

**TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM DOCUMENTING A CEMETERY  
DELINEATION AT THE WILDWOOD MANOR SWIM CLUB  
PROPERTY, BETHESDA, MARYLAND**

10235 HATHERLEIGH DRIVE, BETHESDA, MD 20814



Prepared for:

**MNCPPC - Historic Preservation Office**  
2425 Reddie Drive, 13th Floor  
Wheaton, MD 20902

Prepared by:

**The Ottery Group, Inc.**  
PO Box 4265  
Silver Spring, MD 20914

301.946.0219 (main)

July 26, 2023

## INTRODUCTION

The Wildwood Manor Pool, located at 10235 Hatherleigh Drive in Bethesda, intends to conduct renovations of the pool facility which includes the development of a Forest Conservation Plan for the property. Consultation with MNCPPC indicated the presence of a cemetery on the 1956 (photorevised 1958, 1963) USGS topographic quadrangles. Montgomery County Ordinance 18-31 (2017) requires the preservation and protection of burial sites as a condition of the review and approval process for the Forest Conservation Plan. Accordingly, MNCPPC requested an archeological examination of the area to conclusively determine the presence of the cemetery and to document boundaries for the preservation and protection of the cemetery.

A pedestrian survey of the property in May 2023 failed to conclusively confirm the presence of the cemetery, although quartz blocks and vinca/periwinkle groundcover were noted in the vicinity of the mapped cemetery area (Photos 1 and 2). A December 1958 topographic survey prepared prior to pool construction notes the cemetery location with sufficient accuracy (Attachment 1.1).

A preliminary discussion was held on May 1, 2023 with Brian Crane, the MNCPPC archeologist that oversees the Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory, to discuss the cemetery delineation and begin preparation for the field investigations prior to fieldwork. A technical workplan was prepared on May 31, 2023. The plan outlined the procedures for the identification and field documentation of the area to document gravesites, following the procedures established in the *Montgomery County Planning Board Guidelines for Burial Sites*, Appendix A (2019). This technical memorandum summarizes the results of the field investigation.

## METHODS

The general approach to document the presence of graves in the designated area involved mechanical stripping of surface soils above suspected graves to expose grave shafts in the subsoil. This exploratory method of excavation generally avoids disturbance to any human remains. The 1958 survey map was used to approximate the cemetery location for the start of fieldwork.

Initial clearing of the site area was conducted to remove undergrowth and allow for the location and marking of any headstones. Trash and other obstacles that would interfere with mechanical stripping were removed by hand. Quartz blocks that were considered possible grave markers were mapped in place. Any required erosion and sediment control measures were installed as necessary to meet state or county requirements.

Mechanical stripping was conducted using a small excavator fitted with a flat blade to provide a uniform surface and minimize divots in the stripped surface (Photo 3). Mechanical excavation was conducted in roughly three-foot-wide strips, avoiding any marked gravestones, which were pedestaled in situ. Surface soils were removed in shallow levels in order to remove only enough surface to expose evidence of graveshafts in the subsoil. Mechanical stripping was monitored by an archeologist (Photo 4). The excavated trenches were oriented to avoid damage to large trees/root systems, and to avoid disturbance of any mapped grave markers.

Mechanically excavated trenches were cleaned and leveled by hand in order to document soil changes that would indicate the backfilling of a grave (Photo 5). Any soil anomalies that were considered likely to represent grave locations were troweled by hand to expose a sufficient portion of the feature to confirm assignment as a grave. Once cleaned with shovel and trowel, graveshafts or other disturbances, if present,

would be visible as areas of different colored or textured soil from the surrounding subsoil, with a rectangular or ovoid shape, generally in an east-west orientation, and commonly aligned in systematic rows.

Soil excavated from the cemetery area was stockpiled adjacent to the excavated trenches. Mechanically excavated soils were not screened for artifact content. Data such as soil type, color, depth, and artifact content from trenches were recorded on standard field forms. Any cultural material associated with the anomalies was noted and left in place. No artifacts were collected. Photographs and general field records were taken during the field effort.

