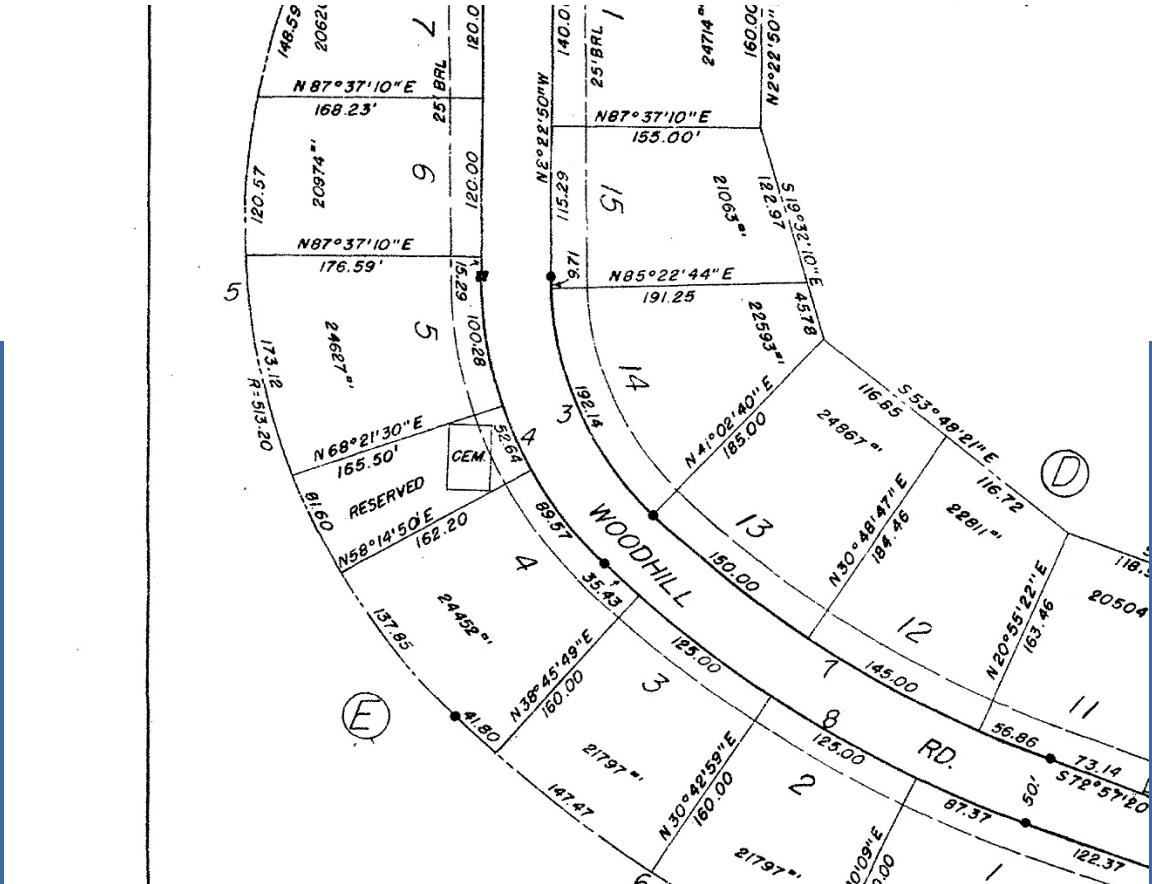


BURIAL SITES INVENTORY UPDATE 2026



Description

The Historic Preservation Program will present the seventh 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 2025 along with a summary of activities carried out as part of the burial sites program in the past year.



Brian Crane, Cultural Resources Planner III
brian.crane@montgomeryplanning.org, 301-563-3402



Rebecca Ballo, Historic Preservation Division Chief
rebecca.ballo@montgomeryplanning.org, 301-563-3404

SUMMARY

- Planning Staff recommends that the Planning Board adopt the Updated Burial Sites Inventory.
 - 5 new sites were added to the inventory based on new information;
 - 1 known site record was moved to a new location based on historical research;
- Planning Staff will provide a briefing on additional updates on compliance review, field visits, public outreach, and research.

