

Locating Slave & Free Black Graveyards

While searching for lost burial grounds one item was clear. Where are slaves and free blacks buried that died in 18th & 19th century Maryland?

Church graveyards for African Americans first appear in the 1850's with some slaves or free blacks buried next to their owners burial ground. With the number of people involved provisions had to be made for the dead due to sickness, disease, injury and old age. The responsibility would fall to the slave owner to provide a burial location. For example according to the 1850 Frederick County Maryland. Slave Owner Census 486 slaves show in Petersville District and 374 slaves in Liberty District. Then add to the list free blacks and the numbers rise quickly

How do you begin to locate a slave or free black burial ground? To date I have found only 3 references to early African American burial grounds in deeds and estate records. Late 1800 and early 1900 obituaries and death certificates have provided more information if they were buried in family graveyards.

Maryland African American Resources	
Manumissions	Deeds
Census Records	Newspapers
Death Certificates	Family Histories
Aerial Photos	County Histories
Patents	Tax Records

The land of the slave owner for the time period will have to be mapped out. In addition the adjacent slave owner properties may also need to be mapped out to get a full picture.

With the use of deeds for the time period you need to locate the slave owner deeds and obtain the tract names for the property. Tracts of land will need to be mapped out and then the property of the slave owner mapped out. Then trace the owners forward in time to when the 1977 property tax maps were made. With the tax maps and Google Earth you should be able to make a good placement of the slave owning properties if development hasn't altered the area.

Obvious place to check would be where slave owning properties come together. Also land owners may have had an agreement for a common location for slave burials. Using Google Earth or early aerial photos other likely locations to check would be in corners along creeks, swampy areas or other non-tillable ground

With information obtained by Brian Main in locating family burial grounds in Frederick County and from Carroll County Maryland Cemetery Records. I took a look at the location of 20 white family graveyards using Google Earth to see if a pattern developed. A vast majority of the white family graveyards are in sight of the farmhouse at random locations out in the fields

Family Farm Graveyards

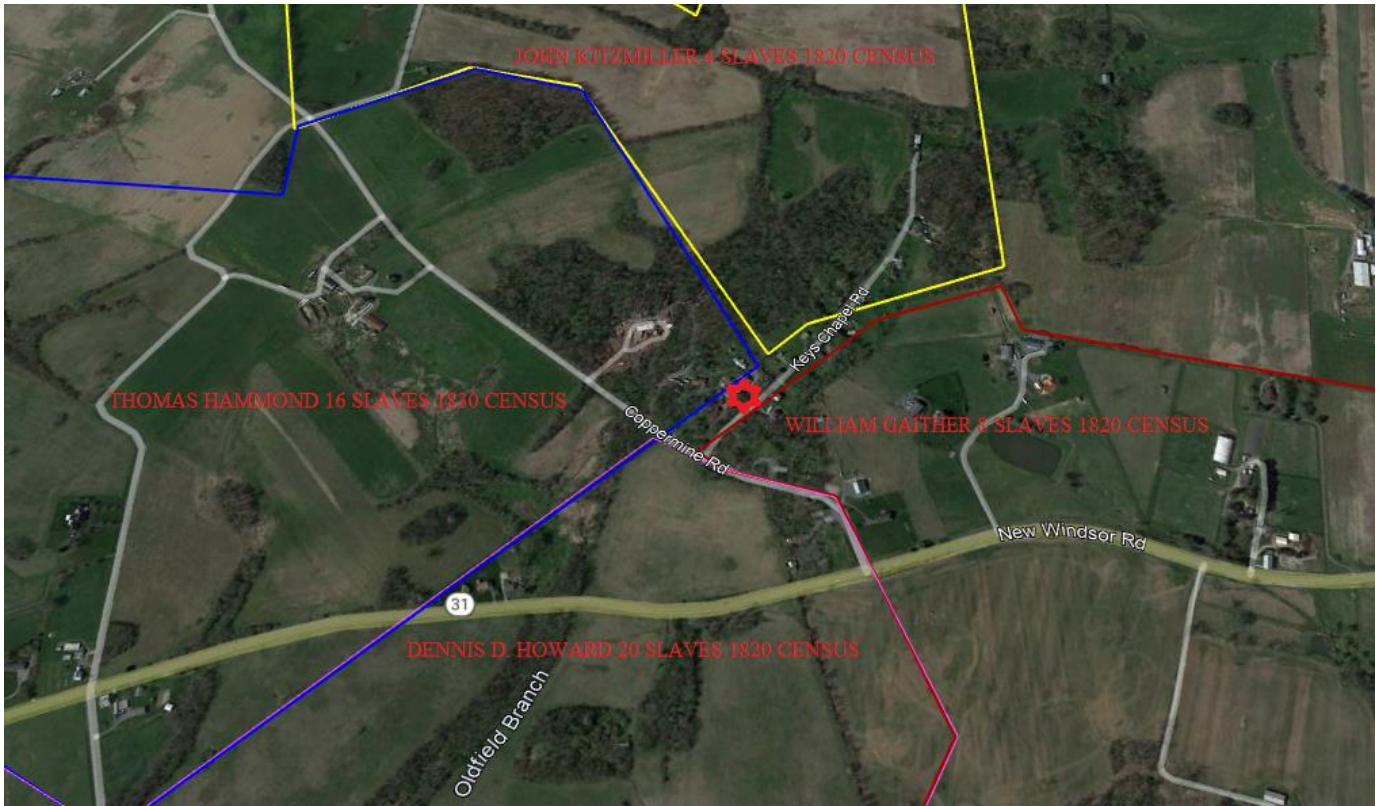
Frederick & Carroll County Maryland

Landis Family-Sams Creek Rd. 39.511643° -77.131556° 475' Northwest of house (Behind)	Devilbiss Family-Devilbiss Bridge Rd. 39.508880° -77.387060° 180' Northwest of house (Front)
Simpson/Williams-Pearre Rd. 39.524373° -77.164554° 300' Northeast of house (Behind)	Casper Devilbiss Family-Sams Creek Rd. 39.500030° -77.126430° 450' Southwest of house (Behind)
Saum Family-McKinstry's Mill Rd. 39.524469° -77.158218° 300' Northwest of house (Behind)	Norris Family-Coppermine Rd. 39.508180° -77.205010° 300' Northwest of house (Behind)
John Etzler-Fountain School Rd. 39.529228° -77.192777° 450' Northwest of house (Behind)	Nelson Family-Central Church Rd. 39.432330° -77.276240° 500' Southwest of house (Behind)
Baker Family-Barnes Rd. 39.482082° -77.148278° 450' NW of house (Behind)	Campbell Family-Dollyhyde Rd. 39.448000° -77.211120° 900' East of house (Front)
Harding Family-Lime Plant Rd. 39.416509° -77.236487° 450' Northwest of house (Behind)	Hammond Family-Green Valley Rd. 39.409930° -77.253380° 700' West of house (Side)
Saylor Family-Beaver Dam Rd. 39.551370° -77.214660° 600' Southwest of house (Behind)	Brandenburg Family-Brandenburg Hollow Rd. 39.596010° -77.540510° 300' Northeast of house (Front)
Blickenstaff Family-Delauter Rd. 39.559750° -77.520520° 650' Northwest of house (Side)	Warrenfeltz Family-Harp Hill Rd. 39.53612 -77.54905 650' Southwest of house (Side)
Kimmel Family-Old Annapolis Rd. 39.420793° -77.221150° 900' Southeast of house (Behind)	Evans Family-Marston Rd. 39.484510° -77.070512° 900' Northwest of house (Behind)
Harshman Family-Meeting House Rd. 39.54872 -77.53566 550' Northeast of house (Behind)	Stevenson Family-Rt. 27 39.546059° -77.015687° 500' Southeast of house (Behind)