## RESULTS

The archeological field investigation at the cemetery site took place on July 6-7, 2023. Brian Crane of the MNCPPC visited the site on July 7, 2023 to view the fieldwork.

### *Cemetery Identification*

The trench excavation began at the northern side of the suspected cemetery and extended to the south. Graveshafts were immediately noted within the trench path. Mechanical excavation proceeded with two trenches to the west, and a trench to the east, which also exposed graveshafts (Photo 6). A total of 13 graveshafts were encountered during the excavation. This number does not reflect the total number of burials within the cemetery.

Gravesite marking and mapping were conducted for identified gravesites. Three rows of graves were identified. Two graveshafts, designated Burials 1 and 2, are likely a family grouping and are situated on the eastern end of the cemetery. These burials fall outside of the mapped boundary on the 1958 topographic survey (Attachment 1.2). The central row contains 9 graveshafts, Burials 3-11, one of which was truncated by a drain conduit running westward from a concrete cistern near the pool fence (Burial 3). Variations in the spacing between burials could indicate individual family groupings, although this is by no means certain. The westernmost row contained two graveshafts separated by several feet.

Blocks of unmodified quartz were encountered in association with several graveshafts. Quartz was found throughout the excavation area, but most were generally small, fist-sized cobbles. There appears to have been an intentional selection of larger pieces to mark graves. Of the three quartz rocks observed at ground surface during the initial walkover, only one was directly associated with a graveshaft, and appears to mark the foot of Burial 8.

### *Cemetery Boundary Delineation*

Once the presence of graves was conclusively demonstrated, the Montgomery County guidelines specify boundary determination for the cemetery area. Mechanical stripping proceeded outward in order to delineate the extent of the cemetery following the field methodology presented above. Mechanical trenches were extended a sufficient distance, generally 10-15 feet from the last confirmed graveshaft to establish boundary at each side of the cemetery. Cemetery boundaries were staked and surveyed in accordance with the County's requirements to establish a protective easement for the cemetery. Table 1 provides coordinates for the corners.

	Lat	Long	UTM Easting	UTM Northing	UTM Zone
NW	39° 1'30.56"N	77° 7'0.51"W	316758.05 m E	4321700.05 m N	18S
SW	39° 1'30.06"N	77° 7'0.50"W	316757.93 m E	4321684.63 m N	18S
NE	39° 1'30.55"N	77° 7'0.07"W	316768.62 m E	4321699.49 m N	18S
SE	39° 1'30.04"N	77° 7'0.07"W	316768.26 m E	4321683.77 m N	18S

At the conclusion of the investigation, the trenches were backfilled. Stakes and markers were left in place for surveying and incorporation of the cemetery boundaries on site plans (Photo 7).

## CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The delineation established that the cemetery does not extend to the LOD for the pool renovation project. The pool area, to the existing fence line, has been extensively graded. Based on the soil conditions and the presence of large trees at the eastern side of the project area, it is unlikely that disturbance from pool construction had damaged gravesites. Construction activities associated with the planned renovations are not likely to impact gravesites.