Burial Sites Inventory Program

Review Basis

Section 33A-17; Annual Update to the Burial Sites Inventory

Lead Planner

Brian Crane

Staff Contact

brian.crane@montgomeryplanning.org,
301-563-3402

Date

May 28, 2026

Planning Division

Historic Preservation Division

Planning Board Information

MCPB

Item No. 7

Figure 2: 2026 Burial Sites Inventory Updates

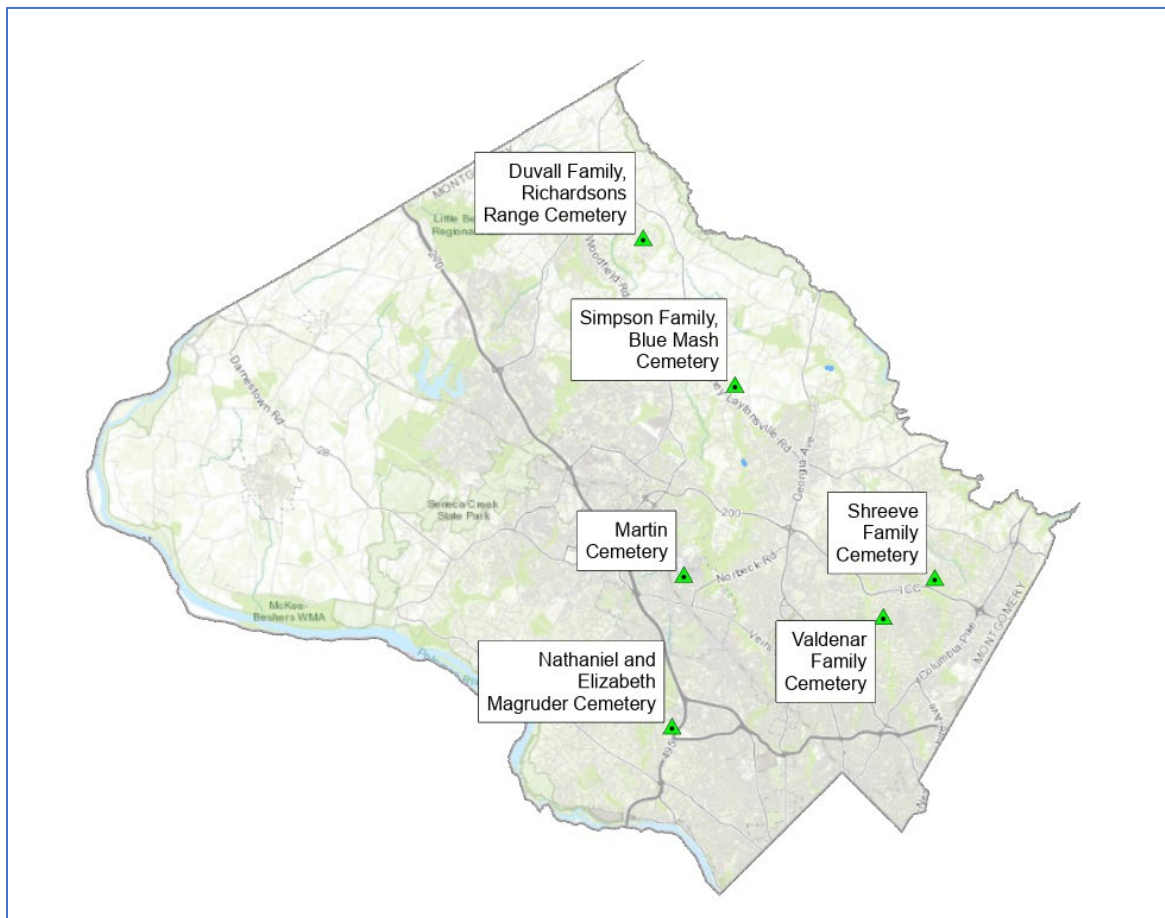


TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
BURIAL SITES INVENTORY REVISIONS	4
Summary.....	4
Discussion	5
BURIAL SITES INVENTORY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	7
historic context.....	7
Amendment to the master plan for historic preservation	11
Ongoing Project Related and Agency Consultation	12
Field Visits	13
Public Inquiries and Outreach	13
Ongoing and Future Research.....	14
Inventory Refinement.....	14
ATTACHMENTS	15
Attachment A: Burial Sites Information Forms.....	15

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 May 29, 2025 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. [Montgomery County Code, Chapter 33A § 33A-17 \(2017\)](#) requires the Montgomery County

Planning Board to maintain an inventory of burial sites in the county and Montgomery County Code Chapter 50 [Sections 50.2 and 50.4 \(2017\)](#) 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.” A columbarium is a place where ashes are buried or immured. 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 or managers 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**.

Recommended Revisions (5 total) to the Inventory:

- Add 5 new sites to the inventory based on new information;
- Change the location of 1 known site record based on historical research;

Table 1: Revisions to the Burial Sites Inventory

ID Number	Cemetery	Type	Basis for Change
HP-249	Martin Cemetery	Remap Known	Review of Real Property Data
HP-364	Nathaniel and Elizabeth Magruder Cemetery	Add Known	Plat Map
HP-365	Valdenar Family Cemetery	Add Approximate	Archival Research
HP-366	Simpson Family, Blue Mash Cemetery	Add Approximate	Archival Research
HP-367	Shreeve Family Cemetery	Add Approximate	Archival and Oral History
HP-368	Duvall Family, Richardsons Range Cemetery	Add Approximate	Archival 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 48 sites since 2019. Staff 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.

Each year in May, the Planning Department briefs the Planning Board about changes to the inventory and other activities carried out as part of the Burial Sites Inventory program during the previous year. Information forms for each site are included as attachments to this report.

The **Martin Cemetery** was included in the original inventory adopted by the board in 2019 in a location that is close to, but does not align with, the real property parcel associated with the cemetery as shown in GIS data provided by the State Department of Assessment and Taxation (SDAT). The revised location aligns with SDAT and matches the location shown in a 1980 plat.

The **Nathaniel and Elizabeth Magruder Cemetery** includes the burial sites of Nathaniel (1726-1798) and Elizabeth Offutt Magruder (1738-1790). It is unknown if there are other interments. The cemetery is mentioned as a reservation with detailed metes and bounds in two deeds: Liber 226 Folio 62 from 1912 and Liber 1041 Folio 270 from 1946. It is also shown on Plat 2743 recorded in 1948.

The addition of the **Valdenar Family Cemetery** is based its mention in Episcopal Church records describing the burial of Elizabeth Valdenar at the family home “Westover” in 1876. Its approximate

location is depicted on a 1956 USGS topographic map. The “Westover” house is still standing and listed on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*, but no evidence of the cemetery remains.

The **Simpson Family, Blue Mash Cemetery** was located within Blue Mash or Blue Marsh, an African American community also sometimes called Jackson City that existed as early as the 1820s but dispersed following a fire in the 1930s. The cemetery is specifically mentioned in a reservation to deeds dating to 1916 and 1946. The deeds do not give the exact location of the cemetery, but do specify the 25 acres within which the cemetery existed. Archaeological survey conducted in the area in the 1990s discovered a displaced 1854 grave marker in the general vicinity of the cemetery. The decedent is identified only by initials and the current whereabouts of this marker are unknown.

The **Shreeve Family Cemetery** is on land purchased by the Shreeve family in 1826 and may include the grave of Samuel Shreeve who died in 1861. It is not known who else may be buried there, but graves could include other family members as well as those the Shreeves held in slavery. The cemetery is mentioned in a 1905 reservation in a deed transferring the land from the executor of Anne O’Hare to Catherine Tolson. Members of the public contacted Montgomery Planning in 2024 about the possible location of the family cemetery in the vicinity of the O’Hare house, including former residents of the O’Hare house from circa 1980 who remember the location of the cemetery. Montgomery Planning provided the former resident with 1951 aerial imagery, and the former resident indicated a group of trees north of the house that corresponded to his memory of where the cemetery had been located. Those trees are in the general vicinity of the present-day intersection of Silo Way and Orangewood St.

The **Duvall Family, Richardsons Range Cemetery** was identified by staff during review of a nearby Forest Conservation Plans. The cemetery is not believed to be within any of those project areas. The first historical reference to the cemetery is a reservation in a deed transferring the farm from Jackson and Amanda Duvall to John H. Duvall in 1884; “also reserving ¼ of an acre used as a family burying ground in fee simple” (Liber EPB 30 Folio 202). The deed reservation recurs in deeds executed in 1903, 1911, 1917, and 1952. Jackson Duvall acquired the property from John and Alsinda Duvall in 1864 (Liber EBP 1 Folio 144). That deed does not mention a cemetery, nor does it cite a preceding deed. There is no information available about who may have been buried at the site. The Duvall family members who sold the farm were still living at the time of the sale. Perhaps the graveyard included children, earlier Duvall generations, or possibly people enslaved by the Duvalls (John Duvall held 7 people in slavery in 1850 per the U.S. Census).