Slave & Free Black Graveyards

Listed below are 10 known African American burial locations that I mapped the surrounding land which are located in Carroll, Frederick and Montgomery County. A pattern emerged with the majority of locations on the boundary lines of the tracts of land out of the way of farming. This in contrast to many white farm burial grounds that are out in the fields in the way of farming. Also included are Carroll & Montgomery County Almshouse graveyards which are located near the property line. Final two items are known large slave plantations in Frederick County.

African American Graveyards
1. Oldfields Village- Keys Chapel Road Libertytown 39.496827° -77.193291°
2. Landis Colored Graveyard Sams Creek Road New Windsor 39.513808° -77.131567°
3. Toop Family Burial Ground- Rt. 31 Westminster 39.565473° -77.023188°
4. Moses Jones Family Burial Ground-Houck Road Union Bridge 39.555044° -77.198843°
5. Mt. Olive Community- Parsonage Lane New Windsor 39.509716° -77.142327°
6. Frederick Co. News 10 Dec 1966 State Roads Commission. Burying ground containing several gravesites and markers known as a slave burying ground. Known as Hickman Farm. Point of Rocks Rt. 15 1300' Northeast of Rt. 464. (John Brunner early slave owner) Area of 39.289788° -77.529229
7. Montgomery Co. Deed JG 8-404 (1861) G.M. Watkins & Samuel B. Anderson for burial of colored people as needed. 1860 Montgomery County MD. Slave Schedule shows G.M. Watkins with 32 slaves & Samuel Anderson with 11 slaves. Chevy Chase MD. Area of 38.979189° -77.071612°
8. Zachariah Waters Slave Graveyard-Century Blvd. Germantown 39.196473° -77.268851°
9. Hilleary Family Slave Graveyard-Black Rock Road Darnestown 39.128435° -77.312660°
10. Dr. Washington Waters Slave Graveyard-Davis Mill Road Germantown 39.211932° -77.207517°
Almshouse Graveyard
1. Carroll County Maryland Almshouse Graveyard-Gist Road Westminster 39.555490° -76.992643°
2. Montgomery County Maryland Almshouse Graveyard-Wootton Pkwy & I-270 Rockville 39.067259° -77.157176° (No longer exist)
Frederick County Slave Plantations
1. Victoria Vincendere (760 acres)-Monocacy Battlefield Rt. 355 Frederick. (90 Slaves 1810 Census) 39.370203° -77.398522°
2. Merry Land Tract (6300 acres)-Rt. 340 Knoxville. Many slave owning properties. 39.341054° -77.635949°



Oldfields Village (African American)

(Four slave owner properties converge)

Keys Chapel Road Libertytown Maryland

39.496827° -77.193291°

In 1854 John Downey obtained the land (Downeys Lot Fr. Co. Patent# 1179 6 acres). He then sold lots starting in 1855 to free blacks in the area. In 1854 lots were sold to free blacks on the north side of John Downeys land by Henry Fetterling who bought the land of John Kitzmiller.

Could this be the location of an early slave burial ground?

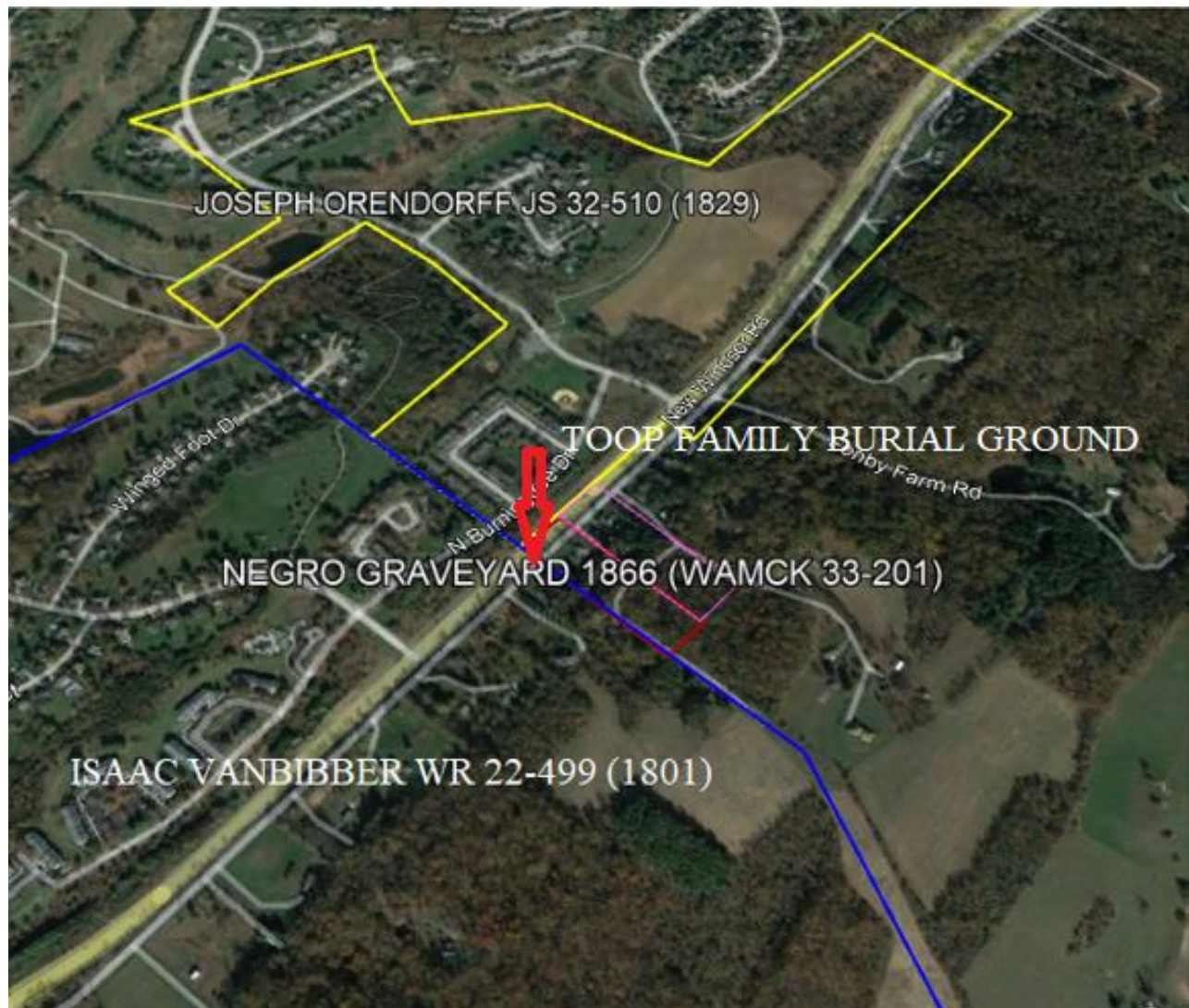
Note: African American burial ground is located just up the road from Keys Chapel with the first dated burial in 1887. Burials still continue there today and its unknown if any earlier burials were made.

