Carlisle Church Cemetery Sharon Hill Road, Dover, Kent County, Delaware

Prepared for:

Gaines Family Properties, LLC C/O John R. and Kimberly Gaines



October 24, 2019

Prepared by:

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Abstract

In July 2019 Edward Otter Inc. was contacted by Gaines Family Properties, LLC to consult on Kent County, Delaware Parcel 2-00-07501-01-1401-00001. The northern portion of this parcel is known to be the site of the historic Carlisle African Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery. Delaware Title 7 Chapter 54 provides protection for unmarked human burials and human skeletal remains within the state. Therefore, ground testing for the presence of burials was requested, as plans were considered for the construction of a new septic system near the cemetery. The area was investigated by excavating a trench across it with a goal of determining whether burials were present or absent in the area. This work resulted in the determination that burials are present within the area and in fact no excavated area was absent of graves. Burials may extend beyond current property lines. A thorough delineation of the cemetery would establish the full extent of burials. Archival research was not requested as part of this project—however, a limited scope of archival work was conducted and the results of that work are included in this report. It is recommended the cemetery continue as protected green space.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
Project Setting	1
Research Design	1
Background and Land History	5
FIELD STUDY	9
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	13
REFERENCES	13
APPENDIX I: DEATH RECORDS	AI-1
APPENDIX II: QUALIFICATIONS OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR	AII-1
LIST OF FIGURES	
Figure 1. USGS Topographic Map 2014 Dover, Delaware Quadrangle	2
Figure 2. Google Earth 2018	
Figure 3. Proposed Location of New Septic System	
Figure 4. Kent County, Orphans' Court, George F. Fisher 1839	
Figure 5. Location of Carlisle AME Church and Cemetery (Pomeroy and Beers 1868)	
Figure 6. Aerial Photography 1937	
Figure 7. Carlisle AME Church and Cemetery (Zebley 1947)	
Figure 8. Standing at the northeast portion of the project area facing southwest	
Figure 9. Trench excavation from the southeast corner of the parking lot toward the nor	
Figure 10. Burials One and Two	
Figure 11. Map showing excavated areas and grave locations	12

INTRODUCTION

In July 2019 Edward Otter Inc. was contacted by Gaines Family Properties, LLC to consult on Kent County, Delaware Parcel 2-00-07501-01-1401-00001. The northern portion of this parcel was known by the landowners to be the site of historic Carlisle African Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery. No markers were present when the Gaines Family purchased this property and if burials were present here, the location and extent of them was unknown. Since Delaware Title 7 Chapter 54 provides protection for unmarked human burials and human skeletal remains within the state, ground testing for the presence of burials was requested as planning for the construction of a new septic system was considered. Archival research was not requested as part of this project—however, a limited scope of archival work was conducted as a courtesy to the Gaines Family and to any relatives of those who are interred within the Carlisle burial ground.

Project Setting

Parcel 2-00-07501-01-1401-00001 is located between Sharon Hill Road (County Road 162) and Forrest Avenue (Route 8), approximately four miles west of Dover, in West Dover Hundred, Kent County, Delaware (Figure 1). The parcel consists of 0.76 acres, covered in woodland in the southern portion of the parcel, and a parking area and vacant green space covering the northern portion (Figure 2). The vacant green area is known to be the site of the historic Carlisle African Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery. The Latitude of the cemetery is 39.156546 and Longitude is -75.597476. The church cemetery area is situated between a crush and run parking area and a neighboring turf-covered lot. The surface is covered in turf and a large deciduous tree.

Geographically, the project lies within the Atlantic Coastal Plain with an elevation of 50 feet above mean sea level. Soils are identified as Woodstown loam with 0 to 2 percent slopes (WocA). This is a moderately well-drained soil parented on loamy fluviomarine deposits (websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov). Cahoon Branch is approximately 1,500 feet to the southeast of the project area and flows into the Saint-Jones River. A head of this branch appears to have been channelized, likely as drainage, and flows across the southern part of the parcel adjacent to Forrest Avenue.

