

Final 9/15/08

OLD FORT UNION AMERICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In 1813 a group of African-American Methodists led by Peter Spencer formed an independent denomination that came to be known as the African Union Church. It was the first incorporated religious body in the United States controlled entirely by African Americans. Early meetings of the Christiana Bridge congregation were likely held at private residences until 1850, when a brick structure was built for worship. In 1854 the group was formally incorporated as the African Union Church of Christiana Bridge. Shortly thereafter, a denominational leadership dispute resulted in the separation of some member churches. The Christiana Bridge congregation followed leaders into a new denomination, and in 1868 they were formally incorporated as the Union American Church of Christiana. In the late 19th century the existing house of worship was moved from its original location. The congregation disassembled the structure and rebuilt it on property purchased from Louis Taylor. In 1898, the church was re-incorporated as the Union American Methodist Episcopal Church of Christiana. When the mortgage was burned, "Old Fort" was added to the church name to commemorate the faithfulness of the congregation. In 1983 Old Fort UAME was added to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the White Clay Creek Hundred Multiple Resource Area.



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
OLD STATE HOUSE • THE GREEN • DOVER • 19901
(302) 736-5685

BUREAU OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

January 16, 1984

Union A.M.E. Church
c/o Rev. James S. Matthews
32 North Old Baltimore Pike
Christiana, DE 19702

Dear Rev. Matthews:

I am pleased to inform you that on August 19, 1983, the Old Fort Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This action was taken by the United States Department of the Interior in response to our nomination of the property.

By this action, the Old Fort Church is recognized as possessing unusual significance to the history of White Clay Creek. Beyond the recognition itself, inclusion in the National Register assures that this office will review all federal projects to determine any effect that they may have on the property. Further, all National Register sites are eligible for federal historic preservation grants-in-aid when federal funds are available, and income-producing properties are eligible for certain tax incentives for historic preservation.

We enclose a certificate attesting to the National Register status of your property. If you have further questions about the program, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel R. Griffith
Chief, Bureau of Archaeology &
Historic Preservation

Enclosure (certificate)

LANDS NOF AUMF CEMETERY
Route 7 & School Bell Road
New Castle County, Delaware

Report on remaining gravestones

On October 8, 1999 I entered the AUMF Cemetery for the purpose of inspecting the remaining gravesites and to document the condition and location of these remaining graves. I found possibly 11 different headstones in various conditions. To follow are descriptions and pictures of my findings.

Grave #1- Headstone reads STEPHEN GALE
 1801-1875
 The headstone is in good condition.
 The burial plot has either been dug up or has eroded into itself.



Grave #2-

Headstone is Unknown
Headstone is lying on the ground in solid shape.
No burial plot noted. Covered by heavy brush.



Grave #3-

Headstone Initials read S. S.
The headstone is embedded into ground halfway.
A small chip of other grave stone lying near by.
No burial mound detected.



PROGRAM

DEDICATION OF
A DELAWARE STATE HISTORIC MARKER
COMMEMORATING THE ORIGINAL
AFRICAN UNION METHODIST EPISCOPAL
(AUME) CEMETERY FOR OLD FORT UAME CHURCH



INTERSECTION OF DELAWARE ROUTE 7
AND SCHOOL BELL ROAD, BEAR,
NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE

Saturday, September 12, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Historic Marker Dedication
African Union Methodist Episcopal (AUME) Cemetery

Saturday, September 12, 2020 — 10:00 a.m.

Introductions

Dr. Carmen A. Jordan-Cox

Prayer

Rev. Donald F. Harris, Pastor
Old Fort Union American Methodist Episcopal (UAME) Church

Welcome

Mr. Richard W. Lewis, Board President
Old Fort UAME Church

Greetings

Bishop Charles L. Amos
Union American Methodist Episcopal Conference

History of the AUME Cemetery

Mr. Myron Neal, Church Steward
Old Fort UAME Church

Remarks

The Hon. David B. McBride,
President Pro Tempore, Delaware State Senate
Senator, 13th Senatorial District

Official Dedication and Unveiling of Marker

Mr. Stephen Marz, Director
Delaware Public Archives

Site of African Union Church and Cemetery

The African Union Church (AUC) of Christiana Bridge built a wood-framed church on this site in 1819. The AUC was the first incorporated religious group in the country controlled entirely by African Americans. The congregation replaced the structure with a brick church in 1850. The church relocated in 1897. Members disassembled the church and transported bricks to the new location. They used the bricks to rebuild the church, which later became known as Old Fort Union American Methodist Episcopal Church. The congregation's first cemetery remained at the original church site, where eleven burials were recorded. The last burial occurred in 1881.

Delaware Public Archives- 2020

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the following individuals, organizations and companies for their support of this important cemetery restoration project:

Senator David B. McBride

Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Cullis Memorials

Delaware Distressed Cemetery Board

Delaware Public Archives

Delaware Senate Democratic Caucus Volunteer Committee

Newark Fence Company

Old Fort UAME Church

Public Allies of Delaware

School Bell Apartments

Stein Tree Service

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Church

The Cutting Edge of Delaware

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Item number N-5276

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INVENTORY FORM: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

9. A. Property Name: Old Fort Church (N-5276)
North Old Baltimore Pike
Christiana, Delaware

B. Location and Verbal Foundary Description:

Old Fort Church is located on the west side of Old Baltimore Pike between Delaware Route 273 and Brown's Lane. The site is almost directly across from the junction with Bayard Road. The building sits on an L-shaped 0.38 acre parcel that fronts 60 feet on Old Baltimore Pike and has a maximum depth of 227.4 feet (1982 New Castle County Property Tax Maps; Map Number 9-30.3, Parcel 17).

UTM Reference: 18/443430/4390890
U.S.G.S. Quadrangle: Newark East, Del.

C. Owner: Union A. M. E. Church
c/o Rev. James S. Matthews
32 North Old Baltimore Pike
Christiana, Delaware 19702

D. Property Description:

Old Fort Church is a one story, gable-roofed brick structure that was constructed in 1897. Its three bay by three bay rectangular, gable front plan rests on a brick foundation with a full basement below. The exterior walls are laid in six course common bond, while the gables are sheathed with various types of decorative wood shingles painted dark green. The shingles alternate hexagonal, pointed and round butts every three rows. The main decorative feature of the building, however, is the modified lancet-type windows that illuminate the main block. These windows are composed of standard six-over-six sash windows with triangular transoms above. The shutters have been removed from these windows and sometime in the early 1940's stained glass panes were installed in the six-over-six sash. A mitred arch two-over-two sash window pierces the facade gable. The only structural changes in the building have been the addition of a brick, gable-roofed vestibule on the facade and an annex on the rear.

A cenetery that was created after 1897 is located to the rear of the Church.

E. Justification of Boundaries:

The boundaries chosen for this building have been set at the property lines of the legal parcel on which it stands. The parcel is bounded by modern residential development on the north, west, and south, and by a busy road on the east.

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INVENTORY FORM: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

F. Significance:

Old Fort Church is significant because it represents an aspect of the contributions of the black community to the history of White Clay Creek Hundred. Old Fort Church is eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C, as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and for its association with events which made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the local past.

A Union American Methodist Church was built on Schoolbell Road (in Christiana Hundred) near Christiana in 1819, and in 1850 a brick structure replaced the original frame one. By the 1880's the church had grown substantially, and since most of the members lived in the Village of Christiana Bridge, a decision was made to move the Church into the Village of Old Baltimore Pike near the crest of the hill. In 1897, the Church was dismantled, the bricks were transported to the new site by horse and wagon where the women washed the bricks and the men reassembled the Church. Since there is no documentary evidence describing the Church before the move, it is not known if it was reassembled exactly in its original form. In the early nineteenth century the name of the Church was changed from Christiana U. A. M. E. Church to Old Fort U. A. M. E. Church. This occurred at a ceremony for the burning of the mortgage at which the congregation decided that having suffered and yet still having paid the debt faithfully, as a flock of Jesus Christ they wished to be called Old Fort.

For many years Old Fort was referred to as a "family church" because most of its members were related to the Neal family by blood or marriage. Five generations of Neals have attended this Church, however, other members have joined during the last five years.