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2535120/keys-chapel-cemetery>



Jacob Landis (Carroll Co. Will JMP 3-51 1861). Along the property lines with Jacob Roop & Hiram E. Plaine whereon several colored persons were buried some years ago. Sams Creek Road New Windsor Maryland. Area of 39.513808° -77.131567°

(No gravestones)



Toop Family Burial Ground

(20 known burials-Headstones start in 1857)

(Headstones moved to other church graveyards due to road widening)

Rt. 31 Westminster Maryland

39.565473° -77.023188°



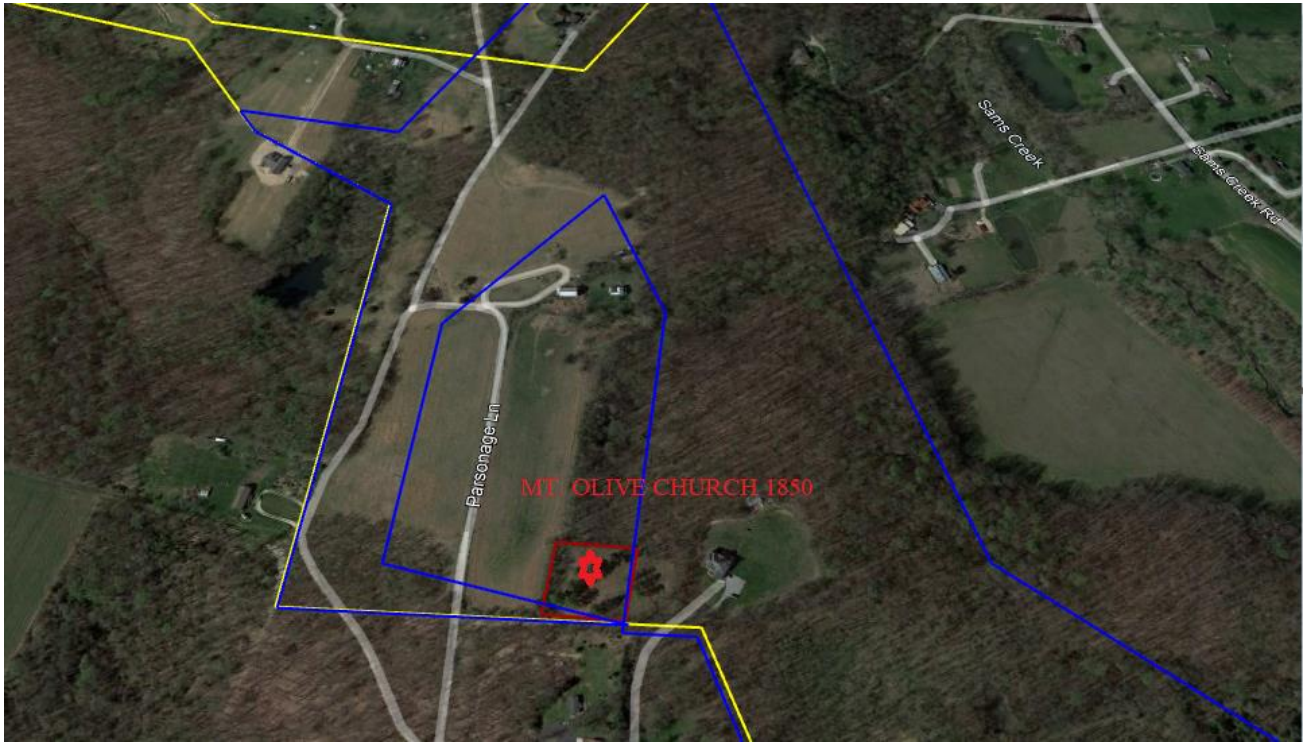
Moses Jones Family (Colored Burial Ground)

(Headstones Start 1849)

Houck Road Union Bridge Maryland

39.555044° -77.198843°

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2716027/jones-family-cemetery>