Research Design

Plans under consideration propose the construction of a new 48-foot by 110-foot septic system as part of a veterinary hospital expansion (Figure 3). Plans were of course dependent on whether burials exist within the area of potential effects (APE). If burials were identified within the APE, an alternative design would be necessary. Therefore, the project goal was to determine the presence or absence of burials within the APE. To this end, the project design called for the excavation of a trench and several rectangular-shaped spots across the APE. A mini-excavator with a clean-out bucket was utilized to carefully scrape the top soils. The excavated areas were then more finely cleaned with flat shovels and trowels. Soils were stripped to a depth where subsurface stains such as grave shafts could be identified, photographed, and mapped using a total station. No burials were excavated or disturbed. The trench excavation began in the southeastern corner of the existing parking area and continued toward the northeastern property boundary. Additional spots were subsequently excavated in an attempt to determine if any areas were absent of burials.

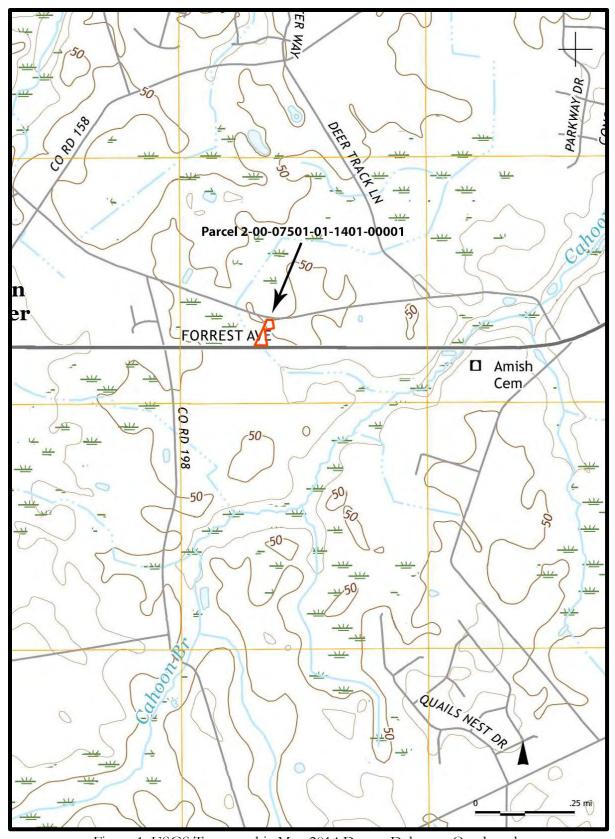


Figure 1. USGS Topographic Map 2014 Dover, Delaware Quadrangle



Figure 2. Google Earth 2018

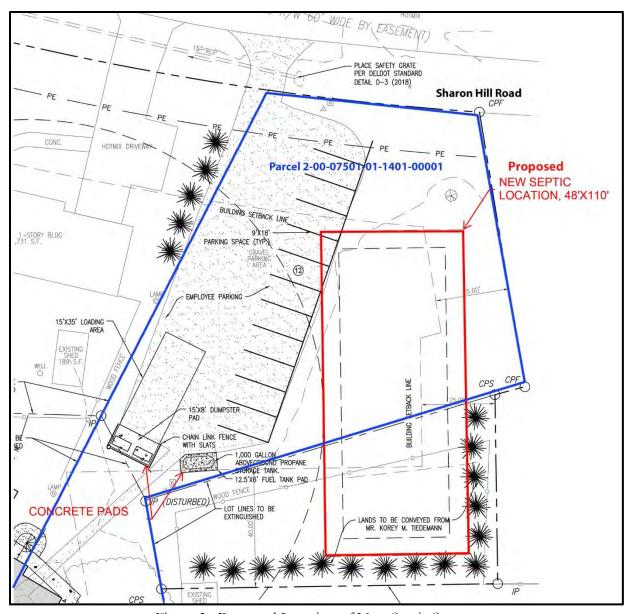


Figure 3. Proposed Location of New Septic System

Background and Land History

Although archival research was not a part of this contract work, a limited search for background information was conducted. Delaware CHRIS showed no recorded archaeological sites or cemeteries within or surrounding Parcel 2-00-07501-01-1401-00001. An online visit to Findagrave.com determined the cemetery location is unmapped and is generally unknown, yet living descendants have been in search of it. A look through Ancestry.com found descendants in search of this location as well. A narrow examination of Delaware death record books revealed identities of a number of those interred within the cemetery (Appendix I). Known family names associated with the burial ground are as follows: Scott, Fisher, Fulman/Fullman/ Downs/Downes, Ross, Simmons, Johns, Robinson, Hovington, and Driggus.

The earliest known use of the land was agricultural and this particular tract was one of the many owned by George F. Fisher in the early 19th century. George F. Fisher's lands were auctioned after his death by order of Kent County Orphans' Court (Kent County Orphans' Court, George F. Fisher 1839). Capril Carlisle, being the highest bidder, purchased George Fisher's one hundred-acre farm near Casson's Corner in West Dover on April 2, 1842 (Figure 4).