Although it is unclear how much change occurred in the building when it was dismantled and moved, it can be safely assumed that the Church followed the same basic one story, gable front plan that it does in its current rebuilt state. This plan became almost standard for small congregations in the nineteenth century throughout the state. The distinctive feature on Old Fort that sets it apart from the others, however, is the stylized type of lancet window that was used. While most churches of this period employ either pointed-arch sash or elongated sash, Old Fort utilizes standard six-over-six sash that are surmounted by multi-light triangular transom lights to give the effect of lancet windows. This treatment not only creates a striking difference compared to other small-scale churches in the area, but also provides a creative solution for achieving a desired style given limited materials.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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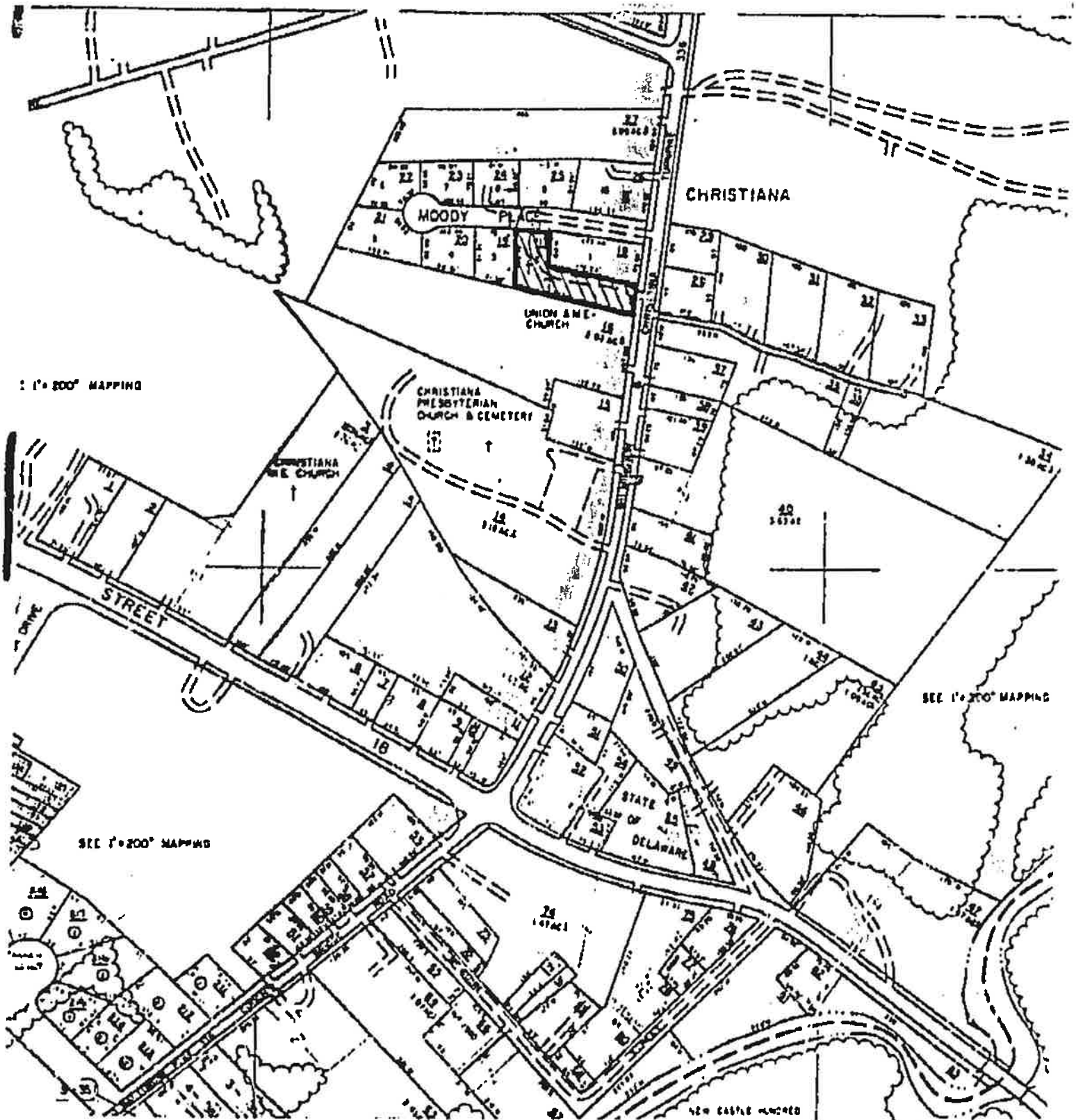
Item number N-5276

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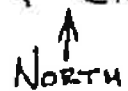
INVENTORY FORM: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

Level of Significance:

The level of significance claimed for the Old Fort Church is local. It has unusual, if not unique, features which make it of interest to the architectural and social history of the County as a whole.



SKETCH MAP



9. Old Fort Church (N-5276)
 New Castle County Property
 Tax Map, 1982
 Map No. 9-30.3, Parcel 17
 Scale 1 inch = 200 feet

9. Name: Old Fort Church (N-5276)

Location: WEST SIDE OF ROUTE 7, APPROX. 1/3 MI.
NORTH OF ROUTE 273, CHRISTIANA, DE

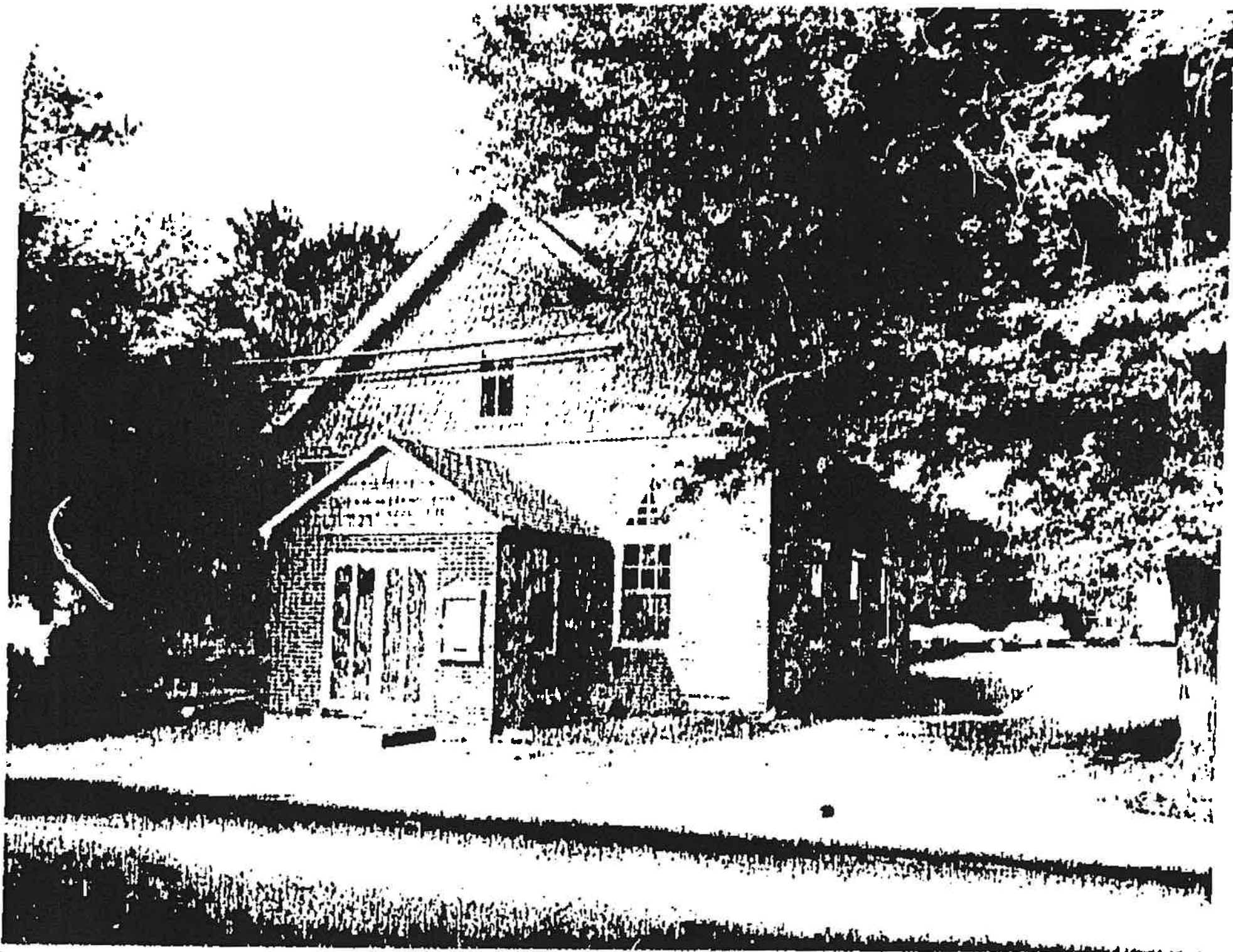
Photographer: RICHARD S. BENT
Date: AUGUST 1982

Location of Negatives: BUREAU OF ARCHAEOLOGY
AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION, DOWEL, DE

Description:

FACADE VIEWED FROM NORTHEAST

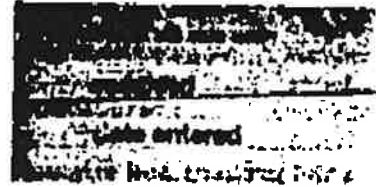
Photograph Number 15 of 19



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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic White Clay Creek Hundred Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number The Unincorporated Area of White Clay Creek Hundred is not for publication

city, town NA NA vicinity of unincorporated area

state Delaware code 10 county New Castle code 002

3. Classification Multiple Resources

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (See Owners List)

street & number NA

city, town NA NA vicinity of NA state NA

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New Castle County Recorder of Deeds

street & number City/County Building, 300 French Street

city, town Wilmington state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

this Delaware Cultural Resource Survey, N-6762 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1952 federal state county local

depository for survey records Bureau of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Old State House, The Green

city, town Dover state Delaware

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National Park Service

OMB NO. 1024-0018
EXP. 10/31/84

National Register of Historic Places
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WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