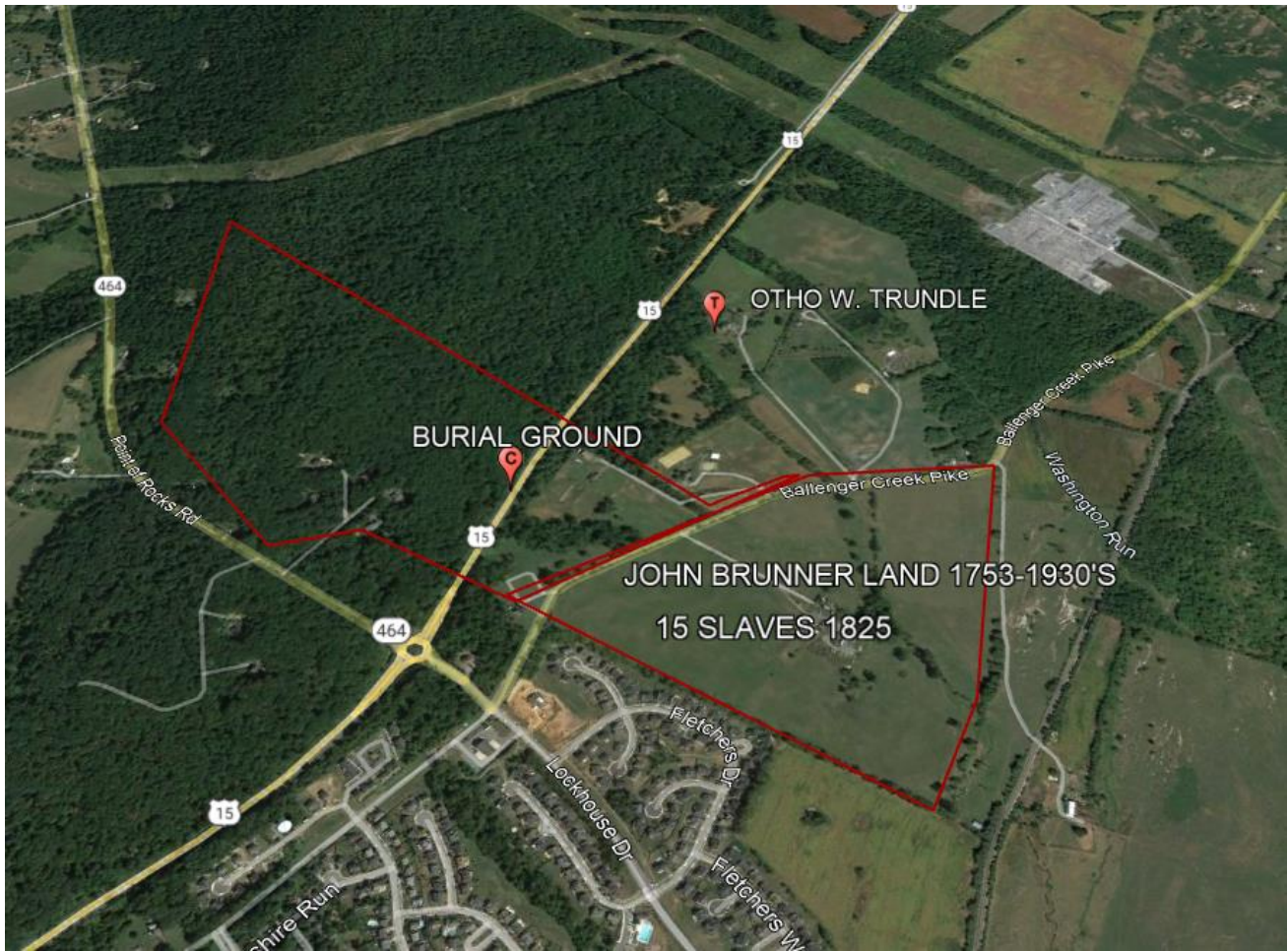


Mt. Olive African American Community

Parsonage Lane New Windsor Maryland

39.509716° -77.142327°

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2526485/mount-olive-methodist-episcopal-church-cemetery>



Frederick Co. News 10 Dec 1966 State Roads Commission (1967) Burying ground containing several gravesites and markers known as a slave burying ground. Known as Hickman Farm. Rt. 15 1300' Northeast of Rt. 464. Point of Rocks MD. Area of 39.289788° -77.529229°. No names listed.

On the 1858 Bond Map the burial ground is located at the start of a forest with no occupants around it.

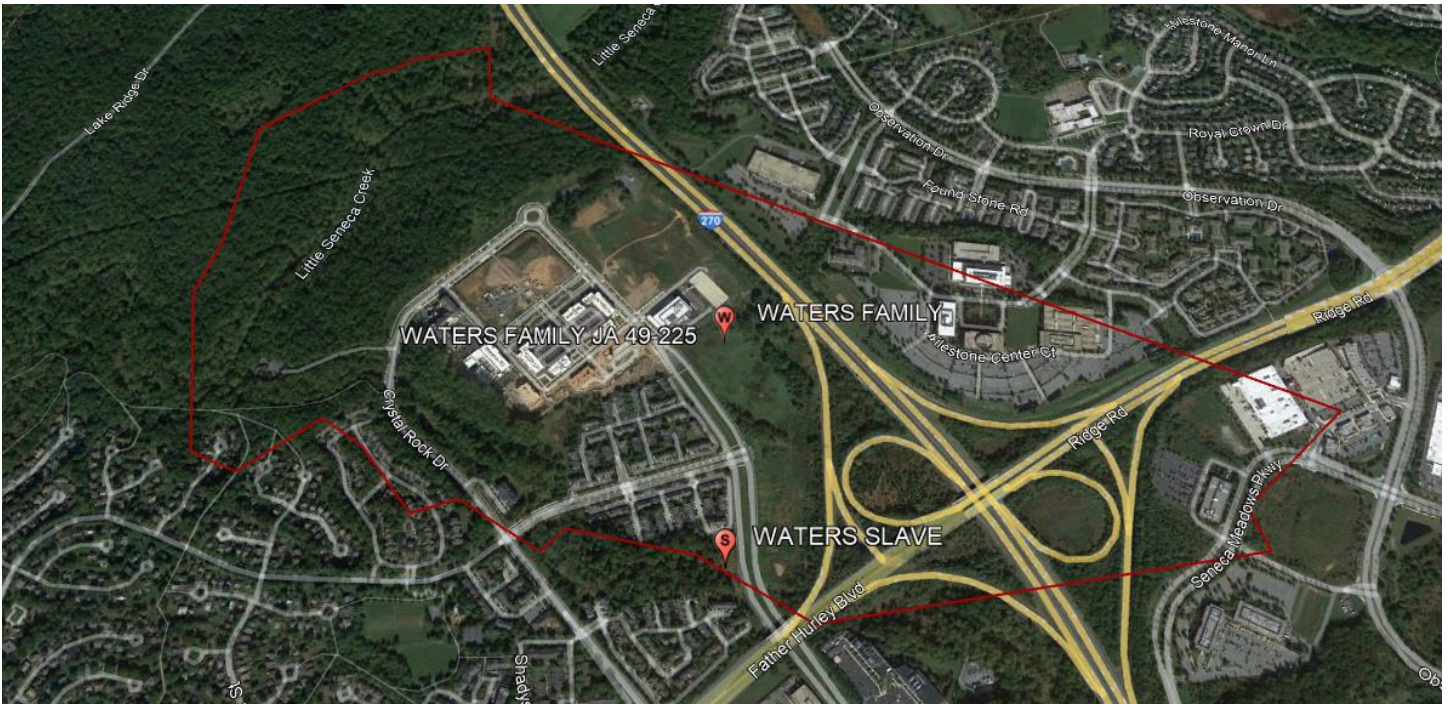
Land around burial ground remained in Brunner Family from 1809-1838 and beyond. The original 1753 property remained in John Brunner Family from 1753-1930's