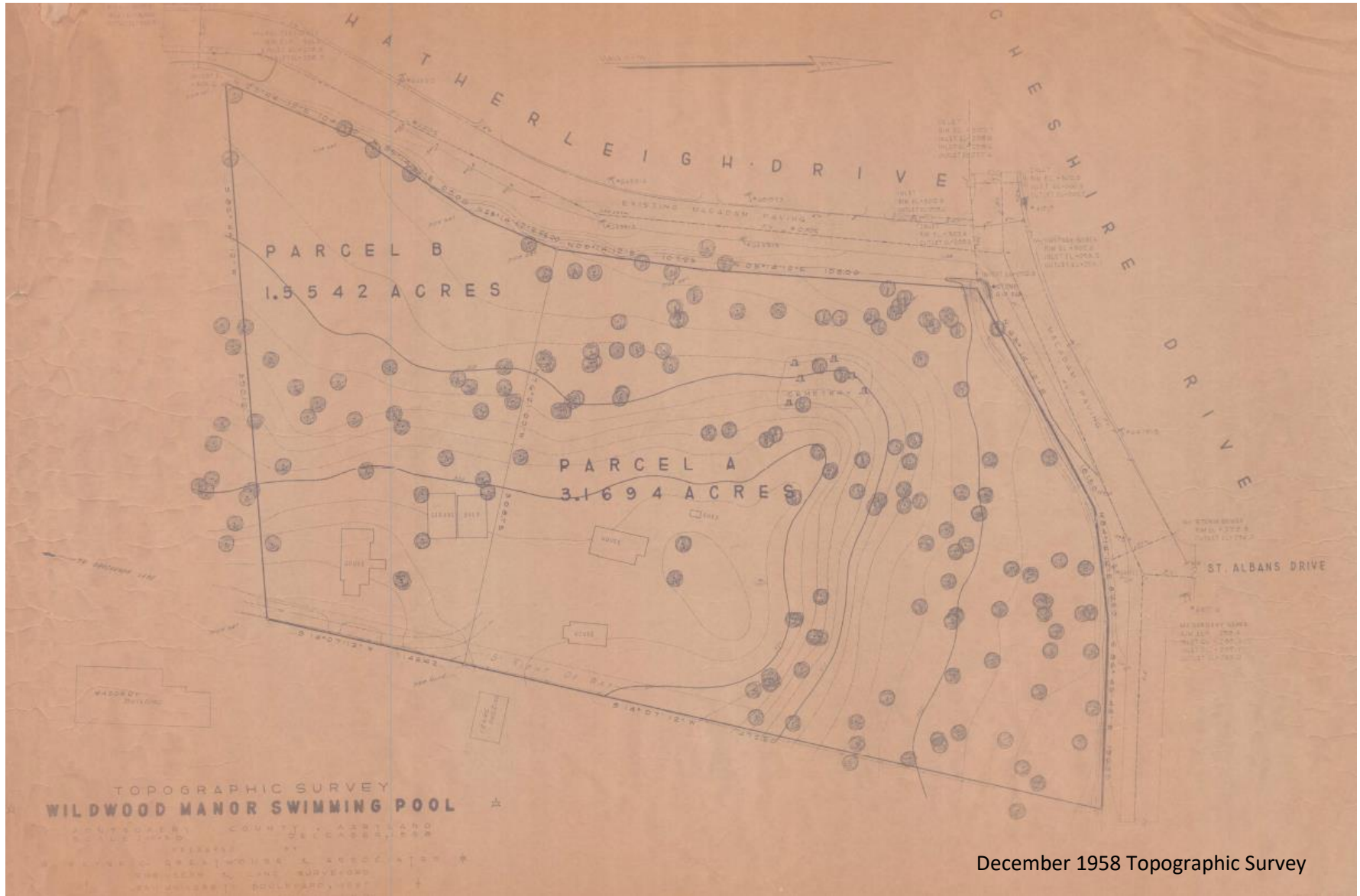
The investigation noted an abandoned drainage line extending downslope from a concrete block cistern. It is recommended that this line, unused, be left in place to avoid any additional impacts to gravesites.

The stockpiled soils were replaced in the mechanically stripped areas to finish grades to match the pre-excavation conditions and maintain pre-excavation drainage patterns (Photo 8). The property owner has stabilized soils with straw or other appropriate material in accordance with Montgomery County requirements.