Owners List

SUBMITTED FOR
D. OF E. ONLY--
OWNER OBJECTION FILED

1. Thomas Montgomery House (N-1601)
Mr. H. C. Levan
Manager - Real Estate
Delmarva Power & Light Company
Post Office Box 231
Wilmington, Delaware 19899
2. James Stewart, Jr., House (N-4003)
Charles Walther, Jr.
563 Walther Road
Newark, Delaware 19702
3. Charles Allen House (N-6755)
Marvin and Anna Hershberger
855 Canoe Road
Newark, Delaware 19702
4. James Steel House (N-6756)
Albert L. Lackman
1016 West Church Road
Newark, Delaware 19711
5. Thomas Phillips Mill Complex (N-6757)
Dr. David Lamb
708 and 712 Nottingham Road
Newark, Delaware 19711
6. Andrew Kerr House (N-6188)
Mr. Kenneth J. Abbruzzese
812 Elkton Road
Newark, Delaware 19711
7. Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church (N-1258)
Rev. Richard Loring
1100 Church Road
Newark, Delaware 19711
and
Head of Christiana Cemetery Assoc.
Post Office Box 918
Newark, Delaware 19711

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WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

Owners List

8. Wesley M. E. Church (N-6758)

~~Marvin R. and Harriet R. Sachs~~
3513 Concord Pike
Wilmington, Delaware 19803

Abraham & Pamela Frederick
P.O. Box 169
Landonberg, PA 19350

9. Old Fort Church (N-5276)

Union A. M. E. Church
c/o Rev. James S. Matthews
32 North Old Baltimore Pike
Christiana, Delaware 19702

10. The James Morrow House (N-224)

Mrs. Anna Stafford
1212 Ogletown Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

11. The Samuel Lindsey House (N-6759)

Elmar Schools, Inc.
Mrs. Ann VanHook
New London Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

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WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

Properties Previously Listed on the National Register

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Listed</u>
A. Rotheram Mill House (N-247)	1972
B. Christiana Historic District (N-1475)	1974
C. Robert Ferguson House (N-3902)	1979
D. Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)	1979
E. Newark Multiple Resource Area (N-6211)	1983

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The White Clay Creek Hundred Multiple Resource Area is made up of eleven sites that contain sixteen historic structures including nine dwellings, three churches and a grist mill, and three outbuildings. The architectural resources discussed here date from the mid-eighteenth century through the late nineteenth century and reflect a period in the history of White Clay Creek Hundred when it was agricultural and rural in character. All of the buildings are located in the unincorporated area of White Clay Creek Hundred, which is one of eleven political units that subdivides New Castle County. The hundred is irregular in shape, contains 25 square miles, and is bounded on the north by the Pennsylvania/Delaware boundary line and White Clay Creek, on the east and south by the Christina River, and on the west by the Maryland/Delaware boundary line.

Although the Multiple Resource Area has been defined as the unincorporated area of White Clay Creek Hundred, one site, the Andrew Kerr House (#4, N-6188), does actually lie within the boundaries of the City of Newark. This is due to the fact that the City limits were extended after research on this property was completed for this nomination. In addition, a multiple resource nomination was written for the City of Newark before the city limits were extended, and so, the property was not included in that nomination. Rather than amend the Newark Multiple Resource nomination, it was decided to retain the Andrew Kerr House in the White Clay Creek Hundred nomination as originally planned.

While all of the structures included in the Multiple Resource Area nomination have been altered to some extent, the principal features of their design and construction are sufficiently intact to convey architectural significance. Insofar as the nominated properties are significant because of historic associations, each retains the essential physical features that made up its character or appearance during the period of its association with important events, historical patterns or persons. For these reasons the nominated properties retain considerable integrity.

A fall line running in an east-west direction through Newark divides White Clay Creek Hundred into two distinct geographic areas. South of Newark the landscape is generally flat with altitudes descending from 100 feet above sea level down to 20 feet over the course of approximately three miles to its southern boundary. North of Newark the character of the landscape suddenly changes to gently sloping uplands that rise from 100 to 300 feet above sea level over the course of approximately two miles to its northern boundary. The Hundred is drained by a network of small creeks that flow into White Clay Creek and the Christina River. These two waterways join and then empty into the Delaware River to the east.

Locally, White Clay Creek Hundred is situated at the western end of the major developmental corridor in northern New Castle County. Interstate 95 and Delaware Route 2 are the major transportation routes.

Historically, development has concentrated around the City of Newark and the Village of Christiana with agricultural land evenly distributed through the rest of the Hundred. Currently the major city in White Clay Creek Hundred, Newark originated as a market center then developed into an industrial and educational community in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Village of Christiana was an important commercial center

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DESCRIPTION: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

in the eighteenth century, located on the main road from Philadelphia to Baltimore at the head of the tidewater navigation. Today, it exists only as a crossroads community on a heavily traveled highway. The only other named concentrations of buildings are McClellandville, Mechanicsville and Ogletown, three nineteenth century hamlets located at road intersections. Ogletown has nearly been obliterated by major highway construction.

The types of historic resources most prominent throughout the Multiple Resource Area are rural dwellings and agricultural sites dating from the middle of the eighteenth century through the early twentieth century, as well as several churches, mill sites, and a school. The buildings chosen for this nomination include nine dwellings, three out-buildings, three churches, and a grist mill—a total of 16 buildings contained on eleven different sites. Four of the sites date from the mid to late eighteenth century, two sites date from the first half of the nineteenth century, and five sites date from the second half of the nineteenth century. Building materials include stone, brick, and frame in vernacular, Greek Revival, Carpenter Gothic, and Second Empire styles.

Buildings and areas previously accorded National Register status within the Multiple Resource Area include the Kotheram Mill House (1972), the Christiana Historic District (1974), the Robert Ferguson House (1979), Public School No. 111-C (1979), and the Newark Multiple Resource Area (1983).

The comprehensive survey of White Clay Creek Hundred was conducted by Gretchen Fitting, Planning Aide for the New Castle County Department of Planning, and six volunteers as well as several students from the American Studies Department at the University of Delaware. The survey was accomplished by driving along each segment of the public road network and down private lanes with the permission of the landowners. Each structure dating prior to 1945 was noted on a map of the area and a Delaware Cultural Resource Survey form was completed for each structure. The Cultural Resource Survey forms that are used to record the survey data are composed of two parts; one is the Locus Identification Form, which pinpoints the exact location and ownership of the building; the second is the Structural Data Form, which records descriptive and historical background information. Each structure was photographed in black and white with a 35mm camera in such a manner as to record its essential architectural character. Whenever possible, the occupants of the pre-1945 buildings were approached to explain the intent of the survey and to obtain information about the particular building. Upon completion of the fieldwork, the photographs, negatives and forms were coordinated and a permanent Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) number was assigned to each structure. This survey data is stored at the Bureau of Archeology and Historic Preservation in Dover, Delaware. Each structure was also plotted on the Master Index State Planning Office Air Photo Mosaic maps and logged into the Inventory Records. The eleven sites included in this Multiple Resource Nomination were chosen from those surveyed and inventoried as all those that qualified under the standards set forth in the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. This inventory is a partial one since it does not include archeological resources. Sufficient archeological site information was unavailable for inclusion in this effort.

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DESCRIPTION: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

All National Register eligible architectural and historical sites in White Clay Creek Hundred, that were identified through a comprehensive survey of the area, have been included in this nomination.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		Local History

Specific dates

Builder/Architect NA

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The historic resources of White Clay Creek Hundred are palpable evidence of the dominant patterns of land speculation and settlement in that hundred from the mid-eighteenth century through the late nineteenth century. These extant resources provide perhaps the only tangible evidence of population distribution and building evolution within the early development areas around the Christiana Bridge and in the western part of the Hundred, and yield important information about subsequent changes in land use and building patterns throughout the nineteenth century. For these qualities, the eleven sites included in this multiple resource area are nominated to the National Register on the basis of criterion C for significance; that is, they embody within the context of White Clay Creek Hundred the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction. Included in this group of architecturally significant buildings are three churches that are nominated to the National Register as exceptions to the usual ineligibility of properties owned and used by religious organizations. Additional significance is claimed under criteria A and B for their association with events and persons which made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the local past.

White Clay Creek Hundred was one of the first hundreds in New Castle County to be inhabited and developed. Land records for this area occur as early as the late seventeenth century. The two major streams, the White Clay Creek and the Christiana Creek were the major attractions for settlements and land speculation. Water power for the development of mills, plus the navigability of the Christiana River from Fort Christina to a fording place known as Christiana Bridge, were major factors in the early development of this area.

The system of roads that developed in this Hundred during the eighteenth century reflect the present major transportation routes from east to west and north to south. The primary east-west route extended from the Elk River in Maryland eastward to Christiana Bridge, further east to Newport, and then to Philadelphia. Today, this route is part of Old Baltimore Pike. Now known as Delaware Route 273, the major north-south artery in the Hundred extended from the Village of New Castle northward to Christiana Bridge, Newark, and Nottingham, Pennsylvania.