G.M. Watkins & Samuel B. Anderson

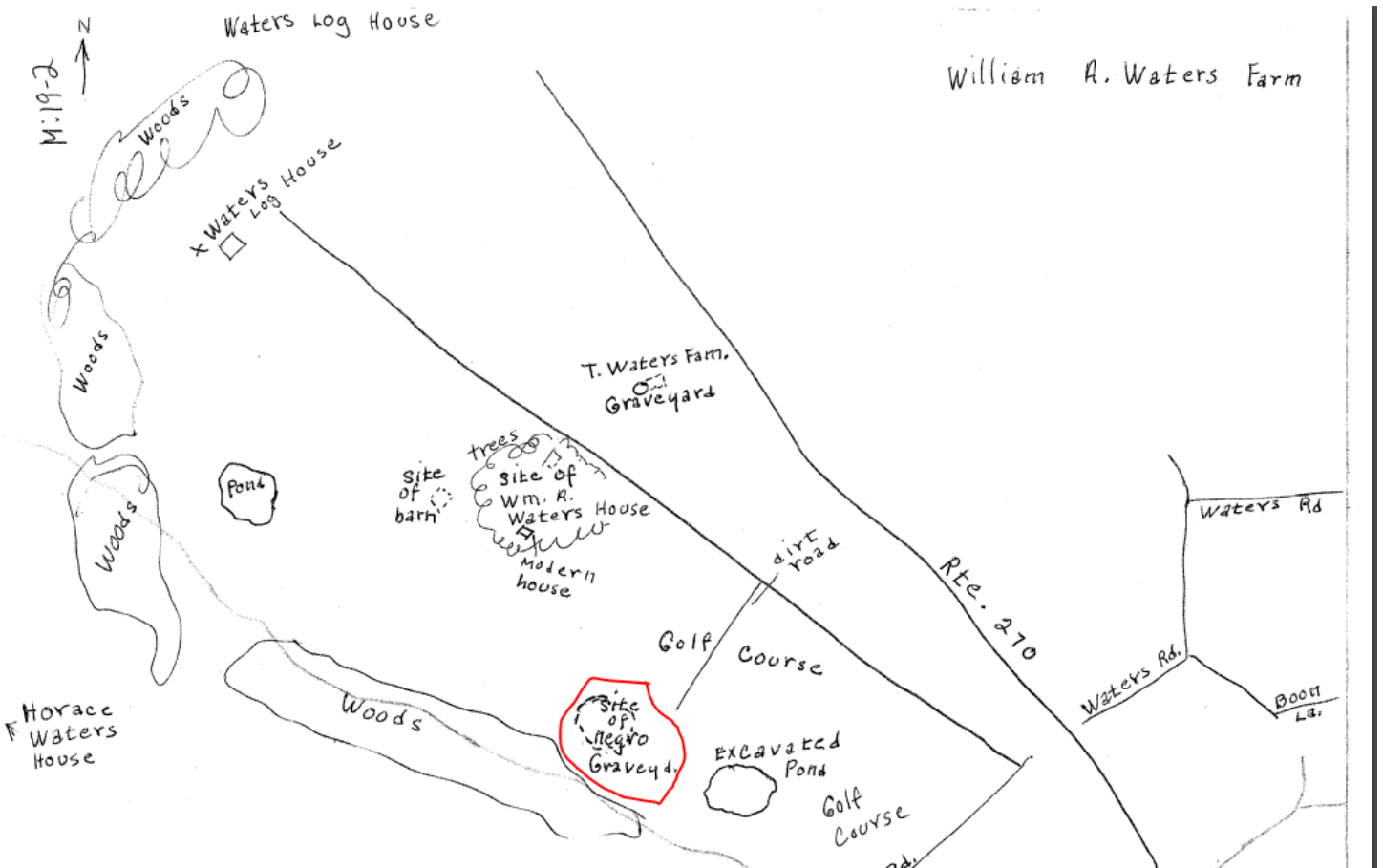
Burial Ground for Colored People

Chevy Chase MD. Montgomery Co.

Montgomery Co. Deed JG 8-404 (1861) Used by G.M. Watkins & Samuel B. Anderson for burial of colored people as needed. 1860 Slave Schedule G.M. Watkins 32 slaves & Samuel Anderson 11 slaves. Chevy Chase Maryland. Area of 38.979189° -77.071612°



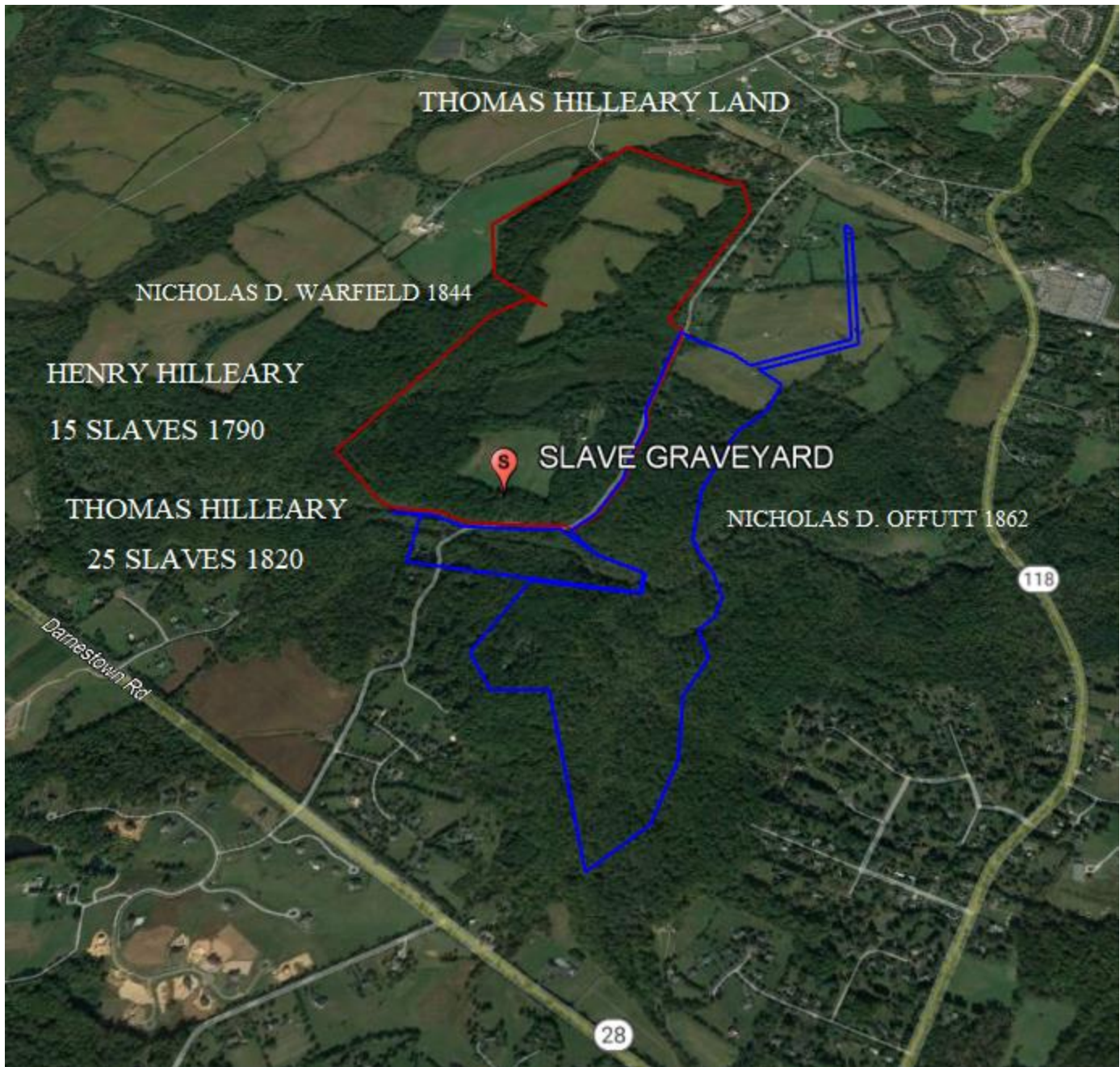
Zachariah Waters Land



https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/Cemeteries/219_Zachariah_Waters_Family_Germantown/research/Waters%20Family%20Cemetery.pdf