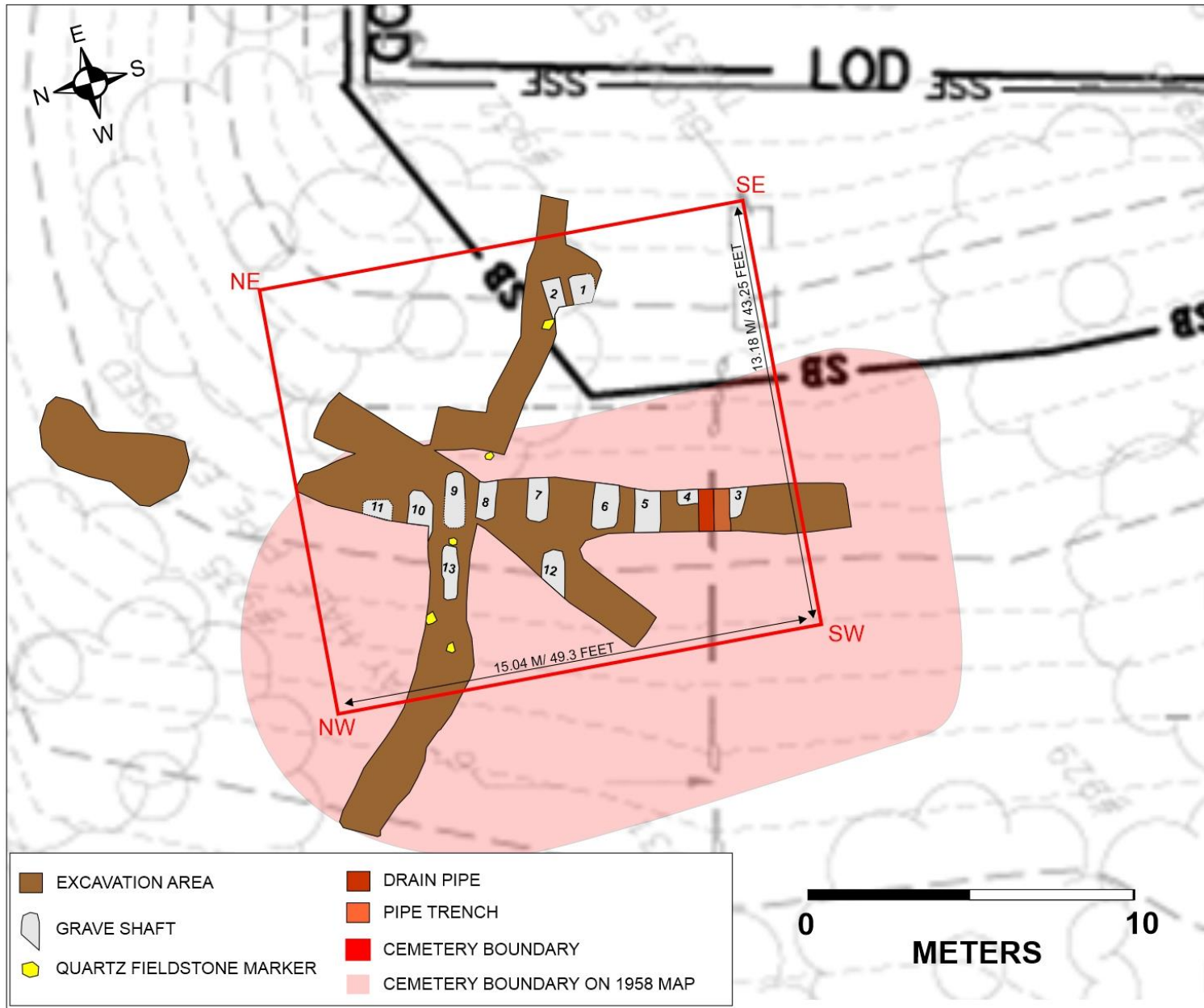
Following the completion of fieldwork, the cemetery boundaries were surveyed and incorporated into the development plans (Attachment 1.3). These plans will be provided to MNCPPC by the property owner as part of the regulatory review.