During the first half of the eighteenth century, land speculators, who appear to have been merchants, were buying and holding large tracts of land—especially in the easternmost portion of the Hundred where the White Clay and Christiana Creeks joined, and also along Christiana Creek south of Christiana Bridge. Sometime after 1741, a small village began to grow around the Christiana Bridge, which had become established as a shipping point. It remained an important transportation and commercial center through the eighteenth century, however, after the completion of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in 1829, and later the creation of railroad routes, traffic bypassed Christiana (NR 1974) causing the Village to decline. The Thomas Montgomery House (#1, N-1601) and the James Stewart, Jr. House (#2, N-4003) were constructed in the vicinity of Christiana Bridge during its major period of activity.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

Settlement in the western part of White Clay Creek Hundred was concentrated around the crossroads agricultural community of Newark (NR 1983) in the eighteenth century. King George II officially recognized Newark in 1758, granting it corporate privilege to hold a weekly market and semi-annual fairs in the town center. Around the turn of the eighteenth century, a group of Scotch Presbyterians settled in the area just west of Newark near a spring known as Head of Christiana. By as early as 1708 they had erected a log church for their place of worship, and in 1750 they built a brick church near the spring on land that had been donated by James Steel. The current Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church (#7, N-1258) replaced this small brick building after it was destroyed by fire in 1858. James Steel and Andrew Kerr, both influential with the Head of Christiana Church, resided nearby (#4, N-6756 and #6, N-6188).

Due to the many streams that drain the northernmost region of the state, mill industries were an important economic factor in New Castle County during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Although grist and saw mills were most numerous, woolen mills, paper mills, powder mills, a spice mill, and a snuff mill existed. The Thomas Phillips Mill Complex (#5, N-6757), a grist mill dating to 1795, is the only remaining mill complex in the Multiple Resource Area.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, most of the rural area of White Clay Creek Hundred had been developed as agricultural land with mill industries still situated along the White Clay and Christiana Creeks. The two properties that represent this latter period of rural development are the James Morrow House (#10, N-224), built in the 1860's, and the Samuel Lindsey House (#11, N-6759), built in the 1870's.

In material and style, buildings in White Clay Creek Hundred have been consistent with those in the rest of northern New Castle County. Construction materials used in White Clay Creek Hundred in the eighteenth century were primarily log, brace-frame, and brick. Although no log structures survive in White Clay Creek Hundred, there is documentary evidence locating the sites of several. More brick than frame eighteenth century buildings exist, however, this is most likely a matter of survival rather than an accurate representation of ratios. The Robert Ferguson House (NR 1979), estimated to date between 1790 and 1810, is a brace-frame building, while the other four eighteenth century sites in this nomination contain brick buildings. Stone was not used in White Clay Creek Hundred to the extent that it was used in the extreme northern portion of the County because the change in geology makes stone a less plentiful material in the White Clay Creek vicinity. The few stone buildings in this Multiple Resource Area tend to be utilitarian structures such as the bank barn on the Thomas Montgomery property, the springhouse on the James Steel property, and the mill building at the Thomas Phillips Mill Complex. The Andrew Kerr House, which dates to 1805, is one of the few stone dwellings in the area.

Eighteenth century plans consist of asymmetrical vernacular buildings such as the two story, two bay arrangement of the James Steel House and the Robert Ferguson House (NR 1979), and the four bay, hall-parlor plan of the Thomas Montgomery House; as well

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Item number 8

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

as three or five bay Georgian plans such as the Hillis Mansion House in the Christiansburg Historic District (NR 1974). The James Stewart, Jr. House (#1, N-4003), a five bay dwelling that is double pile on one end and single pile on the other end, is an unusual and unexplained form.

Primarily frame or brick, early to mid-nineteenth century dwellings in White Clay Creek Hundred tend to be two story, three or five bay, center hall plans. The Charles Allen House (#3, N-6755) is the only dwelling of this type and period that is included in this nomination, however, its plan is the most commonly found nineteenth century house form in the state.

Later in the nineteenth century, buildings in White Clay Creek Hundred, and in the state, tended toward more diverse Victorian styles. The symmetrical, center hall plan was still preferred, but with the addition of Gothic Revival, Italianate, and Second Empire details, buildings appeared more complex. The Samuel Lindsey House (#11, N-6759), an 1870's Second Empire dwelling, and the James Morro House (#10, N-224), an 1860's dwelling with a gambrel roof and scroll bracket cornice, are both based on the traditional five bay, center hall plan. Additions to earlier buildings during this period also show an interest in more animated detail. Both the James Steel House and the Miller's House at the Thomas Phillips Mill Complex received major additions late in the nineteenth century that tend to overshadow the original structure both in terms of size and the increased use of ornamentation.

The three churches in this nomination are representative of small rural congregations in the nineteenth century. The gable-roofed, oblong, center aisle plan that was employed for all three had become a standard form for all denominations. As with dwellings, the application of ornamentation to a basic plan is what made a difference in style.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Land Records, New Castle County Recorder of Deeds

FOR ADDITIONAL REFERENCES, SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property See individual inventory sheets

Quadrangle name Newark East, Del.; Newark West, Md.-Del.-Pa. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References See individual inventory sheets

A	Zone	Easting	Northing	B	Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the Multiple Resource Area as a whole coincide with the boundaries of White Clay Creek Hundred, excluding the City of Newark.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	NA	code	NA	county	NA	code	NA
state	NA	code	NA	county	NA	code	NA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gretchen Fitting, Richard Jett, Valerie Cesna

organization New Castle County Department of Planning date May 1982

street & number 2701 Capitol Trail telephone (302) 366-7780

city or town Newark state Delaware

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Daniel R. G. Smith*

date 6/21/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

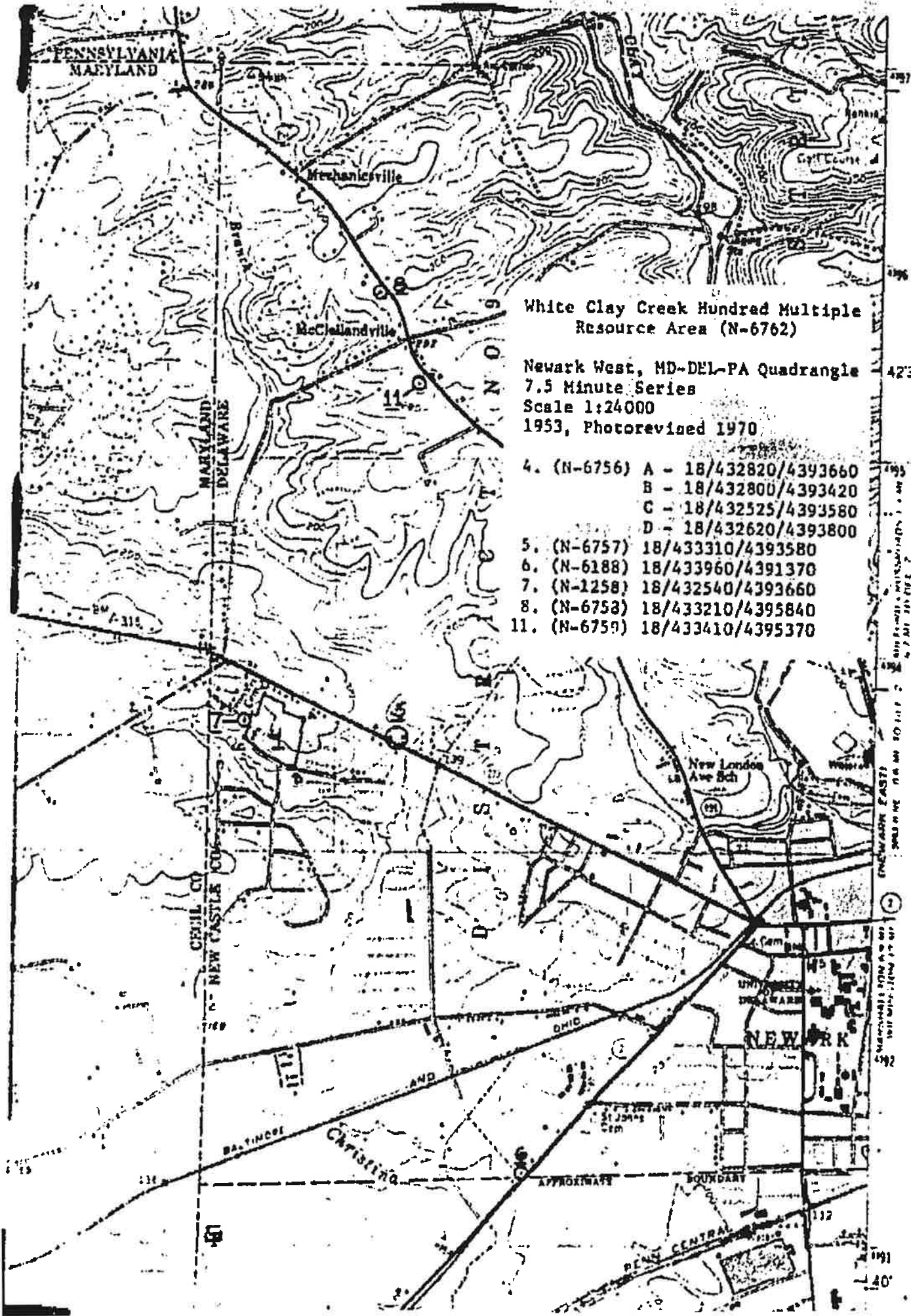


Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

- MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA
- Baist, G. Wm. Atlas of New Castle County, Delaware. Philadelphia: G. Wm. Baist, 1983.
- Beers, D. G. Atlas of the State of Delaware. Philadelphia: Pomeroy and Beers, 1868.
- Book of Records, Old Fort Union American Methodist Episcopal Church.
- "History of the Union American Methodist Episcopal Church," Our Heritage. Hackensack, New Jersey: Custombook, Inc., 1973.
- Land Records, New Castle County Recorder of Deeds.
- Rea, Saml. L. and Jacob Price. "Map of New Castle County, Delaware." Philadelphia: Smith and Wistar, 1849.



