of a farm that had at one time belonged to Grafton and Elizabeth Wheeler, and that was inherited by Joseph and William Wheeler. William Wheeler's death certificate says he was the son of Grafton Wheeler and Elizabeth Downs, and was buried at the farm. The approximate location included in the inventory is based on the boundary of the farm and the location of the farmhouse as visible in a 1951 aerial photograph, and USGS maps from 1923 and 1944.

Images:

**STATE OF MARYLAND
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**
Registered No. 705 (28)

County: *Montgomery* City: *Laurel* State: *Md.*

FULL NAME: *William P. Wheeler*

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

DATE OF BIRTH: *08/29/1941*

DATE OF DEATH: *11/16/2022*

CAUSE OF DEATH: *Interactant*

PHYSICIAN: *Dr. P. J. ...*

PLACE OF BIRTH: *Laurel, Md.*

PLACE OF DEATH: *Laurel, Md.*

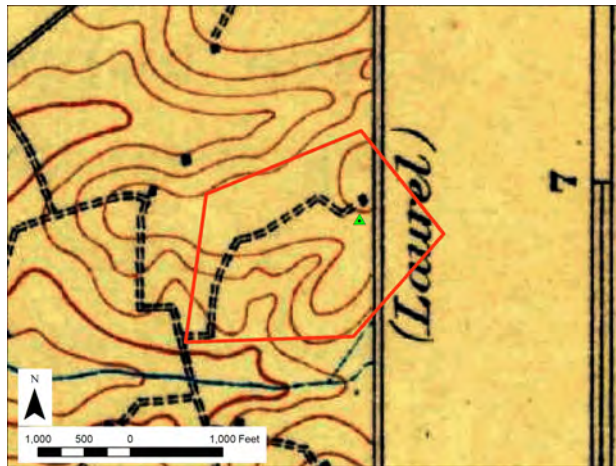
HP-353-01
William Wheeler Death Certificate

Date 11/16/2022
Photographer Brian Crane



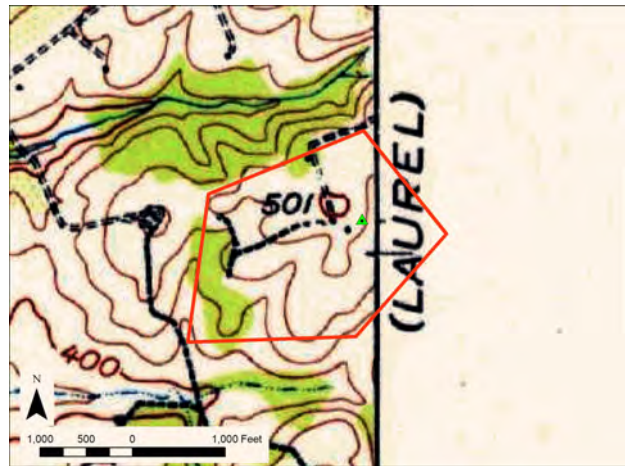
HP-353-02
Wheeler Farm Boundaries on 1951 Aerial Photograph.

Date 03/24/2023
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-353-03
1923 Rockville USGS Map

Date 11/16/2022
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-353-04
1944 Rockville USGS Map

Date 11/16/2022
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-353-05

Wheeler Farm on Current Map

Date 03/24/2023

Photographer Brian Crane

MARKER ID

GIVEN NAME

FAMILY NAME

DEATH YEAR



Montgomery County Planning Department
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID:

HP-354

Name:

Brooke Family Cemetery

Description:

Small 19th-century family cemetery.