The approximate location chosen for the cemetery site is based on the boundaries of the farm, the known location of the farmhouse, and the topography of the land before it was developed. The area remained a farm until at least 1970. The right-of-way for Seneca View Dr is within 400 feet of the farmhouse and upslope from it, consistent with the location of known family cemeteries in Montgomery County. The vicinity as shown in aerial photographs from 1950 to 1970 is part of the farmstead, rather than cultivated fields, and so is considered the most plausible location.

BURIAL SITES INVENTORY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Montgomery County Planning is enhancing the Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory by developing a Historic Context. This effort included a context survey completed by a consultant that refined our understanding of the cemeteries in our inventory. Staff briefed the Historic Preservation Commission on the Burial Sites Context on January 14, 2026 and the Planning Board on February 5, 2026. Staff are building on the results of this work to complete a historic context statement that will help us better identify, appreciate, communicate about, and preserve potentially significant features or attributes of these sites

The need for this effort arises because without a context for cemeteries, we are unable to establish which cemeteries not included in the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* should be added, nor what it is about those that are listed or included as a part of a larger listed property that may contribute to their significance. Without an understanding of significance and associated character defining features it is difficult to provide guidance to applicants for historic area work permits (HAWPs) or other compliance review projects about what changes may be compatible with the resource.

The context focuses on cemeteries established after the arrival of colonial settlers and more than 50 years ago except where cemeteries reflect important recent immigration trends or intersect developing historic contexts like the AAPI or LGBTQ contexts, countywide plans such as the Rustic Roads Plan, or other research initiatives such as the Mapping Segregation project. Precolonial Indigenous sites are present in Montgomery County but would require an entirely different approach than what is being done at post-colonial sites, along with close coordination with Indigenous Maryland tribes before such work could be pursued.

Work on the context began with a review of the existing literature on the history of cemeteries and an analysis of the existing inventory. This process led to the development of a classification of the burial sites in the inventory by type, period, and cultural affiliation (Table 2). In addition to developing a classification of cemetery types, we identified historical themes within which to frame research questions and evaluate sites for significance. Historical themes are related to significant historical events or trends. Intersections of identified themes with the design or material attributes of cemeteries provide the basis for the burial sites historical context.

Table 2: Burial Sites Classification

Class	Subclass	Description	Notes
Family	Possibly by socio-economic class	Generally small plots on family farms for immediate family and relatives.	This is the most common type of cemetery: there are 201 sites associated with individual families. These are sometimes expanded into broader community cemeteries if used for multiple generations. Sometimes referenced in deed reservations.
Religious	Possibly by denomination	Burial grounds for churches or other religious institutions.	114 cemeteries in the inventory are associated with places of worship.
Community		Graveyards developed to serve specific communities of people. Communities can be geographic or membership-based.	45 cemeteries are currently classified as “community” burial grounds.
	Neighborhood/extended families	Graveyards for specific areas.	May sometimes develop out of family or extended family plots.
	Quarry Workers	Burial grounds located on large estates involved in quarrying.	Examples appear to include Clipper, Hill Farm, and Aqueduct/Rayner burial grounds. Each of those appears to include quarry workers and stonecutters.
	Military	Places for the burial of soldiers.	The region has several formal military cemeteries. None are in Montgomery County, but there are at least two places where Union soldiers were buried next to Civil War encampments or battlefield sites that were not used for burial places otherwise.
	Benevolent Societies	Established by benevolent societies to provide burial services for their members. All are African American, many closely associated with churches and schools.	6 sites, 5 classified currently as community cemeteries, 1 (Mt. Pleasant) classed as a church cemetery.
Enslaved Persons		Separate burial areas within farms/plantations for the	Possibly including those enslaved by multiple enslavers. The “Negro Burial Ground” in

Class	Subclass	Description	Notes
		burial of people enslaved in that place.	Chevy Chase might be such a place since its ownership changed, but the use as a burial ground was to be continued.
Pet Cemeteries		Institutional or commercial grounds for interring pets and their human owners	Aspin Hill and Sugarloaf Pet Gardens are examples.
Potter's Field		Place designated by local government for the interment of the indigent poor	Poor Farm Cemetery is the sole example in the county
Commercial Perpetual Care Cemeteries		19 th to 21 st -century secular commercial establishments.	Sometimes founded as such, sometimes develop out of earlier religious cemeteries such as Rockville or Monocacy.

Historical Themes Associated with Cemeteries

- Grief and Mourning
- Evolution of Cemetery Landscape Design
- Mining, Stonecutters and Local Monument Industry
- Epidemic Outbreaks
- Temporal Themes (Colonial Settlement, Early National Period, Antebellum, etc.)
- Church and denominational Development
- Slavery and Abolition
- Early Free Communities of Color
- Fraternal Societies

Following completion of the documentary review, initial site classification and preliminary theme identification, Montgomery County Planning hired a consultant to survey 19 sites including a sample of the different type categories, periods, and cultural affiliations (Table 3). Sites were selected based on a variety of considerations including types of cemetery features preserved, design style, size, location, and associated themes. The sites include some already listed on *the Master Plan for Historic Preservation* as well as others not on the Master Plan.

Table 3: Burial Sites Selected for Survey

Name	Description
Aspin Hill	Pet (and human) Cemetery
Awkard Family Cemetery	19th-century African American Family
Bethesda Meetinghouse	19th-century Religious

Bowie	19th-century Family
Button	Possible Enslaved Persons Burial Ground
Chilton Dyer	19th-century family
Cooke	19th-century family
Crabb Family	19th-century Family
Edge Hill Griffith	19th-century family
Hawlings River Chapel of Ease	19th-century church
Hill Farm	Antebellum Quarry Workers
Howard Chapel	Post Civil War African American Church and Community
Jerusalem Mount Pleasant	Post Civil War African American Fraternal Society
Monocacy	Large Early 19th-Century Religious and Community
Ricketts Family Cemetery	19th-century Family with all Fieldstone Markers
Sandy Spring Friends	Large 19th-century Religious
St. Paul Community Church	Post Civil War African American Church
St. Rose of Lima	Large 19th-century Religious
Triadelphia	19th-century community