White Clay Creek Hundred Multiple Resource Area (N-6762)

Newark West, MD-DEL-PA Quadrangle 42°30'
 7.5 Minute Series
 Scale 1:24000
 1953, Photorevised 1970

- 4. (N-6756) A - 18/432820/4393660
 B - 18/432800/4393420
 C - 18/432525/4393580
 D - 18/432620/4393800
- 5. (N-6757) 18/433310/4393580
- 6. (N-6188) 18/433960/4391370
- 7. (N-1258) 18/432540/4393660
- 8. (N-6758) 18/433210/4395840
- 11. (N-6759) 18/433410/4395370

PENNSYLVANIA

75° 30'

75°

HILL CREEK

BRANDYWINE

WILMINGTON

DELAWARE RIVER

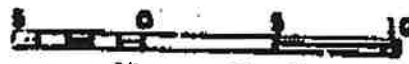
NEW CASTLE

PENCAKE

RED LION

DELAWARE

Delaware Map of Hundreds



STATUTE MILES

39° 30'

ST GEORGES

NEW JERSEY

APPOQUIMINE

PLACEMID

DUCK CREEK

KENTON

LITTLE CREEK

WEST DOVER

EAST DOVER

DELAWARE

NORTH MURDERHILL

BAY

SOUTH MURDERHILL

WILFORD

WESFILLION

CEDAR CREEK

NORTHWEST FORK

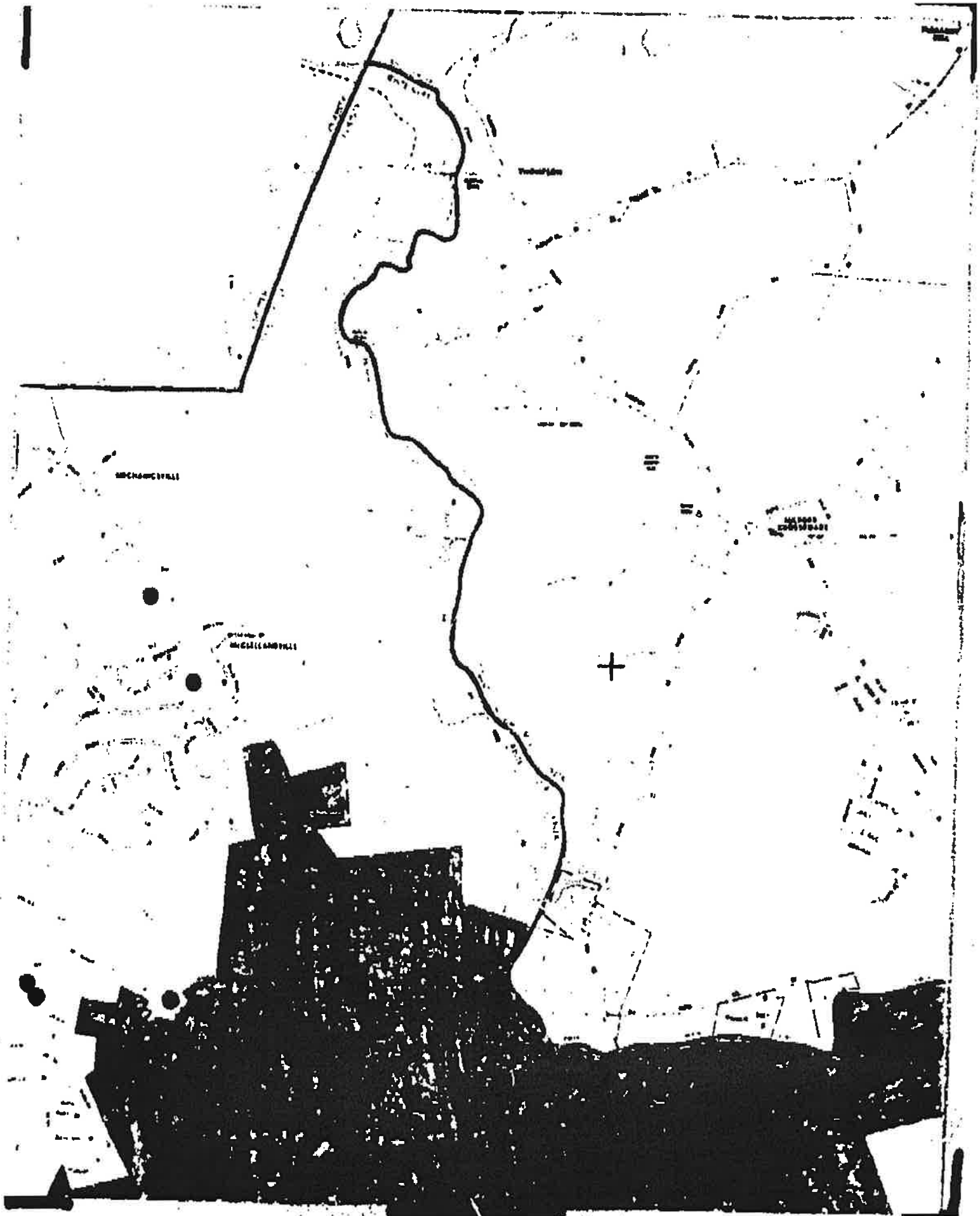
BROADHILL

LEWES &

MARYLAND

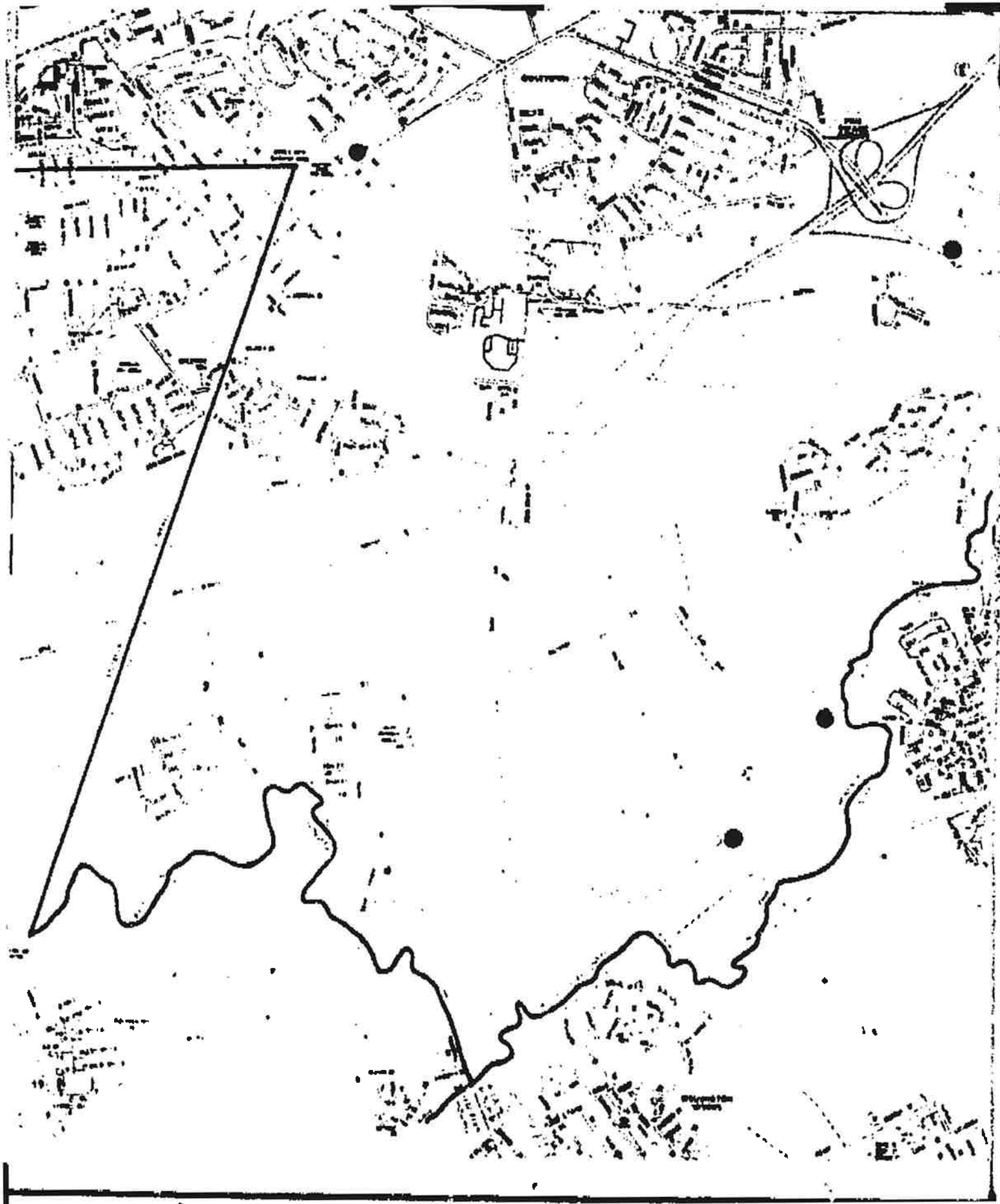
39°

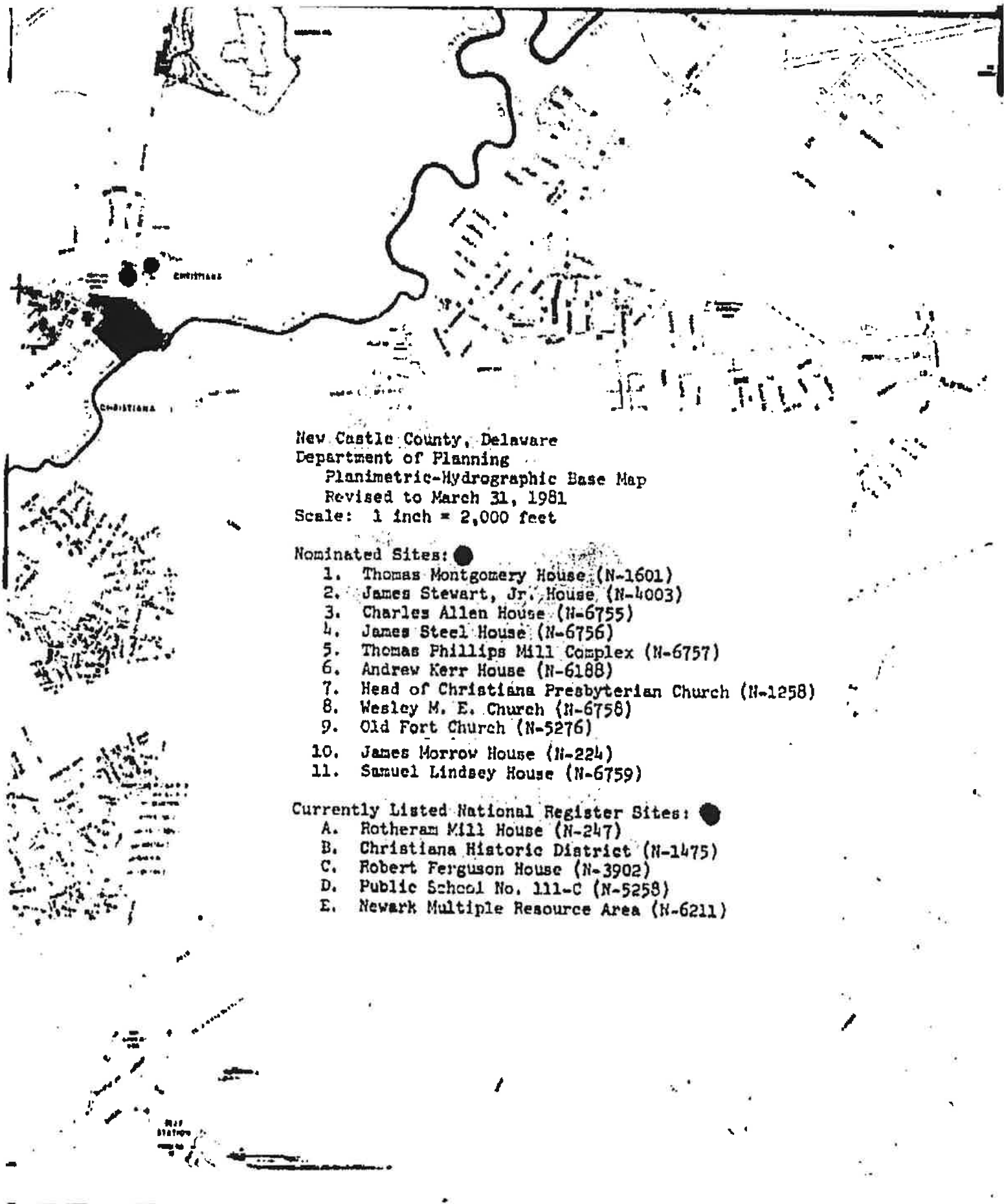
75°











New Castle County, Delaware
Department of Planning
Planimetric-Hydrographic Base Map
Revised to March 31, 1981
Scale: 1 inch = 2,000 feet

Nominated Sites:

1. Thomas Montgomery House (N-1601)
2. James Stewart, Jr. House (N-4003)
3. Charles Allen House (N-6755)
4. James Steel House (N-6756)
5. Thomas Phillips Mill Complex (N-6757)
6. Andrew Kerr House (N-6188)
7. Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church (N-1258)
8. Wesley M. E. Church (N-6758)
9. Old Fort Church (N-5276)
10. James Morrow House (N-224)
11. Samuel Lindsey House (N-6759)

Currently Listed National Register Sites:

- A. Rotheram Mill House (N-247)
- B. Christiana Historic District (N-1475)
- C. Robert Ferguson House (N-3902)
- D. Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)
- E. Newark Multiple Resource Area (N-6211)

Newark Business Directory.

Hotels.
 J. A. Hummel... Proprietor of Washington Hotel.
 Philip Meyer... Proprietor of Delaware House.

Merchants.
 J. F. Williams... Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Glassware, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c.

Springer & Russell... Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Shoes, Hardware, Glassware, Cutlery, &c.
Geo. Evans... Dealer in General Merchandise.
Dr. J. Cook... Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Paints, Oils, Window Glass, Cigars, &c.
A. Leiber, Jr... Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Paints, Cigars, &c.
J. W. Evans... Grain Merchant.
Geo. F. Lippincott... Dealer in Irons, Tin and Tin Ware, Glass, Hosiery and Spinning.

WHITE CLAY CREEK

New Castle Co. Del.