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

2+

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

1824

Latest Year:

1860

Is the Site Extant?:

Is the Location Sensitive?:

Sensitive Contact:

Sensitive Reason:

Location Confidence:

Approximate

Location Confirmed:

**Volunteer Forms and External Web Links (Montgomery Planning is not responsible for content.
Links provided for informational purposes only)**

2006 Survey Summary:

[NA](#)

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

[NA](#)

FindaGrave.com:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39406164/thomas-alexander-brooke>

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

[NA](#)

Other Website:

Master Plan Historic Resource No.:

Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board:

Confirmation Date:

Site Survey Date:

Revision Date:

No

Site Surveyor Name:

Data Originator:

MNCPPC Historic Preservation

Notes:

Thomas Alexander Brooke Sr (1781-1824) and his wife Henrietta (1787-1860) were buried on their farm. Both of these graves were moved to Rockville Cemetery in 1918. It is unknown whether there were other graves of children or people the family enslaved, or if so, whether they were also relocated in 1928.

Technical information about the locational information shown in the online map.

Public Display Scale:

Is there a Restriction on Sharing Information?:

1: 0

GIS Source Date:

GIS Source Datum:

Boundary Type:

Horizontal Accuracy:

GIS Data Source:

Additional Information:

Thomas' son Edmund Brooke and his wife Fannie sold the property to James Gaherty in 1884 excepting "the burying ground which is reserved." A later newspaper ad mentions the graveyard as well (Montgomery County Land Records Liber EBP 32 Folio 153; Evening Star. Washington, DC May 8, 1897, page 22).

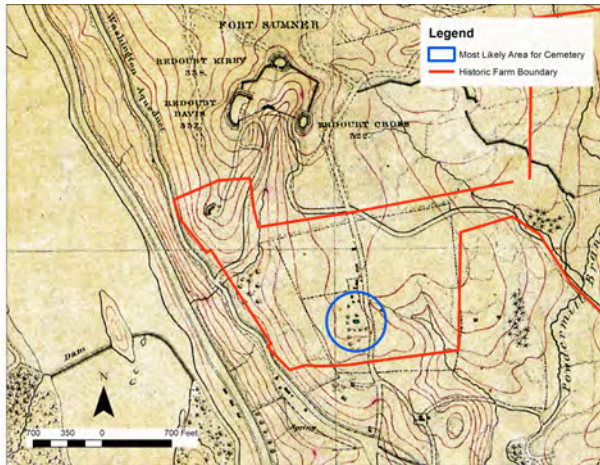
There is no record of how many people were buried in the Brooke Family burial ground, though some information is available about who lived there. In addition to Thomas, Henrietta and their children, others who lived and worked at the Brooke family farm included people held in slavery. The total number of individuals the Brooke family enslaved is unknown, but the number at several points in time is. Thomas A. Brooke held 18 people in slavery in 1820. Henrietta Brooke held 15 people in slavery in 1840 and 14 in 1850 aged from 3 to 80 years old according to US census records. The names for the enslaved are mostly not available, but Henrietta Brooke placed an ad for a "runaway slave" named Lydia Garey in 1835. It is possible that some of these individuals could have been buried near the family cemetery. Children who did not live to adulthood could also have been buried there.

The Brooke family farm is shown in detail on an 1865 US Army Corps of Engineers map of the defenses of Washington, owing to nearby earthworks. Figure 1 shows the farm boundaries and most likely area for a family cemetery on this map. The farmhouse is not labeled, but the building indicated in Figure 1 appears as a building in subsequent USGS maps while the other probable outbuildings do not. The location on a high point along a terrace above Potomac River in a grove of trees matches the description in the 1897 ad in the Evening Star. The ad describes the house as:

a large frame dwelling, containing 11 rooms, located in a grove of forest trees, upon a commanding eminence, affording extensive and picturesque views of the Potomac River, the hills of Maryland and Virginia, and it is only a short distance from and in full view of the Methodist University.
Evening Star - May 8, 1897 - page 22

The most likely location of the family burial ground is within a few hundred feet of the house and on high ground. Analysis of known family burial sites in the Montgomery County Burial Sites inventory indicates that the average distance from the associated family house was 475 ft for the 55 family cemeteries where both the cemetery and original house could be identified confidently. Approximately 75% of these are between 150 and 650 feet from the house. Analysis also showed that family burial grounds tended to be located on a prominent landform such as a small hill or stream terrace. The large majority of family cemeteries in Montgomery County are at a higher elevation than their immediate surroundings (within 500 feet). Figure 2 shows the farm boundary and a 350-foot buffer around the probable farmhouse on a contemporary map.