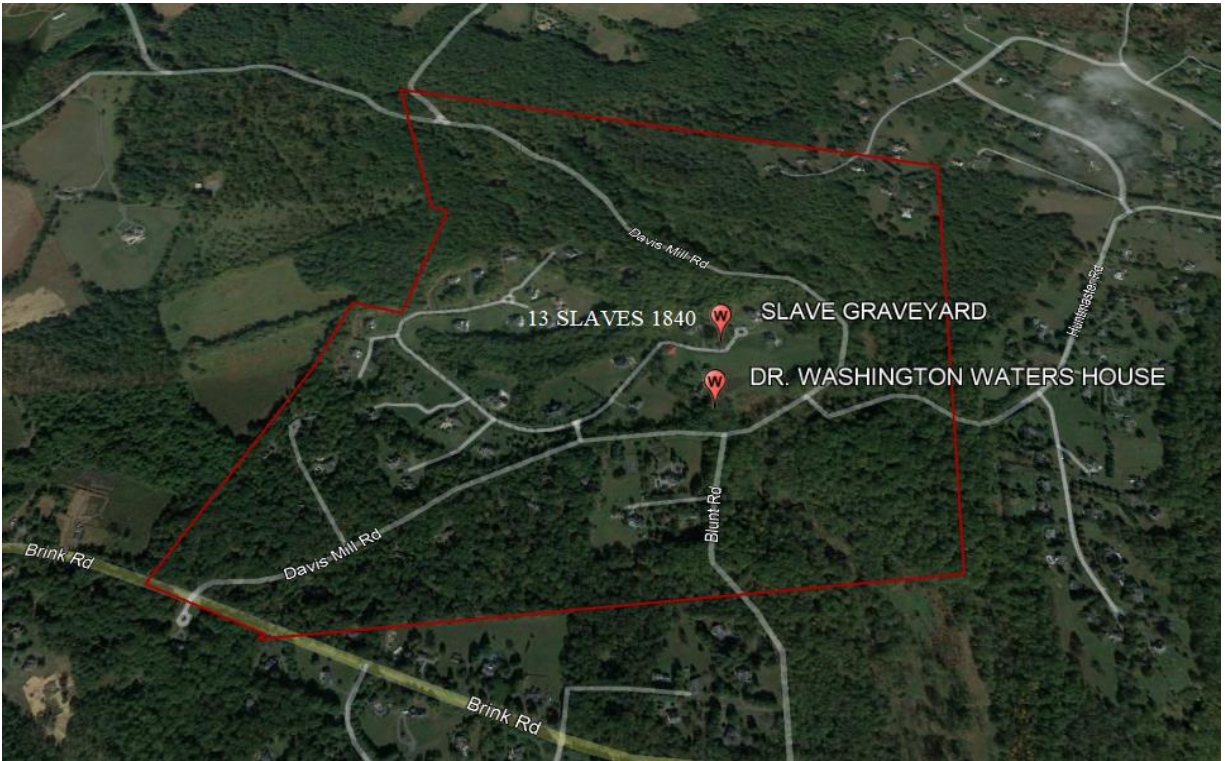


Henry Hilleary Land-Sprained Ankle 1790
Darnestown Road Germantown Maryland



https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/Cemeteries/260_Button-Farm_Germantown/260_Button-Farm_Germantown_2018/260_Button-Farm_Germantown_2018_Survey.pdf

Red & Blue Parcels-Thomas Hilleary Land

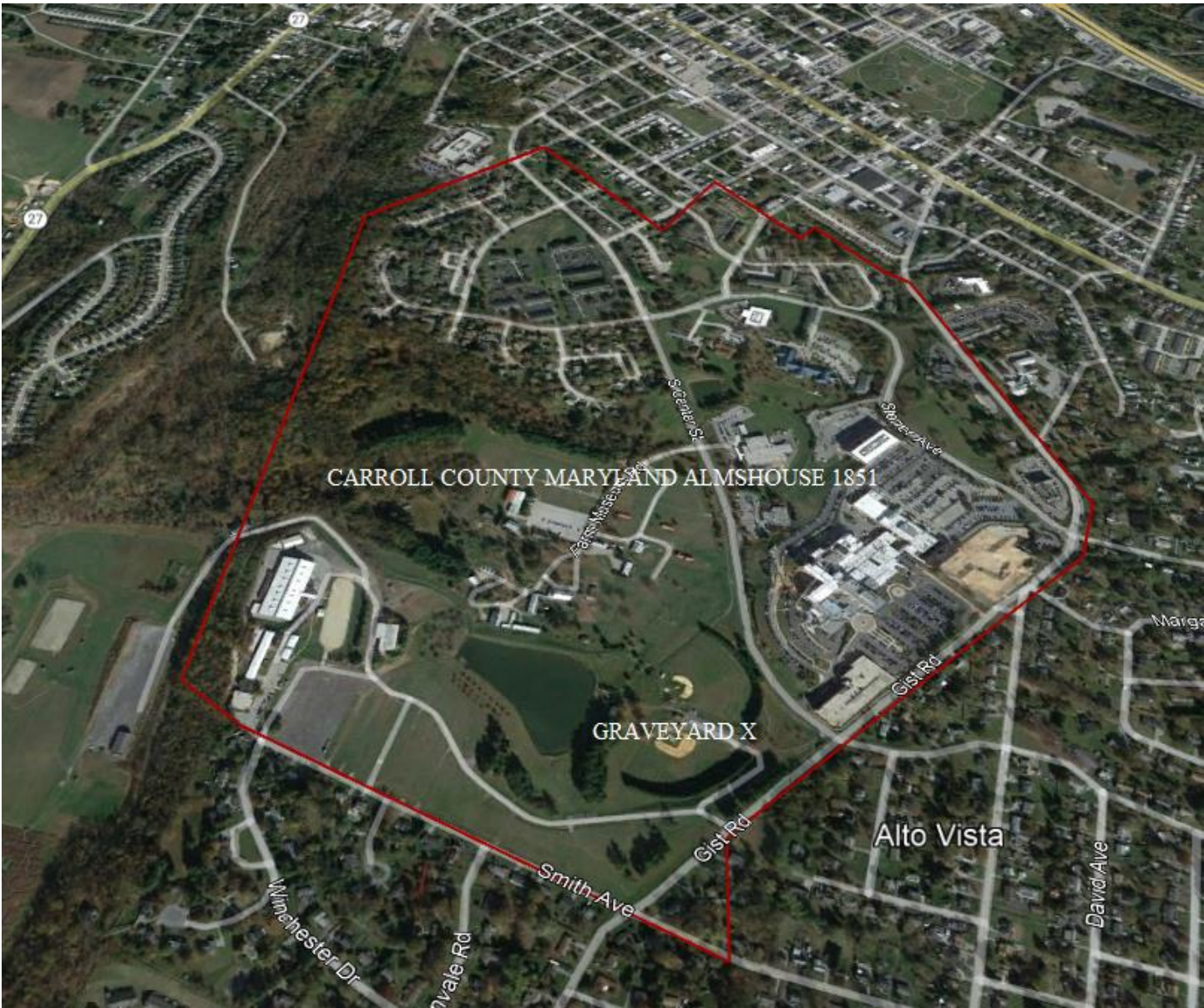


Dr. Washington Waters Land



Dr. Washington Waters Slave Graveyard

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2648103/waters-family-cemetery>