Scale 1 1/2 inches to the inch.



McCLELLANDVILLE

White Clay Creek New Castle Co.
 Scale 40 Rods to the Inch

McClellandville Business Directory.

McClelland... Merchant.
 H. Mackey... Carriage Manufacturer.
 W. Bloodwell... Collector.

DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE DELAWARE

DATE DETERMINED AUG 19 1983

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Montgomery, Thomas, House (White Clay Creek Hundred Multiple Resource Area)	Christiana New Castle County

Also Notified

NPS REGIONAL OFFICE: Mid-Atlantic
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1522 K Street, NW
Suite 430
Washington, DC 20005

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Lawrence C. Henry
Director, Division of Historical
and Cultural Affairs
Hall of Records
Dover, Delaware 19901

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)272-3504.

3



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

SWIFTLY TURNING ON
AND OF HISTORICAL
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

RECEIVED

ARCHAEOLOGY &

AUG 23 1983

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places during the week beginning August 15, 1983 and ending August 20, 1983. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

HISTORIC
PRESERVATION

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

ARKANSAS, Lawrence County, Clover Bend, ■ Clover Bend High School, A R 228 (08/17/83)

CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles County, Hollywood, Security Trust and Savings, 6381-85 Hollywood Blvd. (08/18/83)

CALIFORNIA, Napa County, Calistoga, Brannan, Sam, Cottage, 109 Wapoo Ave. (08/18/83)

CALIFORNIA, Orange County, Santa Ana, Odd Fellows Hall, 309-311 N. Main St. (08/18/83)

CALIFORNIA, Santa Cruz County, Watsonville, Mansion House Hotel, 418-424 Main St. (08/18/83)

COLORADO, Denver County, Denver, Lang, William, Townhouse, 1626 Washington St. (08/18/83)

COLORADO, El Paso County, Colorado Springs, DeGraft Building, 116-118 N. Tejon (08/18/83)

COLORADO, Fremont County, Canon City, Canon City Municipal Building, 612 Royal Gorge Blvd. (08/18/83)

COLORADO, Fremont County, Canon City, Holy Cross Abbey, US 50 (08/18/83)

COLORADO, Pitkin County, Redstone, Osgood-Kuhnhausen House, 0642 Redstone Blvd. (08/18/83)

COLORADO, Pueblo County, Pueblo, Beaumont, Allen, J., House, 425 W. 15th St. (08/18/83)

COLORADO, Pueblo County, Pueblo, Tutt Building, 421 Central Plaza (08/18/83)

CONNECTICUT, Litchfield County, Colebrook vicinity, Phelps Farms Historic District, CT 183 (08/18/83)

DELAWARE, New Castle County, Christiana, Old Fort Church (White Clay Creek Hundred MRA), Old Baltimore Pike (08/19/83)