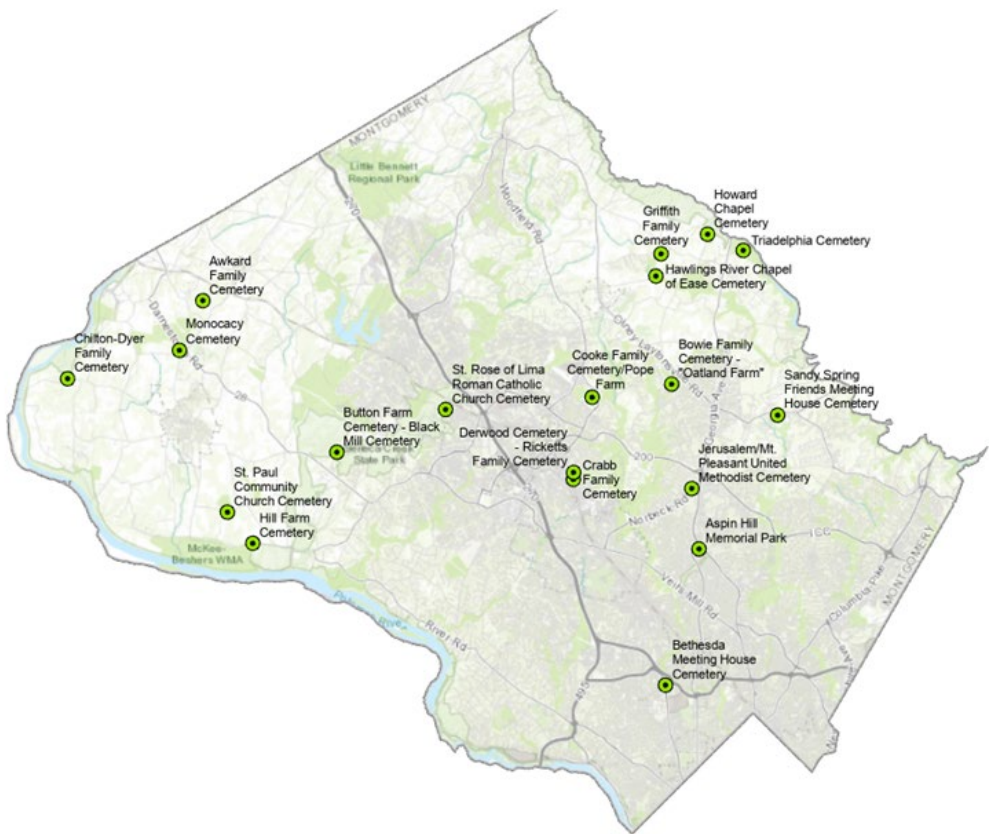


Figure 3: Sites selected for field survey as part of the historical context study

Field documentation included a cemetery map, photographs, and where feasible, an inventory of markers and landscape features. Marker inventories included the material of the stone, a description

of the marker style, and inscription. The consultant completed the fieldwork in the summer of 2025, and the technical report in December 2025. With the knowledge gained from the detailed surveys, staff are elaborating the associated historical themes into a historic context statement. Staff anticipate presenting the work to date to County Council later this year.

AMENDMENT TO THE MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Historic Preservation Division will use the information from the consultant report and historic context statement to begin the effort for a countywide Burial Sites Amendment to the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*. This work program item is scheduled to begin in FY27 and is expected to require multiple years to complete.

Goals of the amendment include determining:

- Which features of Master Plan included cemeteries are significant and should be preserved through the Historic Area Work Permit process;
- Which cemeteries included within the environmental setting of other sites or districts contribute to the significance of those larger resources;
- Which environmental settings for an existing Master Plan resource related to a cemetery should be adjusted;
- Which cemeteries immediately adjacent to Master Plan listed properties with which they are clearly associated, should be added to the Master Plan;
- Which cemeteries within Locational Atlas sites or districts should be added to the Master Plan
- Which cemeteries not currently listed on or within the boundaries of a Master Plan site or district should be considered for inclusion.

Cemeteries as Contributing Elements of Larger Properties

There are 35 known burial sites with visible remains that are within the environmental setting of an individually listed Master Plan site, and another 11 within a Master Plan district. However, it is not always clear whether these burial grounds contribute to the significance of those larger resources, and whether there are specific features or attributes that should be preserved as part of the Historic Area Work Permit process.

Environmental Setting Issues

There are 15 Cemeteries not currently shown within the boundaries of a Master Plan site or district in Historic Preservation records, but which may be associated with a Master Plan Site. These will be evaluated to see whether the existing Master Plan environmental setting boundary should be adjusted, whether these sites should be added to the Master Plan on their own, or whether separate resources might logically be combined into a district.

Possible Additions to the Master Plan

There may be other burial sites not currently listed on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* or associated with existing Master Plan sites that merit inclusion. Priority sites for evaluation include the three burial grounds individually listed on the Locational Atlas, and another 3 cemeteries located in Locational Atlas Historic Districts. Evaluation could establish whether these burial grounds contribute to the significance of those larger resources, and whether there are specific features or attributes that should be preserved as part of the Historic Area Work Permit process.

Other possibilities for consideration and evaluation are those related to the historical themes in the burial sites historic context and whose physical attributes convey that particular significance. For example, cemeteries that include the graves of particularly significant individuals, exhibit the work of master stone cutters, or that are particularly good illustrations of significant historical trends important in the county.

ONGOING PROJECT RELATED AND AGENCY CONSULTATION

Compliance Review: 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. Significant preliminary plan reviews under Chapter 50.4 this past year included a preliminary plan associated with a church and day-care facility in Ashton that included the Boswell Family Cemetery, the Poplar Grove development in Germantown, which includes the Zachariah Waters cemetery, Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery, and the Washington Episcopal Day School in Bethesda, which includes the Wilbert Family Cemetery.

Agency Coordination: Consultation and review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act continued for the proposed the MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) from Forest Glen Road to 16th Street Corridor Improvements in Silver Spring. The proposed project would affect the Mt Zion Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery. The cemetery is currently underneath the parking lot along Georgia Avenue between Seminary Place and Locust Grove Rd. MDOT/SHA conducted ground penetrating radar investigations in the right-of-way per past HP staff comments. Those investigations along with additional GPR work conducted by the same archaeological consultant on behalf of the descendant community on property adjacent to the ROW found evidence that the cemetery was far larger in extent than previously thought.