In 1849, Caper Carlisle and his wife Leah deeded forty perches (one-quarter acre) to African Methodist Episcopal Church trustees, Peter Carlisle, James Collins, Nathaniel White, Jacob Allston, and Perry Hawkins (Kent County Land Deed Y3:22). The land was given to erect or cause to be built a house or place of worship for the use of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The deed states, this is the same tract of land where "Caper Carlisle now lives". In 1853, Capril Carlisle sold one hundred eighty-seven acres and one hundred twenty square perches to Samuel Harlan. The being clause states this transfer was part of the real estate Carlisle bought of George Fisher's estate (Kent County Plot Book 1:167). Variations in Mr. Carlisle's first name on the documents were noted throughout archival research: Caper, Casper, Capril, Capriel.

The atlas of 1868 (Pomeroy and Beers 1868) identifies an African Church about one half mile to the west, lying along the south side of Sharon Hill Road (Figure 5). Since this is not the location of Carlisle AME Church and Cemetery, the location shown on the map is either another church, or it is possible the Carlisle Church location was mapped incorrectly.

A Certificate of Incorporation was issued April 11th 1921, signed by Carlisle African Methodist Episcopal Church Trustees, Samuel E. Johnson, Alonzo Hall, Edward Downs, James Scott, and John W. Fisher (Kent County Land Deed Z11:329). This document specifies the application to incorporate was posted on the front door of the church before it was accepted and recorded. Therefore, it is apparent a church building existed at this time. Aerial photography of 1937 shows the church building in place (Figure 6). Frank R. Zebley's, *The Churches of Delaware*, describes Carlisle AME Church and states the land was donated by Casper Carlisle (Zebley 1947). A photograph in Zebley's book is the only known published photograph of the church in existence (Figure 7). Zebley states the church was abandoned sometime after 1937. It is unknown what happened to the church building after this time.

In August of 2010, John R. and Kimberly A. Gaines purchased a 0.76 acre-parcel from Delaware Conference-First Episcopal District, African Methodist Church, AKA Carlisle African Methodist Episcopal Church. Since then, the lot has remained vacant and its use has been green space.

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Figure 4. Kent County, Orphans' Court, George F. Fisher 1839

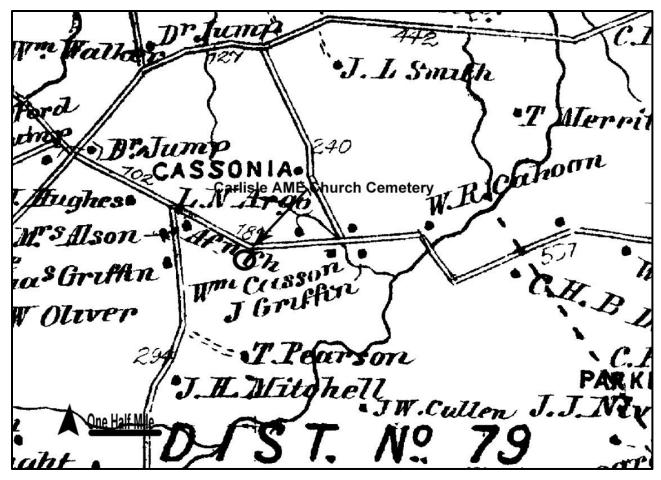


Figure 5. Location of Carlisle AME Church and Cemetery (Pomeroy and Beers 1868)