DELAWARE, New Castle County, Christina vicinity, Allen, Charles, House (White Clay Creek Hundred MRA), 855 Canoe Rd. (08/19/83)

DELAWARE, New Castle County, Christina vicinity, Stewart, James, Jr., House (White Clay Creek Hundred MRA), Whitten Rd. (08/19/83)

DELAWARE, New Castle County, McClellandville, ■ Lindsey, Samuel, House (White Clay Creek Hundred MRA), New London Rd. (08/19/83)

DELAWARE, New Castle County, McClellandville, Wesley M.E. Church (White Clay Creek Hundred MRA), DE 896 (08/19/83)

DELAWARE, New Castle County, Newark, Head of Christiana United Presbyterian Church (White Clay Creek Hundred MRA), 1100 Church Rd. (08/19/83)

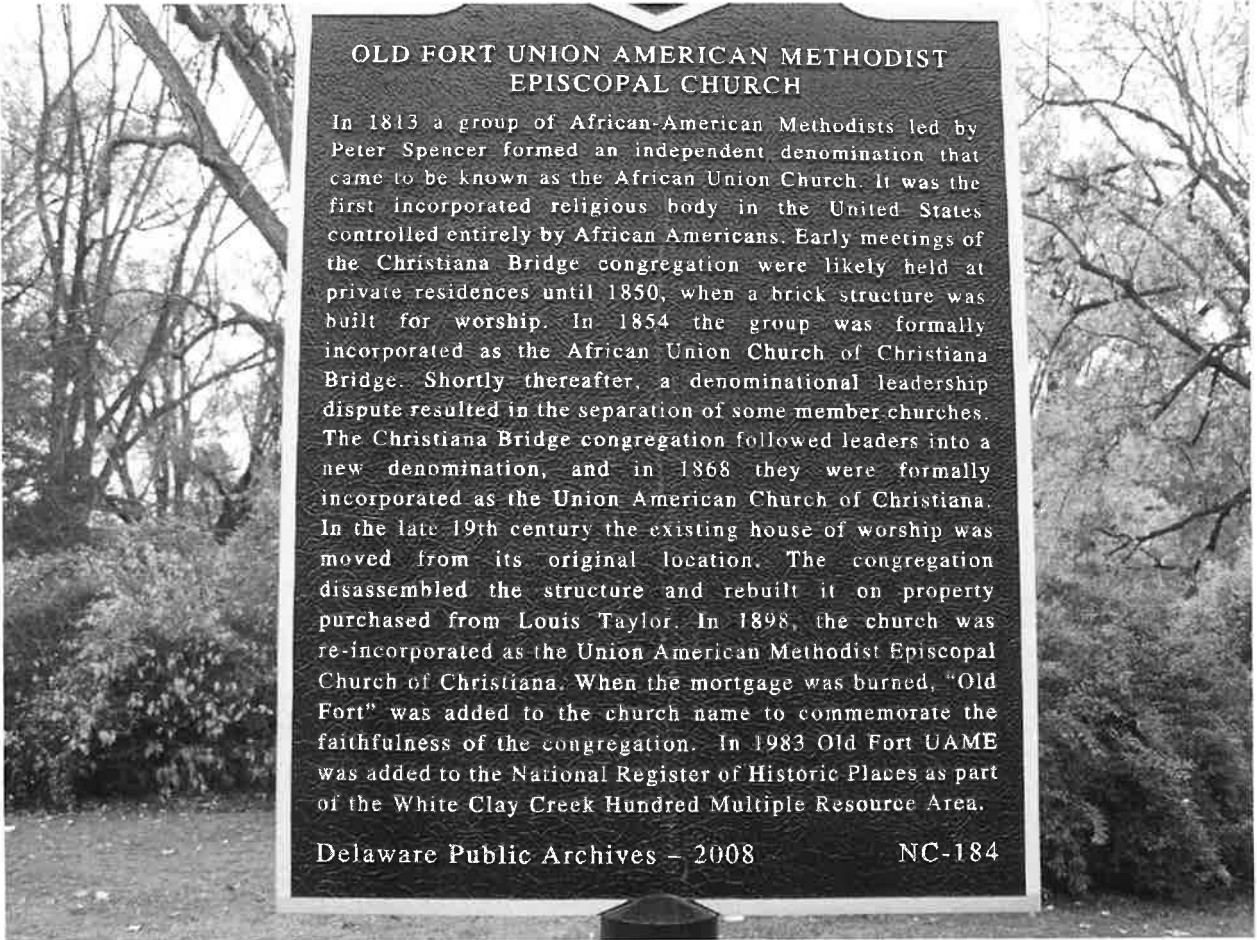
DELAWARE, New Castle County, Newark, Kerr, Andrew, House (White Clay Creek Hundred MRA), 812 Elkton Rd. (08/19/83)

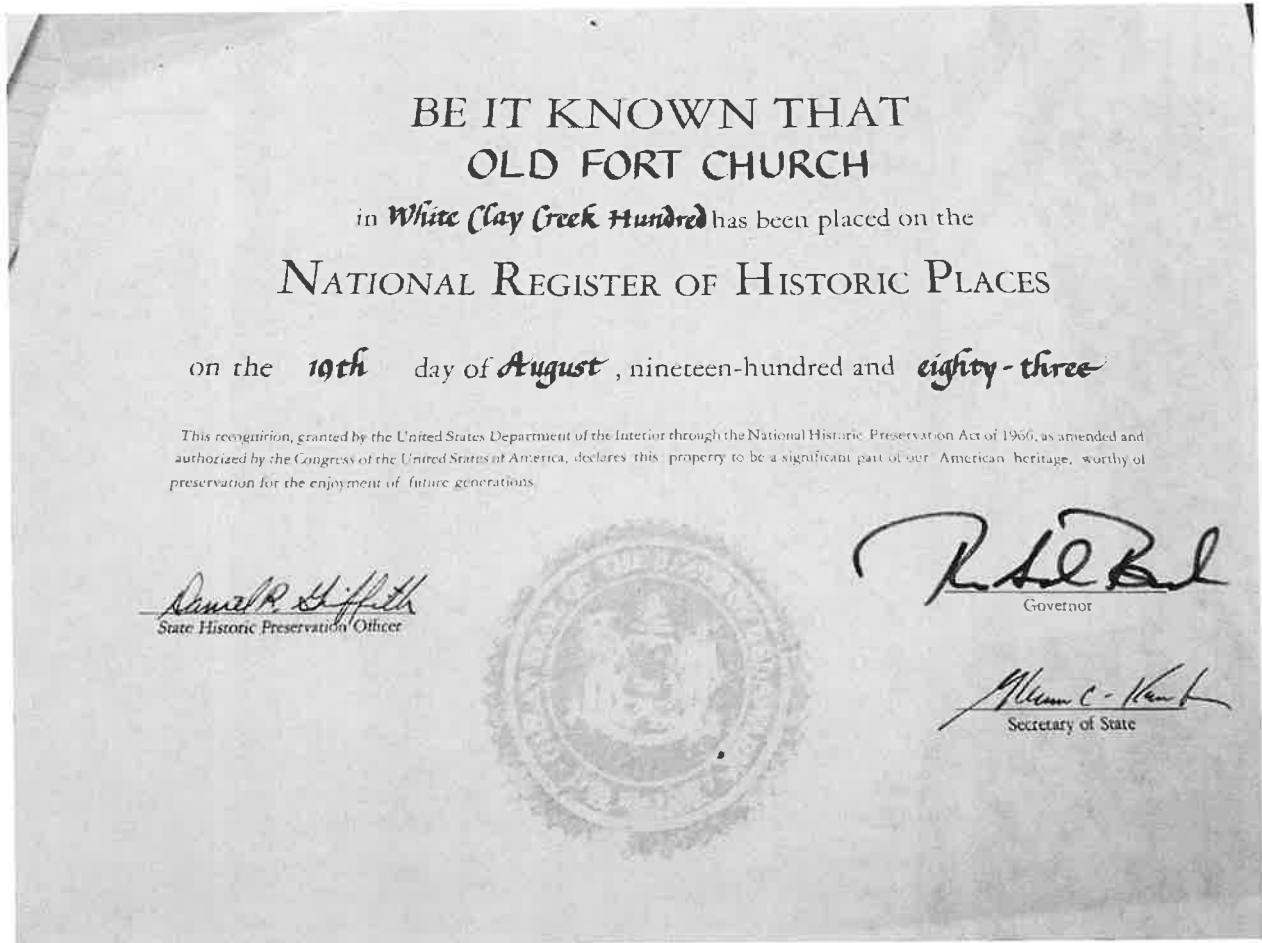
DELAWARE, New Castle County, Newark, Morrow, James, House (White Clay Creek Hundred MRA), 1210 Ogleton Rd. (08/19/83)

DELAWARE, New Castle County, Newark, Phillips, Thomas, Mill Complex (White Clay Creek Hundred MRA), 708 and 712 Nottingham Rd. (08/19/83)

DELAWARE, New Castle County, Newark, Steel, James, House (White Clay Creek Hundred MRA), 1016 W. Church St. (08/19/83)

glare





Carmen Jordan-Cox
1-14-2020



Trying to save a black cemetery

Construction of new luxury apartments threatens overgrown graveyard that dates to the 1800s, but plans are being made to preserve the site

By ROBIN BROWN
Bear Bureau reporter

David Tackett scrambled through dense undergrowth and briars, searching for gravestones. He uncovered one belonging to **BEAR** David Seney, who died "in the 89th year of his age." Seney's crooked stone and caved-in burial spot sits just inches from heaps of dirt and stone from the construction of luxury apartments at Del. 7 and School Bell Road.