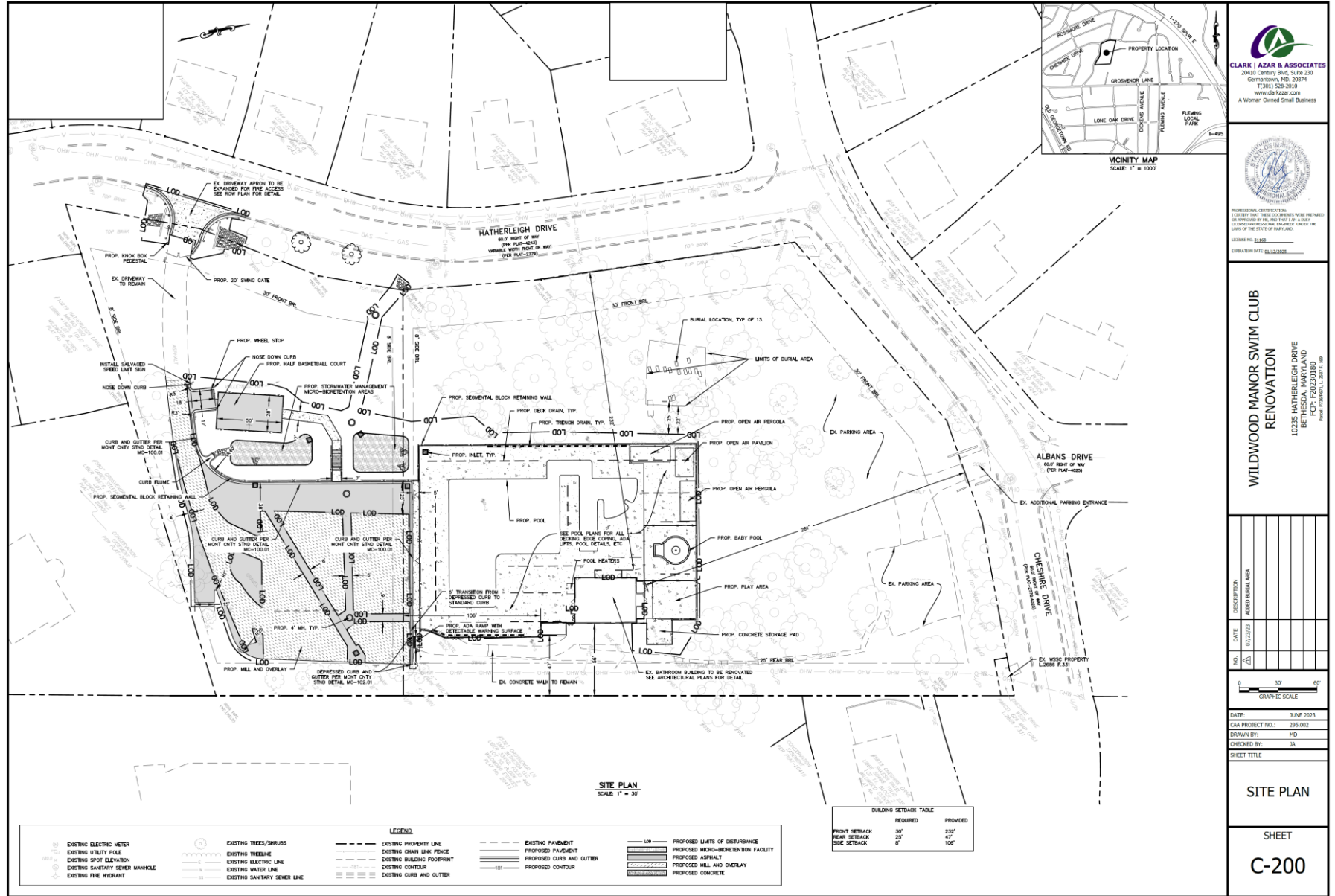
The property owner will provide for any long-term maintenance and protection of the site during all phases of construction work for the phase of construction adjacent to the cemetery parcel, as well as the protection of all grave markers, fencing, related landscaping, and any other cemetery elements identified during the regulatory process.

ATTACHMENT 1: CEMETERY PLANS



Wildwood Manor Pool Property - Cemetery Delineation





**CLARK | AZAR & ASSOCIATES**  
 20430 Century Blvd, Suite 230  
 Germantown, MD 20874  
 (301) 528-2010  
 www.clarkazar.com  
 A Woman Owned Small Business



PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION  
 I CERTIFY THAT THESE DOCUMENTS WERE PREPARED OR APPROVED BY ME, AND THAT I AM A LEGAL LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.  
 LICENSE NO. 31168  
 EXPIRATION DATE: 06/12/2023

**WILDWOOD MANOR SWIM CLUB  
 RENOVATION**

10235 HATHERLEIGH DRIVE  
 BELTSVILLE, MD  
 (EPC# EPC20230180)  
 PROJECT MANAGER: L. LOFF F. 88

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1	07/23/23	ADDED BURIAL AREA

DATE: JUNE 2023  
 CIVIL PROJECT NO.: 2395-002  
 DRAWN BY: NID  
 CHECKED BY: JA  
 SHEET TITLE

**SITE PLAN**

**SHEET  
 C-200**



ATTACHMENT 2: PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: View of cemetery area facing southeast toward concrete structure and clay drain leading downslope.