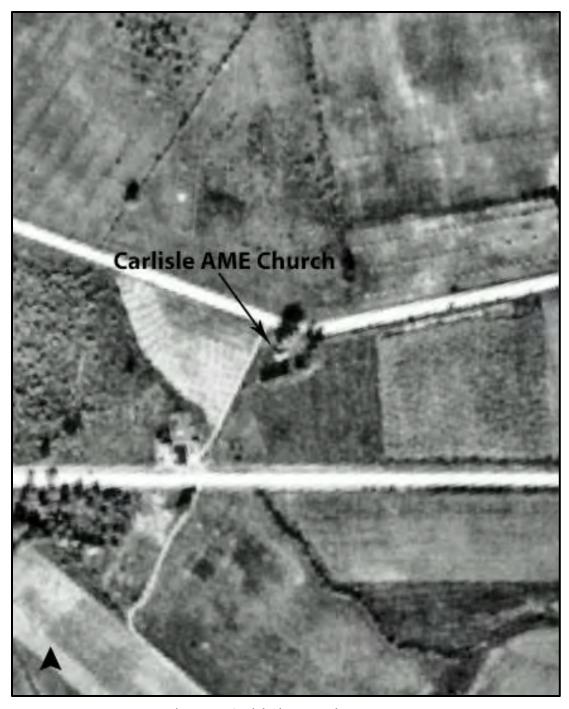


Figure 6. Aerial Photography 1937

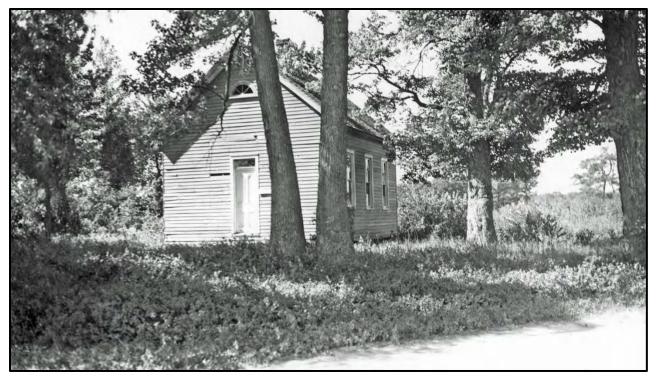


Figure 7. Carlisle AME Church and Cemetery (Zebley 1947)

FIELD STUDY

Fieldwork was conducted on July 15th 2019. The area was walked and photographed. The location is covered in turf with a crush and run parking area to the west of the turf covered area (Figure 8). Work began at the southeast corner of the crush and run parking lot. A three-foot-wide trench was excavated from this starting point and continued toward the northeast corner of the project area until the property boundary was reached (Figure 9). Utilizing a mini-excavator with a non-toothed bucket, the top soils were scraped carefully to a depth where graves would be visible if they were present. The back dirt was piled out of the way. The stained areas of the excavation were cleaned more finely with flat shovels and trowels and were photographed and mapped (Figure 10). Burials are rectangular in shape, which usually date to the late 19th and 20th century time period. No brick vaults were observed. All observed graves are oriented west to east in the usual Christian practice. A total of fourteen graves were identified within the excavated areas. The burials were mapped using a total station (Figure 11).