Staff also provided information regarding the correct location of the Hopkins Family Cemetery to archaeological consultants working with County DOT on the US 29 Bus Rapid Transit mandatory referral project. The location was refined during the burial sites inventory update in 2025 and is now known to be within the cloverleaf of US 29 and New Hampshire Avenue. Staff also commented on the potential effects of the 355 BRT project on adjacent cemeteries.

Planning staff regularly consult with other county agencies about cemetery-related issues. Historic Preservation staff assisted the Planning Department in identifying comments to Maryland House Bills 892 and 893. House Bill 892 would authorize people to bring an action when the owner of a property that includes a cemetery proposes the sale, transfer, or alternate use of all or part of a certain cemetery. House Bill 893 would authorize state or local government agencies to acquire property including an abandoned cemetery to help preserve it. M-NCPPC supported both. The purposes of HB 892 and 893 were ultimately combined in SB 233, which passed and was signed into law.

The Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission called to ask questions about archaeological survey requirements in Montgomery County. St. Mary's County did also. Staff from the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) reached out about how Montgomery County documents burial sites as MHT works to implement new state laws regarding cemeteries.

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 made 35 site visits to cemeteries on or under consideration for listing in the inventory since the last inventory update in 2025. Many of the unvisited sites are on private property. Staff sent out 30 letters to property owners requesting access to their property and received permission from 7. Staff have visited 152 sites listed in the inventory since the program was initiated in 2018, including 136 of the known locations, accounting for over 40% of the total sites and over half of the known locations. Staff will continue to visit and perform fieldwork at selected cemetery sites around the county in support of project review, master plan research and public outreach.

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. Individuals contacted the department more than 40 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, as well as corresponding with community groups and descendants regarding questions they have about history or preservation.

Staff participated in several public presentations over the past year. Staff presented on the burial sites of Revolutionary War veterans at a quarterly meeting of the local Montgomery County chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution in June. Staff also led Planning Department summer interns on a tour of selected cemetery sites in the same month. Staff participated in a panel of archaeologists discussing issues related to cemetery preservation for the DC Public Archaeology Conference Aug 8-9,

2025. In March 2026, at the request of the leadership of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Olney, staff presented on the burial sites inventory and efforts to identify the burial sites of enslaved people and answered questions parishioners had about potential investigations of burial sites associated with the church.

Since 2022, planning staff have assisted descendants of those buried at the Union Wesley ME Church cemetery in Potomac with plans to preserve potential cemetery related features on site. Staff have been conducting cemetery feature mapping and ground penetrating radar survey work to create a basemap of the site that can be used as a part of future preservation plans. Communication staff videoed some of the field work in August 2025 and made this available for the public to watch.

Staff are continuing coordination with the Sugarland Ethnohistory Project (SEHP) and Montgomery College concerning archaeological investigations adjacent to the St. Paul Community Church Cemetery begun in 2024. The Sugarland Ethnohistory Project owns the grounds of St Paul’s Community Church and cemetery historic site in Sugarland and adjoining property. Sugarland is an African American community that formed in the late 19th century. Montgomery College archaeologist Tara Tetrault has been working with SEHP to identify archaeological features associated with the community. Montgomery Planning is coordinating with SEHP and Montgomery College to conduct GPR survey adjacent to the cemetery to help address whether graves extend outside the marked cemetery boundary.

Staff has corresponded with Community members and descendants of those buried at Ash Memorial Cemetery in Sandy Spring answering questions regarding its history and providing technical assistance where needed. Staff reviewed and provided feedback to the community on a ground penetrating radar survey completed on their behalf in June 2025. Staff attended a liberty tree planting ceremony held at Ash Memorial on May 3, 2026.

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 found through fieldwork. These site leads are currently under research and will be brought to the Planning Board when there is sufficient certainty regarding their location to warrant inclusion in the inventory.

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-249

Name:

Martin Family Cemetery

Description:

Small family, community cemetery

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

2

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

1926

Latest Year:

0

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:

https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/MCCI_Summaries_2004/MCCI_Summary_ID_249.pdf

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/Cemeteries/249_Martin_Family_Rockville/249_Martin_Family_Rockville_2018/249_Martin_Family_Rockville_2018_Survey.pdf

FindaGrave.com:

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

Other Website:

Master Plan Historic Resource No.: Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board: Yes Confirmation Date: 05/16/2019 Site Survey Date: 08/27/2018 Revision Date:

Site Surveyor Name:

Hannelore Quigley

Data Originator:

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

Notes:

Location revised slightly from location recorded by Montgomery Preservation, Inc. volunteers in 2018 to align with the location of the real property parcel as shown in the State Department of Assessment and Taxation (SDAT) and Plat 13067 recorded in 1980.

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: Horizontal Accuracy: Point Boundary Type:

GIS Data Source: MCCIR 2018

Additional Information:

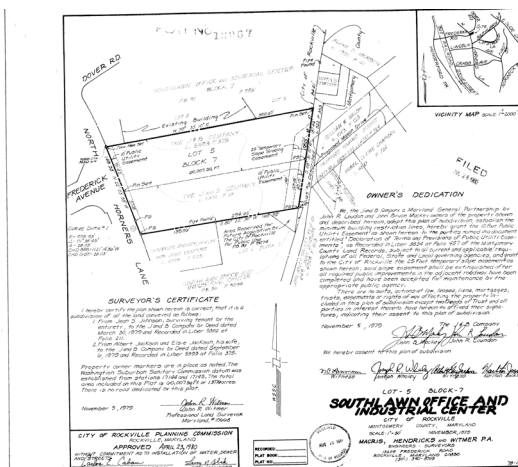
2025 aerial photograph appears to show a fence placed around the cemetery location.

Images:



HP-249-01 Cemetery location on 2025 Aerial Photograph

Date 03/05/2026
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-249-02 Plat 13067

Date 07/28/1980
Photographer



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

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID:

HP-364

Name:

Nathaniel and Elizabeth Magruder Cemetery

Description:

Small 18th-century Family Cemetery

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

2+

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

1790

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:

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

FindaGrave.com:

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2578510/magruder-family-cemetery-grubby-thicket>

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

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:

Notes:

Burial Sites of Nathaniel (1726-1798) and Elizabeth Offutt Magruder (1738-1790). Unknown if there are other interments.