Images:



HP-354-01

Figure 1: Brooke family farm shown on an Army Corps of Engineers Map in 1865.

Date

Photographer



HP-354-02

Figure 2: Contemporary map

Date

Photographer

MARKER ID

GIVEN NAME

FAMILY NAME

DEATH YEAR



Montgomery County Planning Department
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID:

HP-355

Name:

Browning Family Cemetery

Description:

19th-century family cemetery

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

2-6

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

1834

Latest Year:

1870

Is the Site Extant?:

Yes

Is the Location Sensitive?:

Sensitive Contact:

Sensitive Reason:

Location Confidence:

Known

Location Confirmed:

Yes

**Volunteer Forms and External Web Links (Montgomery Planning is not responsible for content.
Links provided for informational purposes only)**

2006 Survey Summary:

[NA](#)

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

[NA](#)

FindaGrave.com:

[NA](#)

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

[NA](#)

Other Website:

[NA](#)

Master Plan Historic Resource No.:

Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board:

Confirmation Date:

Site Survey Date:

Revision Date:

Site Surveyor Name:

Cassandra Michaud, Jamie Ferguson, Ahna Feldstein: Montgomery Parks

Data Originator:

MNCPPC Historic Preservation

Notes:

Small family cemetery likely associated with the now-demolished Perry Browning homestead off an abandoned section of Prescott Road (below the Little Bennett Golf Course). Recorded with MHT as Archaeological Site 18MO783.

Technical information about the locational information shown in the online map.

Public Display Scale: _____

Is there a Restriction on Sharing Information?:

1: 0

GIS Source Date:

GIS Source Datum:

Boundary Type:

Horizontal Accuracy:

GIS Data Source:

Additional Information:

The landform where the grave markers are presently appears to be heavily disturbed. Additional archaeological investigations would be needed to confirm the exact location of the graves. The graves could be with or near the markers or potentially at the top of the terrace.

Images:



HP-355_000
Browning Farm on 1944 USGS map

Date 03/24/2023
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-355_001
Browning cemetery marker base

Date 06/14/2022
Photographer Montgomery Parks



HP-355_002
Browning cemetery - Elizabeth

Date 06/14/2022
Photographer Montgomery Parks



HP-355_003
Browning cemetery - headstones

Date 06/14/2022
Photographer Montgomery Parks



HP-355_004

Browning cemetery - Lizzie

Date 06/14/2022
Photographer Montgomery Parks



HP-355_005

Area of headstones facing northeast

Date 03/07/2023
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-355_006

Browning cemetery marker base

Date 03/07/2023
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-355_007

Browning cemetery marker base

Date 03/07/2023
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-355_008

Browning cemetery marker base

Date 03/07/2023
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-355_009

Browning cemetery marker base

Date 03/07/2023
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-355_010

Area of headstones facing west, showing nearby road trace

Date 03/07/2023
Photographer Brian Crane

MARKER ID

GIVEN NAME

FAMILY NAME

DEATH YEAR



Montgomery County Planning Department
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID:

HP-356

Name:

Littlefield-Soper Family Cemetery

Description:

Small family Cemetery possibly associated with the Littlefield and Soper family.