Figure 8. Standing at the northeast portion of the project area facing southwest



Figure 9. Trench excavation from the southeast corner of the parking lot toward the northeast



Figure 10. Burials One and Two

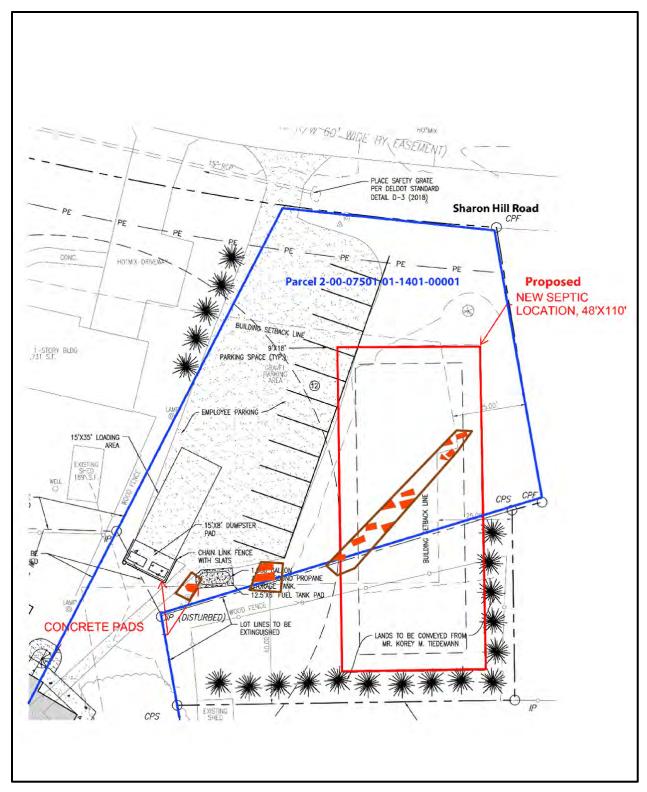


Figure 11. Map showing excavated areas and grave locations

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A limited scope of archival work was conducted to gain understanding about the historic property known as Carlisle African Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery. Research traced ownership of Kent County, Delaware Parcel 2-00-07501-01-1401-00001 from its history as an early 19th century farm to its use as the Carlisle AME Church and Cemetery to its present green space application. Field work consisted of excavation in the form of a trench and several rectangular-shaped spots across an area under consideration for septic field construction. This work revealed fourteen graves within the excavated areas. The full extent of burials is unknown and burials may extend beyond the current property lines.

It is recommended the Carlisle AME Church Cemetery continue to be used as green space. The cemetery is currently covered in turf with a large, aged, deciduous tree near the roadway. The Gaines Family has taken great care in protecting and maintaining the property since they acquired it in 2010. This location is historically significant for a number of reasons. Land records indicate free African American, Capril Carlisle, lived here with his family before he transferred ownership to trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1849. The Carlisle AME Church existed here until at least 1937. A cemetery most certainly exists here still.

In an age of online genealogy, descendants, in search of their origins, are looking to our old family cemeteries as places of reconnection. During an online search of Ancestry.com, several inquiries as to the location of the Carlisle Cemetery were noted. Communications with Dover Delaware Findagrave.com researcher, John C. Carter, indicated relatives of individuals interred within the cemetery have contacted him regarding the cemetery location.

The cemetery would likely meet criteria for The Delaware Public Archives Historical Marker Program based on its association with an underrepresented history of the AME Church and the Free African Society, within its context of free African American communities in early 19th century Kent County, Delaware. The limited archival research conducted during this project may provide a foundation for further study. Research results would likely contribute to historical marker eligibility.

REFERENCES

Kent County, Delaware Orphans' Court Records. Accessed at Delaware Public Archives.

Kent County, Delaware Land Deeds. Accessed at Delaware Public Archives.

Kent County, Death Records. Accessed at Delaware Public Archives.

Pomeroy and Beers

1868 Delaware State Atlas, Kent County, Dover Hundred.

Zebley, Frank R.

1947 The Churches of Delaware: a history, in brief, of the nearly 900 churches in Delaware as located by the author. Wilmington, Delaware.