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

Public Display Scale: Is there a Restriction on Sharing Information?:
1: 0

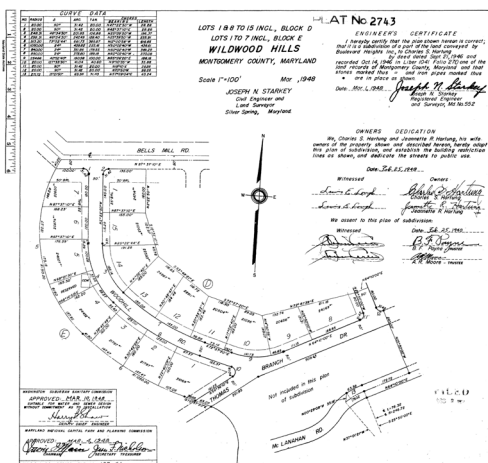
GIS Source Date: GIS Source Datum: Boundary Type:

Horizontal Accuracy: GIS Data Source:

Additional Information:

The cemetery is mentioned as a reservation in detail with metes and bounds in two deeds: Liber Liber 226 Folio 62, 1912 and 1041 F 270 1946. It is also shown on Plat 2743 recorded in 1948.

Images:



HP-364-01
1948 Plat showing the cemetery location

HP-364-02
2025 Aerial photograph of location

Date 09/29/2025
Photographer Brian Crane

Date 09/29/2025
Photographer Brian Crane



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

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID:

HP-365

Name:

Valdenar Family Cemetery

Description:

Small 19th-century family burial ground

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

1+

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

1824

Latest Year:

1876

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:

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

FindaGrave.com:

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

Other Website:

https://mcatlas.org/hp2/hpdocs/M_%2033-02.pdf

Master Plan Historic Resource No.:

Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board:

Confirmation Date:

Site Survey Date:

Revision Date:

No

Site Surveyor Name:

Data Originator:

Notes:

Along Mowbray Road near Colesville. The location is shown on USGS Topographic Maps from 1956 -1979. The Valdenar family owned the land from 1824 - 1876. The earliest and latest dates are based on Valdenar family ownership.

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:

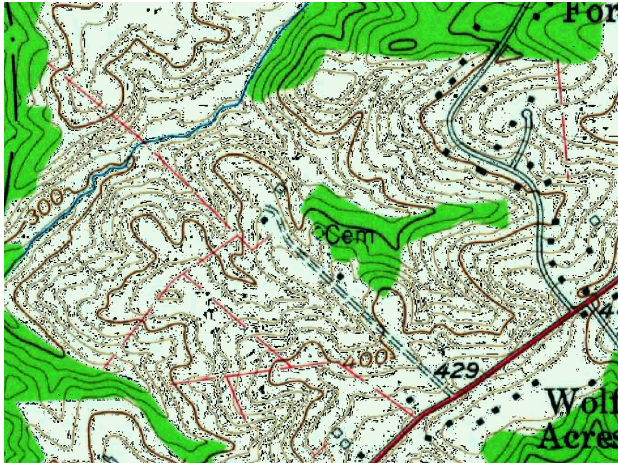
Additional Information:

The burial records of Grace Episcopal Church in Silver Spring record the burial of Elizabeth Valdenar on March 3, 1876. "Buried at "Westover" the old home of the Valdenars on Friday the 3rd of March 1876 Mrs Elizabeth Valdenar wife of Francis Valdenar + mother of Mary Harings aged 83ys - 1 mo - 26 days. She kept the Faith." Westover is a Montgomery County Master Plan Historic Site, 33-2.

The cemetery is referenced in deed reservations in 1876 (Liber EBP 15 Folio 380 and Liber EBP 16 Folio 43) and 1926 (Liber 414 Folio 231). EBP15 Folio 380 reads "nevertheless reserving and excepting the family graveyard on said farm as at present enclosed for the benefit of the Valdenar family with the right of ingress thereto and egress therefrom."

Other than Elizabeth Valdenar, it is unknown whether anyone else was interred at Westover. The burial place of Elizabeth's husband Francis Valdenar is not known, nor is that of their children Mary and William. Francis Francis outlived Elizabeth and the sale of Westover outside the family, but since he retained ownership and access to the cemetery, it is possible that he was buried next to his wife. Some of their children could have been buried there as well. Valdenar also held at least 33 people in slavery per the 1876-68 records of the Maryland Commissioner of Slave Statistics, it is possible that some of those the family enslaved could have been buried within or near the family graveyard.

Images:



HP-165-01

1956 USGS map showing the cemetery

Date 09/30/2025
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-165-02

2025 Aerial photograph of approximate cemetery location (black and white circle)

Date 09/30/2025
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-366

Name:
Blue Mash Cemetery

Description:
Small 19th-century family and community burial ground

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:
1+

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:
1854

Latest Year:
1946

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:

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

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:

No

Site Surveyor Name:

Data Originator:

Notes:

The name is based on an African American community called Blue Mash or Blue Marsh. The cemetery is also called "The Simpson Burial Plot" in deeds. The burial date range is not known. The earliest year is based on the date of a grave marker found nearby, the latest year is based on sale of the property outside the family. The location is based on the boundaries of the 25-acre parcel that included the burial site reservation, and proximity of a dwelling shown on 1908 and 1923 USGS maps.

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 Simpson family cemetery is located within Blue Mash or Blue Marsh, an African American community also sometimes called Jackson City. The name may reflect the relatively poorly drained, marshy soils found here. The 1908 USGS Rockville map shows houses along a dirt road leading from Claysville to Mt. Zion. The Oak Grove AME Zion Church and Cemetery (formerly Mt. Carmel) established ca 1878 was located immediately to the east.

A 1983 oral history of the community suggests that it was established “prior to 1865 by freedmen from the nearby Riggs plantation.” Lands once belonging to the Riggs family (including the Riggs Family Cemetery) are to the immediate northwest. According to the oral history report, the population grew after 1865 and was renamed Jackson City after a resident named Jack Jackson. Other family names associated with the community included “Barnes, Bowings, Simpson, Thomas, Williams, and Johnson.” Apparently much of the community burned in the 1930s (Fly and Fly 1983).

The core of the community appears to center around a 56-acre parcel that members of the Nugent and Bond families acquired from the estate of Gerard Brooke in 1846 (STS 2 Folio 87). Those African American families appear in the 1840 and 1850 Censuses for the Cracklin District, headed by Joseph Nugent and Basil Bond. The community may be older still: there is a free family of color headed by John Bond listed in the same district in the 1820 Census.