Carroll County Maryland Almshouse Graveyard
Gist Road Westminster Maryland

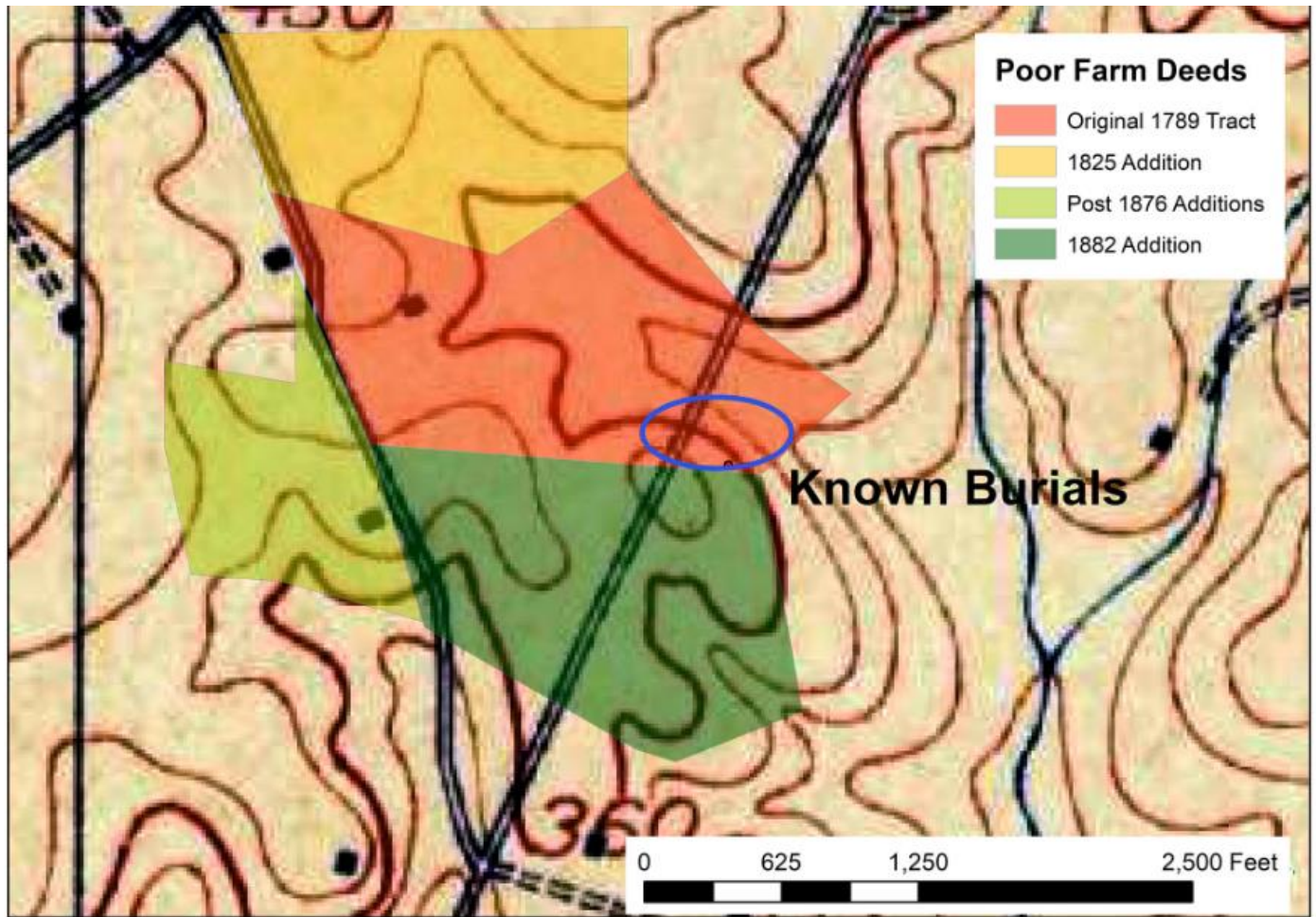


Figure 4: 1908 Topographic map overlain with parcels purchased for the Poor Farm over the course of a century (color shaded areas) and the area where burials were found in 1987 (blue oval).

Montgomery County Maryland Almshouse Graveyard

Wootton Blvd. & I-270

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/blog-design/2021/03/the-poor-farm-cemetery-a-dark-and-overlooked-part-of-our-past/>