APPENDIX I: DEATH RECORDS

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(Informan) Willer Scott	At place In the of death
Iana Al KI	If not at place of death?
(Address)	Former or usual residence
Filed My 15 1022 Heralow	19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL DATE OF BURIAL

RETURN	TO	THE	PROPER	LOCAL	REGISTRAR.	4
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WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK-THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD	is pink town or morration about he carefully supplied. AGE should be stated ELACTLY. PHYSICARS should state CAUSE OF DEATH is pink town, so that it may be properly classified. ELACT statement of OCCUPATION is were important. Some interests and it. A.
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I PLACE OF DEATH	STATE OF DELAWARE
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	CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
Hundred Test Sover	Registered No. 24
Villago PFD Dov	(If death occurred in a bookled or healt-ries, give in NASS, impose of street and matter.
2 FULL NAME Stillown	3. V.d. 0,13.
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS	MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
Sex 4 COLOR OR RACE BINGLE MARRIED, Single Growner Growner	(Month) (Day) (Year)
6 DATE OF BIRTH 7— 1973	17 HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended decayed from
7 AGE (Month) (Day) (Year)	(Month) (Day)
1 day,h	
OCCUPATION ds. ofds.	and that death occured, so the date stated above, at
OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work	The CAUSE OF DEATH * was as follows:
(b) General nature of industry.	Stillian
business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)	
BIRTHPLACE (State or country)	(Duratica)
FATHER WILLIAM South	Contributory Secondary
IS BIRTHPLAGE OF PATHER (State or country) IT MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER OF MOTHER OF MOTHER OF MOTH	(Sized) Well Mileur
IT MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Della Moss.	7 1922 (Address) Down 30
is BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country)	* State the Disease Causing Death, ev. in deaths from Vishor Causes. State (1) Means of Injury: and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Hamichhal.
THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE	IS LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transleads, or Recent Residents)
(Informani) Waller Scott	At place In the of death yes mos. de. State yes mos. de.
(Address) LOV	If not at place of death?
1 Sull 15 - 148 Auto/	usual residence
iled, 19 Local BUB-RIGUISTAN	19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOXAL DATE OF BURIAL
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RETURN TO THE PROPER LOCAL REGISTRAR	* () *** 13
RETURN TO THE PROPER LOCAL REGISTRAK.	
I PLACE OF DEATH	STATE OF DELAWARE BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
No.	CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
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O Village or City No	Vard.
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Month (Day)	f less than last slav had alive on the same of the sam
上 4日 ynds. **	and that death occurred; on the Late stated above, at
(a) I rade, profession, or	The CAUSE OF DEATH * was as follows:
	Caterdel Fuerma
State or country)	(Durstion) yrs. mos
- 5 FT IO NAME OF MY AD	Contributory Measees
Z H 199 SI BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER COUNTRY) Kent Co	(Duration) mos
	(Signed)
Alle Car	State the Disease Causing Death, or, in deaths from Violent Causes, State (1) Heans of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Succidal, or Homicidal.
(State of country)	is LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitale, Institutions, Translests, or Roccu
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Informant) William James	At place In the of death yrs. Shot. ds. State free mo
(Addrew) Dover 12-1.	If not at place of death?
(Address) Doven R.F.	19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL DITT OF BURIAL
zi	20 UNDERTAKER OF ADDRESS