What became known as the Simpson Family burial ground was in the northern half of the original 56-acre tract purchased by the Nugents and Bonds. Margaret Simpson purchased 25 acres of this land from Brice Howard in 1879 in the aftermath of an 1871 court case, Rebecca Nugent and others vs Elias Nugent and others (Liber EBP 8, Folio 448, Liber EBP 225 Folio 225).

Margaret and Perry Simpson appear in the 1880 Census for the Cracklin District living in the household of Margaret’s son Edward Fleet (a farmer). Per the census, other members of Edward Fleet’s household included Mary Fleet his sister (a teacher), Margaret Evely, and Peter Buttler, Martha Fisher (house work), and Edward Fleet (day work). The census lists all household members as people of color. The same census page shows numerous members of the Bond family living in neighboring households. The Bonds owned the land to the immediate south of the Simpsons within the tract the Nugents and Bonds had bought in 1846.

Margaret Simpson died intestate in 1910 according to a 1911 mortgage (Liber 220 Folio 441). Edward Fleet acquired his mother’s 25 acres in 1916: “excepting about one (1) acre which is to be reserved as a family burying ground (Liber 260 Folio 473).” The burial site reservation appears again in a later 1946 deed where it was called “the Simpson Burial Plot (Liber 1039 Folio 344).”

The number and identify of those buried in this cemetery is unknown. However, an archaeological survey for what was then the Fieldcrest Golf Club (Lawrence and Bailey 1995) found a possible grave marker within a rubble pile near possible foundation remains at site 18-MO-423. This site is located about 500 feet south of the parcel with the burial site deed reservation on land that historically belonged to the Bond family. Given the context, the archaeologists interpreted the marker as having been displaced, so it is possible it was originally within the Simpson family cemetery. The inscription on the stone reads: “ACJ [or AGJ] 1854 NO2.” The archaeologists interpreted this as a marker with the initials ACJ or AGJ, with a death year of 1854, possibly November 2.

It isn’t possible to say for certain who ACJ was, but the census records provide some possible candidates. One may be Ann Jones (51, white) whose household appears in the 1850 census in Cracklin but is absent from the same household in 1860. A better candidate may be Anna Jones also listed in the 1850 Census for Cracklin but missing in 1860. She is listed as the head of household, white, aged 65, and living with Josiah Jones (aged 40, a possible son) and Susan Jones

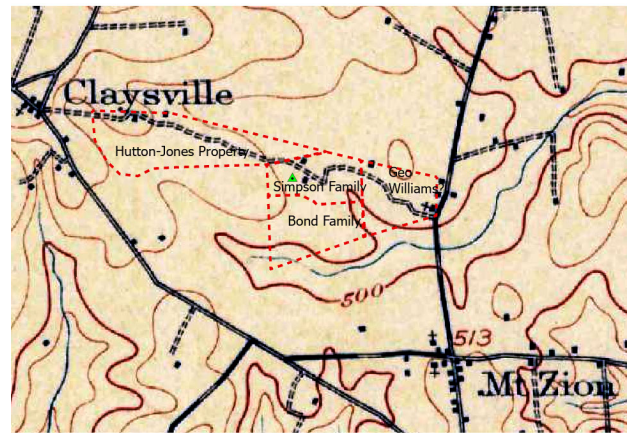
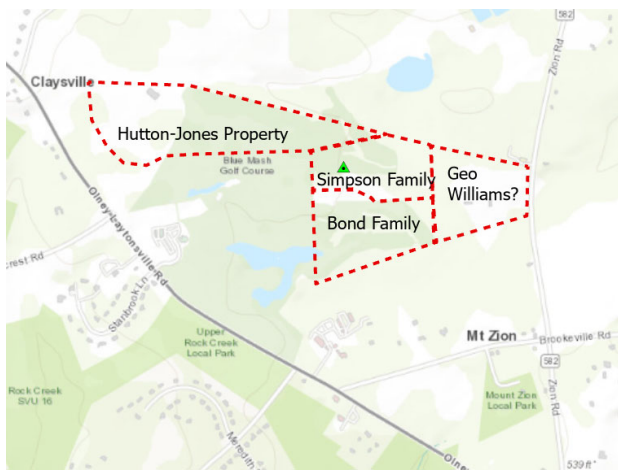
(aged 24). Josiah Jones (now aged 50) repeats in the 1860 census but without Anna (or anyone else) living with him. Anna's household is listed immediately after the Bond and Nugent families in the census, suggesting she was a neighbor, and deeds show Josiah Jones owning land along the same unpaved road near the Nugent and Bond families.

References:

Fly, Everett L. and La Barbara Wigfall Fly. "Northeastern Montgomery County Black Oral History Study." Entourage Inc., August 1983.

Lawrence, John W. and Daniel N. Bailey "Phase I Archaeological Survey, Fieldcrest Golf Club, Laytonsville, Montgomery County, Maryland." Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc., 1995. Maryland Historical Trust Report # MO 137.

Images:



HP-366-01

Approximate location on contemporary map with boundaries of 19th-century farms

Date 10/22/2025
Photographer Brian Crane

HP-366-02

Approximate location and 19th-century farm boundaries on 1908 USGS map

Date 10/22/2025
Photographer Brian Crane

Approximate location on 2025 aerial photograph

Date 02/10/2026
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-366-03



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

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID:

HP-367

Name:

Shreeve Family Cemetery

Description:

19th-century Family Cemetery.

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

1+

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

1826

Latest Year:

1905

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:

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

FindaGrave.com:

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

Other Website:

<https://apps.mht.maryland.gov/medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M%3B%2028-33.pdf>

Master Plan Historic Resource No.:

Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board:

Confirmation Date:

Site Survey Date:

Revision Date:

No

Site Surveyor Name:

Data Originator:

Notes:

Family cemetery associated with the Samuel Shreeve Family who purchased the land in 1826. Samuel Shreeve died in 1861 and may be buried on site. Shreeve's son-in-law Christopher O'Hare purchased the farm following a court dispute among the heirs in 1865. Cemetery dates are unknown. Earliest date is when the Shreeve family purchased the land; lates date is when the cemetery is mentioned in a deed reservation.

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:

Members of the public contacted Montgomery Planning in 2024 about the possible location of the family cemetery in the vicinity of the O'Hare house, including former residents of the O'Hare house from circa 1980 who remember the location of the cemetery. Montgomery Planning provided the former resident with 1951 aerial imagery, and the former resident indicated a group of trees north of the house that corresponded to his memory of where the cemetery had been located. Those trees are in the general vicinity of the present-day intersection of Silo Way and Orangewood St.