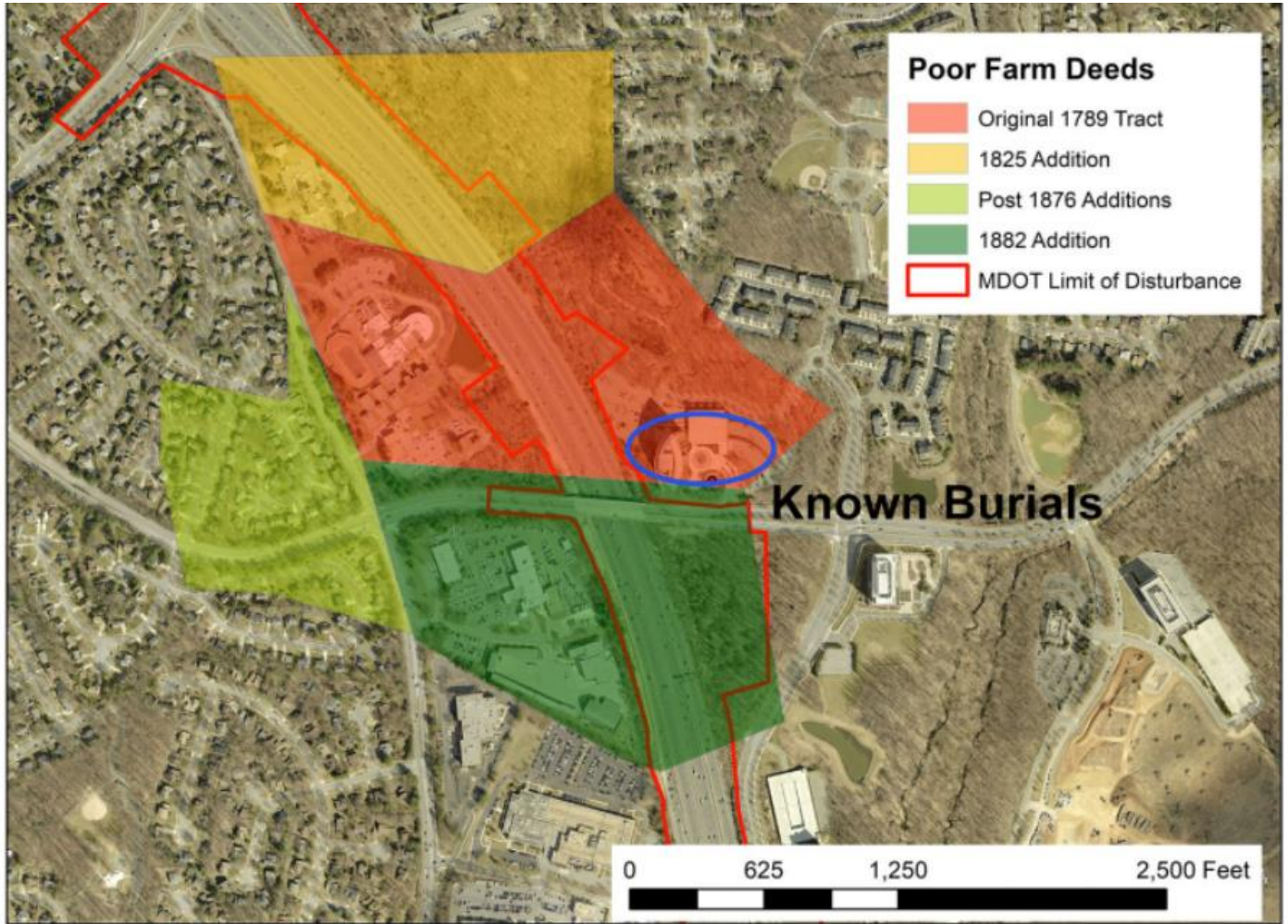


Figure 5: Proposed maximum limits of disturbance for expansion of I-270 (red outline) overlain on a 2019 aerial photograph with parcels purchased for the Poor Farm over the course of a century (color shaded areas) and the area where burials were found in 1987 (blue oval).

Montgomery County Maryland Almshouse Graveyard

Wootton Blvd. & I-270

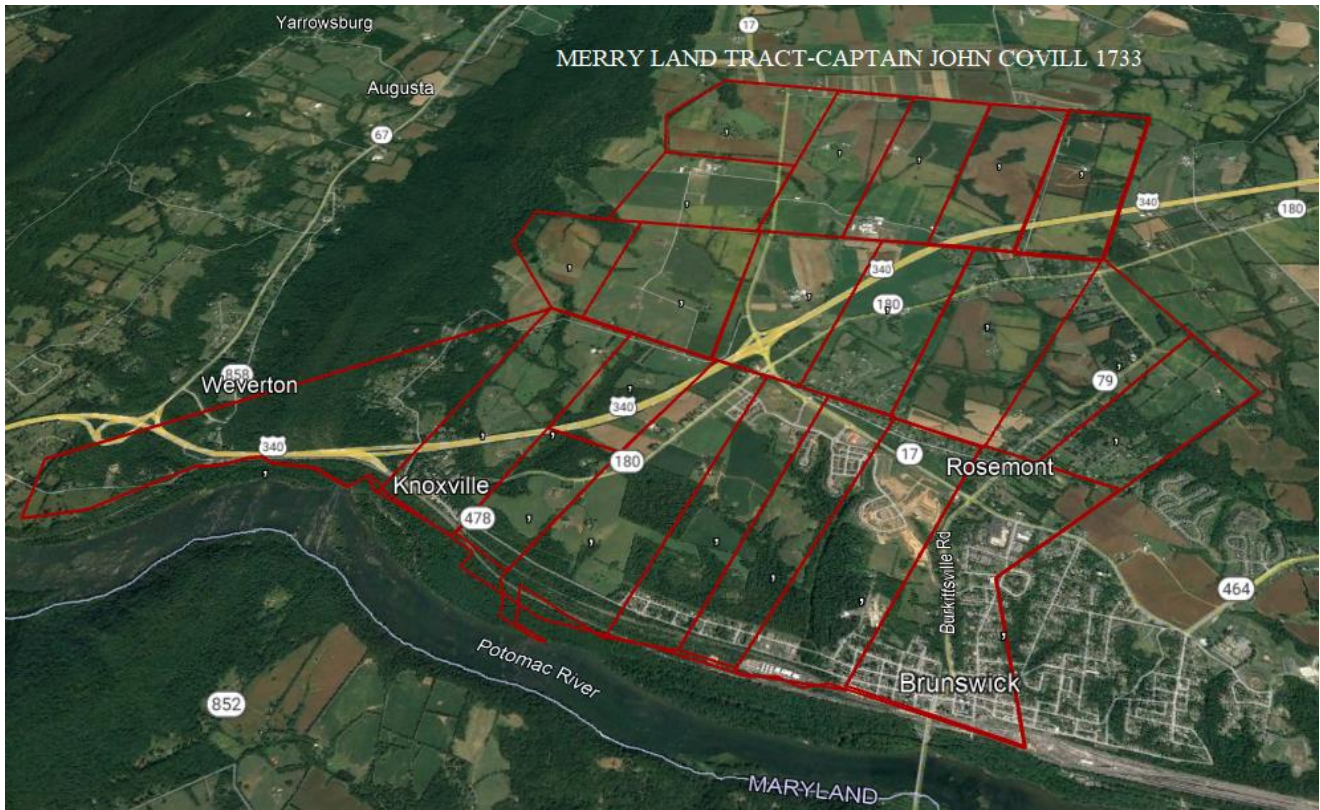


Victoria Vincendere Plantation (Frederick County (1795-1827)

Slave Burial Ground-Location Unknown

In the case of the Vincendere Plantation where would the probable location be? It is known where the slave quarters were located. In reading about slave burials the owners had security issues they had to deal with. The Vincendere Plantation shows 90 slaves in the 1810 census. Were all of the adult slaves allowed to attend a burial? Did the slave owner have the manpower to control the number of slaves attending? Emotions would be running high at this time as well as thoughts of escape. What were the avenues of escape?

Along the Monocacy River looks to be the probable location. Graveyard would be out of the way of cultivation and avenues of escape would be lowered. The burial would be close to the slave quarters which would get the slaves quickly back to a central location. Monocacy River would hinder or block escape to the south and east. At this time the Middle Ford Ferry was the main crossing in the area. The railroad didn't come along until well after Vincendere had sold the land.



Merry Land Tract 1733 (Frederick County)

Multiple Slave Plantations

Brunswick MD.

Merry Land Tract was made up of many slave plantations from the mid 1700's up until Emancipation. Along the property lines or in any location where cultivation wasn't possible would be probable graveyard locations.