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

Latest Year:

1887

Is the Site Extant?:

Is the Location Sensitive?:

Sensitive Contact:

Sensitive Reason:

Location Confidence:

Approximate

Location Confirmed:

Volunteer Forms and External Web Links (Montgomery Planning is not responsible for content. Links provided for informational purposes only)

2006 Survey Summary:

[NA](#)

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

[NA](#)

FindaGrave.com:

[NA](#)

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

[NA](#)

Other Website:

[NA](#)

Master Plan Historic Resource No.: Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board: Confirmation Date: Site Survey Date: Revision Date:

Site Surveyor Name:

Data Originator:

Notes:

Referenced in Deed Liber JA 4 Folio 286, recorded February 5, 1887.

Technical information about the locational information shown in the online map.

Public Display Scale: _____ Is there a Restriction on Sharing Information?:

1: 0

GIS Source Date: GIS Source Datum: Boundary Type:

Horizontal Accuracy: GIS Data Source:

Additional Information:

The 1887 deed from James and Annie Soper and Frances and Martin Littlefield to Joseph Burr reads in part, "containing clear of the family burying ground ninety one and one fourth acres of land, reserving the said burying ground described as follows. Beginning at a stone planted at the South west corner thereof thence N 17 1/2 degrees E 3 1/20 perches, S 72 1/2 degrees E 2 1/2 perches, S 17 1/2 degrees W 3 1/20 perches, N 72 1/2 degrees W to the beginning Containing 7 6/10 square perches of land.

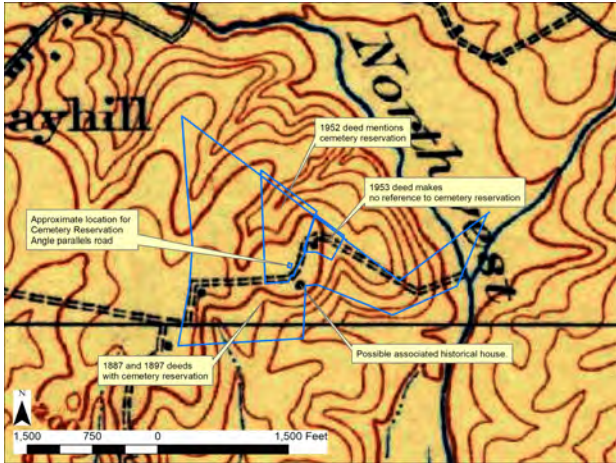
The reservation is repeated in JA 55 Folio 464, 1897, with the addition of "the right of ingress and egress."

The last time the reservation is included in a deed dates to 1952. The deed at Liber 1681 Folio 397 reads in part: "The grantors herein covenant and agree that the family burying ground mentioned in Deed from James B. Soper et. ux. to Frances A..Littlefield et. vir., dated November 24, 1886 recorded among said Land Records in Liber JA 4 at Folio 286 is not on the ground hereby conveyed."

The location is based on the topography within a few hundred feet of the probable Littlefield house as shown on USGS maps (Rockville Quadrangle 1908, 1923 and 1944), and in a location within the bounds of the 1952 deed where the cemetery boundaries would parallel the road shown on USGS maps. A field visit discovered a likely flat terrace within 200 feet of the location of a house in historic USGS maps containing large quartzite fieldstones. Whether the latter are markers, or stones marking former garden features is unknown.

Alternatively, if the language in the 1952 deed is meant to show that the cemetery is in another parcel, the next most likely location is in another portion of the Parks property, conveyed in 1953, though without mention of a cemetery reservation. This location is shown in the following graphics.

Images:



HP_356_001

Deeds referencing cemetery on 1923 USGS Map

Date 03/22/2023
Photographer Brian Crane



HP_356_002

Possible fieldstone facing east

Date 12/21/2022
Photographer Brian Crane



HP_356_003

Possible fieldstone facing north

Date 03/22/2023
Photographer Brian Crane



HP_356_004

Possible alternate location for the cemetery

Date 05/01/2023
Photographer Brian Crane

MARKER ID

GIVEN NAME

FAMILY NAME

DEATH YEAR



Montgomery County Planning Department
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID:

HP-357

Name:

Perry Farm Cemetery

Description:

Family cemetery associated with the Perry Farm.