MIHP Form for the O'Hare House 28-33 completed in 1980 states "The Shreeve Family cemetery is believed to be situated north of the dwelling. A subsequent MIHP form completed after 1985 does not mention the cemetery.

The cemetery is mentioned in a 1905 reservation in a deed transferring the land from the executor of Anne O'Hare to Catherine Tolson. The deed mentions an 1865 lawsuit among the heirs of Samuel Shreeve (Liber 182 Folio 152). "Saving and excepting therefrom, however, one quarter of an acre on the site of the present private cemetery in said land."

The number and identity of interments is unknown. A Shreeve family descendant provided a handwritten partial family genealogy to a local resident in 2006 that is one source of possible names. Samuel Shreeve also held 8 people in slavery in 1850 and 11 in 1860 according to US Census records. The burial place of these individuals is unknown.

People enslaved by the Shreeve family could have been buried somewhere on Shreeve property, or also in nearby Good Hope Union United Methodist Church Cemetery, an African American church cemetery that may have existed as early as 1870 and includes the graves of people born before Maryland emancipation in 1864. Records of the Sons of the American Revolution suggest the Good Hope Cemetery may have the grave of Revolutionary patriot and enslaver Benjamin Johnson, Jr., who died in 1795, raising the possibility that the cemetery was in use long before emancipation and establishment of the Good Hope Church.

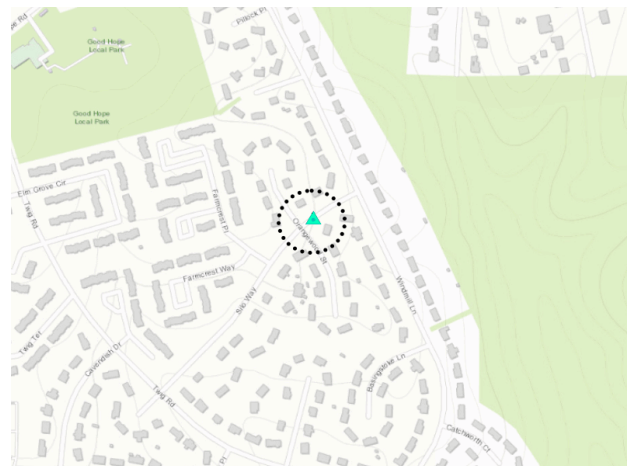
Images:



HP-367-01

1951 Aerial Photograph of O'Hare Farm, approximate location of the cemetery is circled with black dotted line.

Date 03/03/2026
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-367-02

Approximate Location of Shreeve Family Cemetery shown with green triangle and black dotted circle.

Date 03/03/2026
Photographer Brian Crane



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

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID:

HP-368

Name:

Duvall Family, Richardsons Range Cemetery

Description:

19th-century family cemetery.

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

1+

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

1864

Latest Year:

1884

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:

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

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:

No

Site Surveyor Name:

Data Originator:

Notes:

The cemetery is referenced in deed records. The approximate location shown in the inventory is based on an analysis of historical maps and aerial photographs. The date range of graves is unknown, the dates provided are estimates based on the land ownership history and the appearance of cemetery references in the deeds.

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:

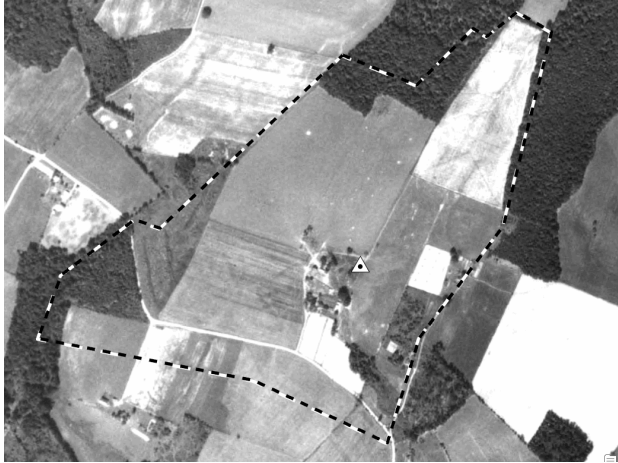
GIS Data Source:

Additional Information:

The first historical reference to the cemetery is a reservation in a deed transferring the farm from Jackson and Amanda Duvall to John H. Duvall in 1884; "also reserving $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre used as a family burying ground in fee simple" (Liber EPB 30 Folio 202). The deed reservation recurs in deeds executed in 1903, 1911, 1917, and 1952. The beginning and end dates of the cemetery use are unknown but estimated based on the 1864 purchase by Jackson Duvall and the first appearance of a burial site reservation in 1884.

Jackson Duvall acquired the property from John and Alsinda Duvall in 1864 (Liber EBP 1 Folio 144). That deed does not mention a cemetery, nor does it cite a preceding deed. There is no information available about who may have been buried at the site. The Duvall family members who sold the farm were still living at the time of the sale. Perhaps the graveyard included children, earlier Duvall generations, or possibly people enslaved by the Duvalls (John Duvall held 7 people in slavery in 1850 per the U.S.

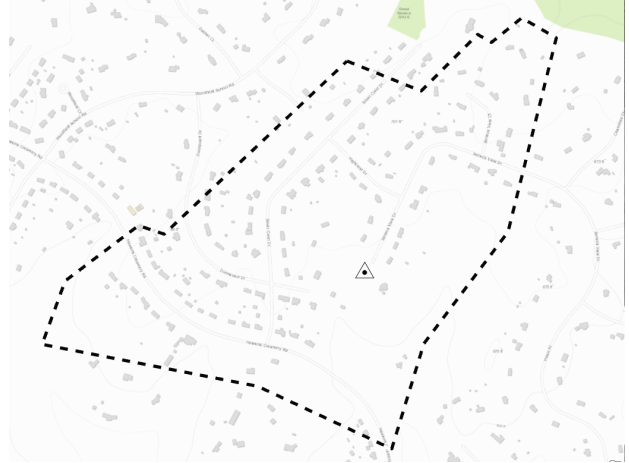
Images:



HP-368-01

Approximate site location on 1951 aerial (white triangle). Historic farm boundary shown in black and white dashed line.

Date 03/04/2026
Photographer Brian Crane



HP-368-02

Approximate site location (white triangle). Historic farm boundary shown in black dashed line.

Date 03/04/2026
Photographer Brian Crane

MARKER ID

GIVEN NAME

FAMILY NAME

DEATH YEAR