Photo 2: View of cemetery area facing northeast.



Photo 3: View of mechanical stripping of surface soils within the mapped cemetery area.



Photo 4: View of archeological monitoring during the mechanical trench excavation.



Photo 5: View of hand troweling the excavated trenches. Note two grave shafts visible in the photo center.



Photo 6: View of identified grave shafts, facing south.



Photo 7: View of trench backfilling at the completion of fieldwork, facing south. Note wooden stakes marking locations for survey.



Photo 8: View of the restored ground surface at the completion of the investigation, facing east.

ATTACHMENT 3: PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The key staff assigned to the project meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards at 36CFR61 and have extensive work experience on cemetery projects and with the treatment of human remains.

**Lyle Torp** is the Managing Director of the firm and co-founded the company in 1998. Mr. Torp is an expert in cultural resource compliance, research-oriented studies, and environmental compliance with more than 25 years of professional experience. Mr. Torp is thoroughly familiar with planning and directing cemetery projects and has coordinated permitting, public outreach, and technical operations for cemetery delineation and removal projects for a number of marked and unmarked cemetery sites. He served as Principal Investigator for this project. Mr. Torp has directed a variety of cemetery projects, ranging from identification and delineation, records research and documentation, and excavation and removal. He is an adjunct faculty in the Cultural Heritage Resource Management program at the University of Maryland. Mr. Torp is a past President of the Council for Maryland Archeology (CfMA) and has served two terms on the Board of Directors for the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA). He is 40-Hour OSHA Certified under 29CFR1910.120. Mr. Torp is fully qualified under the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation at 36 CFR 61 and is certified in archeology by RPA.

Dr. **Matthew Palus** is a Senior Archeologist with The Ottery Group. He holds a doctoral degree from Columbia University, and a Master of Applied Anthropology degree from the University of Maryland College Park. He has been an archeologist in the Middle Atlantic for more than 20 years, with experience in all levels of effort at historic and pre-contact Native American sites, including historic period and Native American burial sites. He is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland and has conducted seminars on a variety of topics in archeology and anthropology. His primary research focus is on historical sites pertaining to urbanization and modern infrastructure, post-Emancipation African American life, and military sites. Dr. Palus is fully qualified under the Secretary of the Interior's Standards at 36 CFR 61 and is certified in archeology by RPA. He is 40-Hour Certified in construction site safety and deep trench safety by OSHA (29CFR1910.120).

**Karl Franz** has broad experience in cultural resource management with a specialization in funerary archeology. In over 30 years of archeological experience, he has participated in the identification, delineation, excavation, and removal of more than a dozen funerary sites ranging in size from two graves to 800. He has supervised projects for a variety of public, private, and government clients. In addition to project management and excavation skills, Mr. Franz has co-authored several technical reports involving cemetery projects and presented papers at professional conferences on the subject. Mr. Franz is 40-Hour Certified in construction site safety and deep trench safety by OSHA (29CFR1910.120).

Dr. **Tim Horsley** is a geophysicist with extensive experience in the application of geophysical methods to cemetery identification and delineation. Following extensive specialist training in these methods during internships with English Heritage's Geophysics Team and a Master's program with the Department of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford, UK, Tim received a PhD in Archaeological Prospection from the University of Bradford in 2005. Since then, he has worked at more than 240 sites in North America and on other continents. Projects have included more than 50 cemetery surveys to delineate and map unmarked burials. Dr. Horsley specializes in developing appropriate field methodologies in new and challenging environments, drawing upon a range of non-invasive techniques that can map and characterize buried cultural remains. Dr. Horsley served as a consulting specialist to the project team. He is the Managing Director of Horsley Archaeological Prospection, LLC, which provides geophysical surveys, training, research, and consultancy to the public and private sectors. Dr. Horsley is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Northern Illinois University.