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

1828

Latest Year:

Is the Site Extant?:

Is the Location Sensitive?:

Sensitive Contact:

Sensitive Reason:

Location Confidence:

Known

Location Confirmed:

**Volunteer Forms and External Web Links (Montgomery Planning is not responsible for content.
Links provided for informational purposes only)**

2006 Survey Summary:

[NA](#)

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

[NA](#)

FindaGrave.com:

[NA](#)

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

[NA](#)

Other Website:

<https://erasmusperry.marylanddar.org/index.php/our-history-ep>

Master Plan Historic Resource No.: Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board: Confirmation Date: Site Survey Date: Revision Date:

Site Surveyor Name:

Data Originator:

Notes:

A 1955 plat (number 3938) shows a cemetery was located on this parcel. The 1828 date for earliest grave is based on the death year of Erasmus Perry who acquired the farm in 1785, and was buried on the farm. It is not known if there were earlier or later burials.

Technical information about the locational information shown in the online map.

Public Display Scale: _____ Is there a Restriction on Sharing Information?:

1: 0

GIS Source Date: GIS Source Datum: Boundary Type:

Horizontal Accuracy: GIS Data Source:

Additional Information:

There is a house with basement standing in the location shown on the plat, therefore it is possible that nothing of the burial ground survives. However, the number of interments and extent are unknown so the possibility of human remains nearby remains. There is no known record of whether the graves were moved.

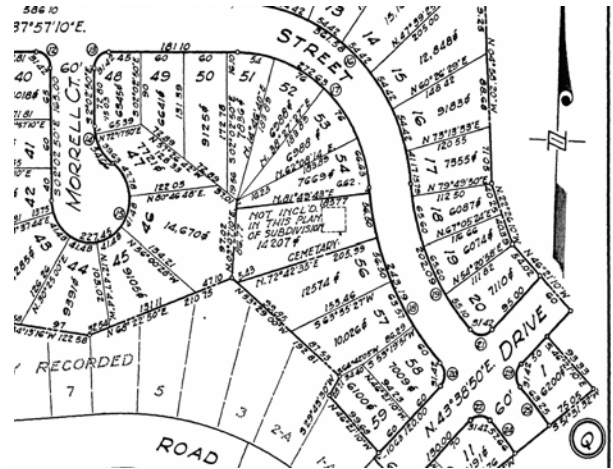
The cemetery was part of an approximately 185-acre farm acquired by Erasmus Perry in 1785 and that remained in the Perry family until 1917 (Maryland Land Records Liber C Folio 147, Liber EBP 24 Folio 317, and Liber PBR 264 Folio 81). It is not known who was buried in the lot. However, the Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots; Volume: 3; Serial: 11670; Volume: 3 lists an Erasmus Perry who was buried on his farm. The Montgomery County chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is named for Erasmus Perry, and according to their website, the DAR marked his grave through 1953. The DAR site says he was born in 1760, and died in May 1828. Other Perry family members (e.g. Erasmus Perry 1806-1883) are buried at Potomac United Methodist Church Cemetery.

In addition to Perry family members, there is the possibility of the graves of those the Perry family held in slavery. The US Census shows that an Erasmus Perry and other Perry family members in Montgomery County held people in slavery from 1790 through Maryland emancipation in November 1864.

Images:



HP_357_001
Plat 3938, 1955



HP_357_002
Detail of Plat 3938, 1955

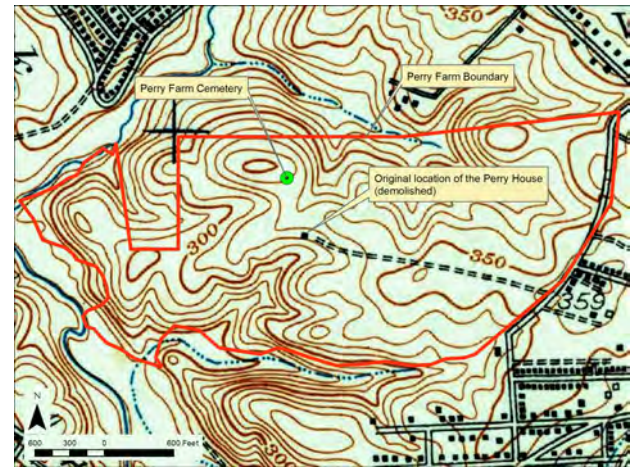
Date
Photographer

Date
Photographer



HP_357_003
Perry Farm on contemporary map

Date 03/24/2023
Photographer Brian Crane



HP_357_004
Perry Farm on 1951 USGS Map

Date 03/24/2023
Photographer Brian Crane

MARKER ID GIVEN NAME FAMILY NAME DEATH YEAR



Montgomery County Planning Department
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID:
HP-358

Name:
Magruder/Hughes Family Cemetery

Description:

Nineteenth-century family cemetery associated with the Magruder or Hughes families.

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

Latest Year:

1879

Is the Site Extant?:

Is the Location Sensitive?:

Sensitive Contact:

Sensitive Reason:

Location Confidence:

Approximate

Location Confirmed:

Volunteer Forms and External Web Links (Montgomery Planning is not responsible for content. Links provided for informational purposes only)

2006 Survey Summary:

[NA](#)

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

[NA](#)

FindaGrave.com:

[NA](#)

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

[NA](#)

Other Website:

[NA](#)

Master Plan Historic Resource No.: Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board: Confirmation Date: Site Survey Date: Revision Date:

Site Surveyor Name:

Data Originator:

Notes:

Cemetery reservation in 1879 deed, Liber EBP 19 Folio 266.

Technical information about the locational information shown in the online map.

Public Display Scale: _____ Is there a Restriction on Sharing Information?:

1: 0

GIS Source Date: GIS Source Datum: Boundary Type:

Horizontal Accuracy: GIS Data Source:

Additional Information:

The deed from Benjamin and Catharine Hughes to Simon Best reads in part: "Excepting thereout and therefrom, the Family Grave Yard on said premises, Containing about one fourth of an acre of land, with the right of ingress and egress thereto and therefrom, at all times, for burial purposes, and for keeping the enclosure and graves and gravestones, in repair."

The approximate location selected is based on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places form location for the Hughes farm, and historical maps and aerial photographs. The location is approximately 250 feet from the former farmhouse on relatively high ground, as was common for family graveyards of this era in Montgomery County.

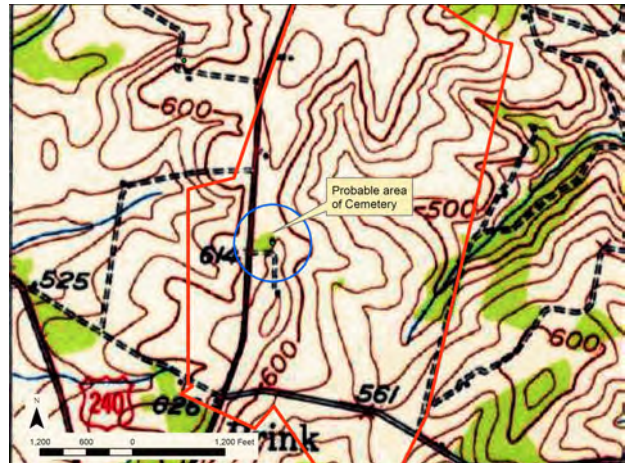
Images:



HP-358-002

Probable cemetery area on a 1951 Aerial photograph.

Date 03/24/2023
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-358_001

Probable cemetery area on the 1944 USGS map. Red line is the 19th-century farm boundary

Date 03/24/2023
Photographer Brian Crane

MARKER ID

GIVEN NAME

FAMILY NAME

DEATH YEAR