1	STATE OF BELAWARE
I PLACE OF DEATH	STATE OF DELAWARE BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
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County Went Hundred West Village	(If death occ. hospital or leating to the leating t
	its NAEI instead and number.)
City Down Dol No.	Fish - Va
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o DATE OF BIRTH (Month) (All Month) (All	- 10° 8 - 16-10 - 18-18-
(Month) (Day)	(Vear) (Month) (Day) (Month) (Day)
yrs	I day,hrs. and that death occurred on the date stated shows at
s OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work	The CAUSE OF DEATH, " was as follows:
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business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)	
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of MOTHER Many	18-18-, 19-4 (Address) 00000 000
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JRN TO THE PROPER LOCAL REGISTRAR.	0 1088
I PLACE OF DEATH	STATE OF DELAWARE
T PLACE OF DEATH County Hand Hundred Was C or Core 2 FULL NAME Many D PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULA 18EX 4 COLOR OR RACE SHINGLE, OR ON	CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
Hundred W. Village	Registered No
City Osue .	(II dash eccurre bespital or helling its NARE instead of and number.)
2 FULL NAME MANY O A	urus. St. Ward.
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULA	
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which employed for employer School 2:11	appeling. Boundaries
(State or country) Del. 10 NAME OF PATHER Ddward Downs.	Contributory Refres at 6 1944 days
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OF MOTHER OF MITHER OF MOTHER OT MOTHER OF MOTHER OT MOTHER OF MOTHER OT MOT	(Signer) C. and Hartonal . M.
OF MOTHER Elsie Frisher	Muc 4, 19 Zk (Address) Locuse 1)
OF MOTHER (State or country) D.L.	* State the Disease Caming Death, or, in deaths from Violent Cames. State (1) Means of Injury: and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal.
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Con City	10			(If death occurry hospital or institution its NAME instead of and number.)
PERMANENT RECORD 7. PHYSICIANS should take CA 7. Impertant. See instructions on but Ciny Con See See See See See See See See See Se	2 FULL NAME James	Sco	×4 -	/ (
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U W .E 6 D	ATE OF BIRTH	1842	17 I HEREBY CEI	TIFY, That I attended deceased
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Which was a second	th employed (or employer)		V	
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E E 1	FATHER William Sc	not:	Secondary (Dur.	stice) yes mos
MARC JLY, WIT sell be card se properly d	OF FATHER (State or country)		(Signed) WWW	isting,
MAR Mercanica absult be ca to that it may be properly	12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER		3 -7-, 1927 (Addres	
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2 11 V	(Informant)	RKD.	At place In of death yrs	Stateyrsmos
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19 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER	100	uman	* State the Disease Causing Death, or, is State (f) Means of Injury: and (2) wheth	n deaths from Violent Causes, ser Accidental, Suicidal, or Hom
(State or country) 14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE	E BEST OF MY	NOWLEDGE	10 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (F	
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	STATE OF DELAWARE
I PLACE OF DEATH	BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
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Village	books in the books
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2 FULL NAME Play	ed Scott &
	CULARS MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
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APPENDIX II: QUALIFICATIONS OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Edward Otter, Ph.D. President and Principal of Edward Otter, Inc.

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2002 Ph.D., Anthropology/Archaeology

Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.

1989 Master of Arts in Anthropology/Archaeology

Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.

1980 Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology

University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware

Capabilities

Over 40 years-experience in archaeology in the Middle Atlantic United States. Work during this period has involved prehistoric and historic sites at all levels of expertise from Field Crewmember to Principal Investigator. Responsibilities have included project design and implementation, field and laboratory supervision, artifact analysis, archival research, report writing, site interpretation to the public, field and classroom instruction, and faunal analysis.

Select Recent Projects

2019	Delineation of Private C. S. Hall Cemetery, Frankford, Sussex County, Delaware.
2018	Phase III Data Recovery Tower Hill, Sussex County Delaware – Groome Church.
2018	Phase I Survey, Eastville Health, Northampton County, Va.
2017	Phase I Survey Jones Farm, Millington, Maryland.
2016 - 2017	Phase I and Phase II Archaeological Survey. Plain Dealing, Denton, Caroline County, Maryland.
2016	Phase I and Phase II Archaeological Survey. Estuary, Sussex County, Delaware.
2015	Phase II Study. Prehistoric Site MBS-9, Millville, Sussex County, Delaware.
2014/2015	Historic Cemetery Removal, Wolfe Family in Lewes, Sussex County, Delaware.
2014	Phase I Survey. Milford Delaware Water Facility, Milford, Sussex County, Delaware.
2013	Phase II Study. ECI Biogass project, Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland.
2013	Phase I Survey. Fusco Property, New Castle County, Delaware.
2003 - 2017	Phase IA, Phase I, Phase II and Monitoring. Over 400 cell tower locations in New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Virginia.
2003 - 2017	Cemetery Delineations in Delaware and Maryland – Over 40 locations.