Tackett is trying to help save the few, scattered remains of an 1800s' black graveyard near the construction site.

"We've found nearly a dozen stones," he said.

Tackett is working with the leadership of the Old Fort A.U.M.E. Church in nearby Christiana, which owns the 0.27-acre cemetery. They are making plans to clear, preserve and document the site.

New Castle County's Department of Land Use also is evaluating the site, spokesman Tom Hubbard said. That evaluation is expected to be complete within weeks.

When construction began early this year, Tackett wondered about the fate of the graveyard, which he has known since his childhood in Bear's Fairwinds area.

"I played there in the woods when I was a kid," he said. "... And I'm worried what will happen when the families move in. There's barely anything left of it now."

The rapid and widespread loss of black historical sites has been a long-standing trend in all three counties, according to historian Robin Bodo, of Delaware's State Historic Preservation Office.

But that's changing. And the changing trend could benefit the growing effort on behalf of the old cemetery nearly destroyed by time and the elements.

"There's much more focus on African-American resources," Bodo said. "It's been a public outcry, a big public outcry."

The cemetery also enhances the historic significance of the Old Fort A.U.M.E. Church, she said.

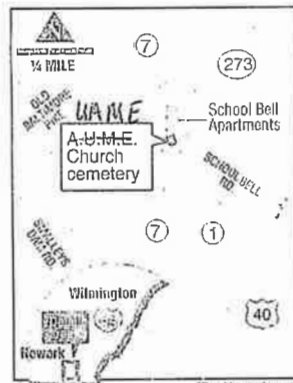
The church was built in the early 1800s in wood next to the cemetery. The sanctuary was replaced with a brick building in 1850, county records said.

The church, moved to its current site at North Old Baltimore Pike and Browns Lane from its original spot next to the cemetery, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



The News Journal/JANET B. CAMPBELL

As a child, David Tackett played in the woods near the Bear-area cemetery owned by Old Fort A.U.M.E. Church. He is working with the church's leadership on plans to clear, preserve and document the old black graveyard.



The News Journal



The grave of David Seney, who died in 1881, "the 89th year of his age," is just inches from piles of dirt and stone from the construction of luxury apartments at Del. 7 and School Bell Road.









LANDS NOF AUMF CEMETERY
Route 7 & School Bell Road
New Castle County, Delaware

Report on remaining gravestones

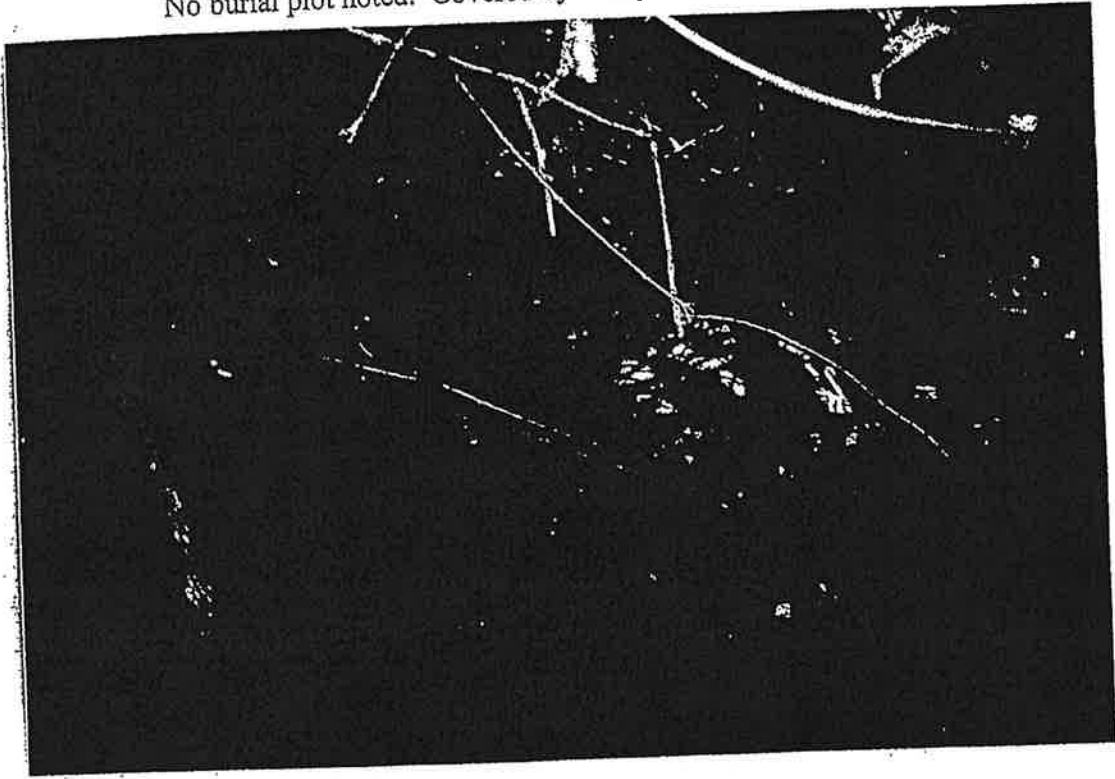
On October 8, 1999 I entered the AUMF Cemetery for the purpose of inspecting the remaining gravesites and to document the condition and location of these remaining graves. I found possibly 11 different headstones in various conditions. To follow are descriptions and pictures of my findings.

Grave #1- Headstone reads STEPHEN GALE
 1801-1875
 The headstone is in good condition.
 The burial plot has either been dug up or has eroded into itself.



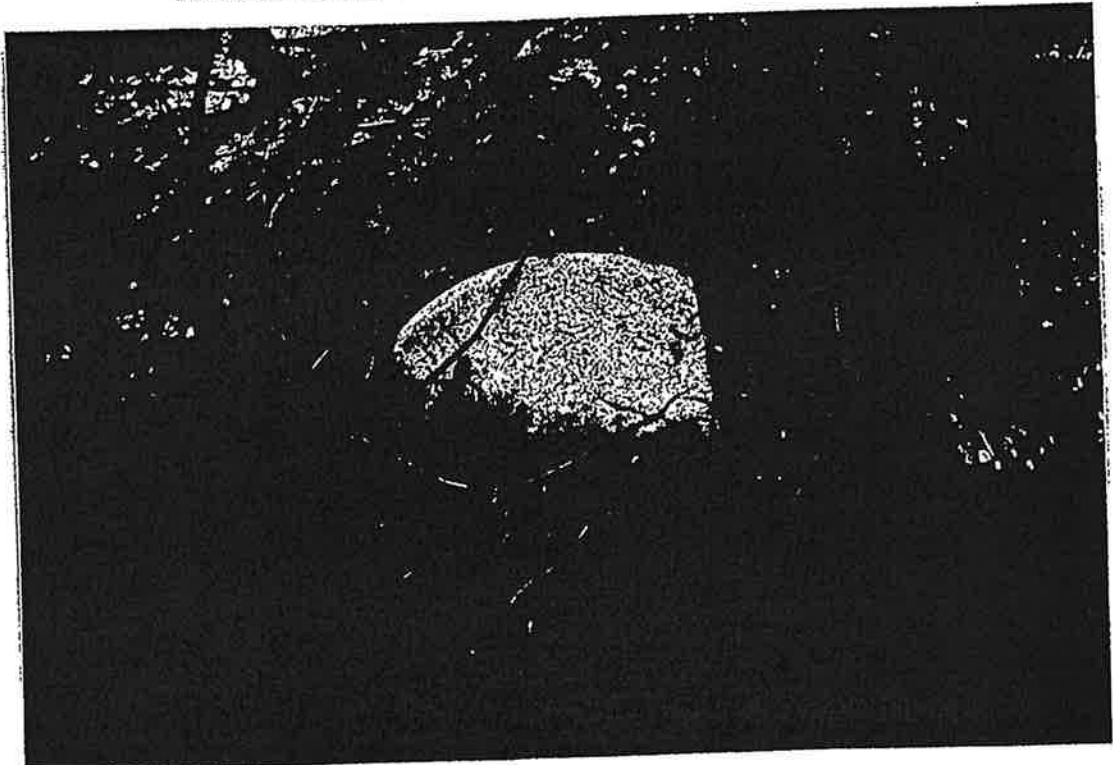
Grave #2-

Headstone is Unknown
Headstone is lying on the ground in solid shape.
No burial plot noted. Covered by heavy brush.



Grave #3-

Headstone Initials read S. S.
The headstone is embedded into ground halfway.
A small chip of other grave stone lying near by.
No burial mound detected.

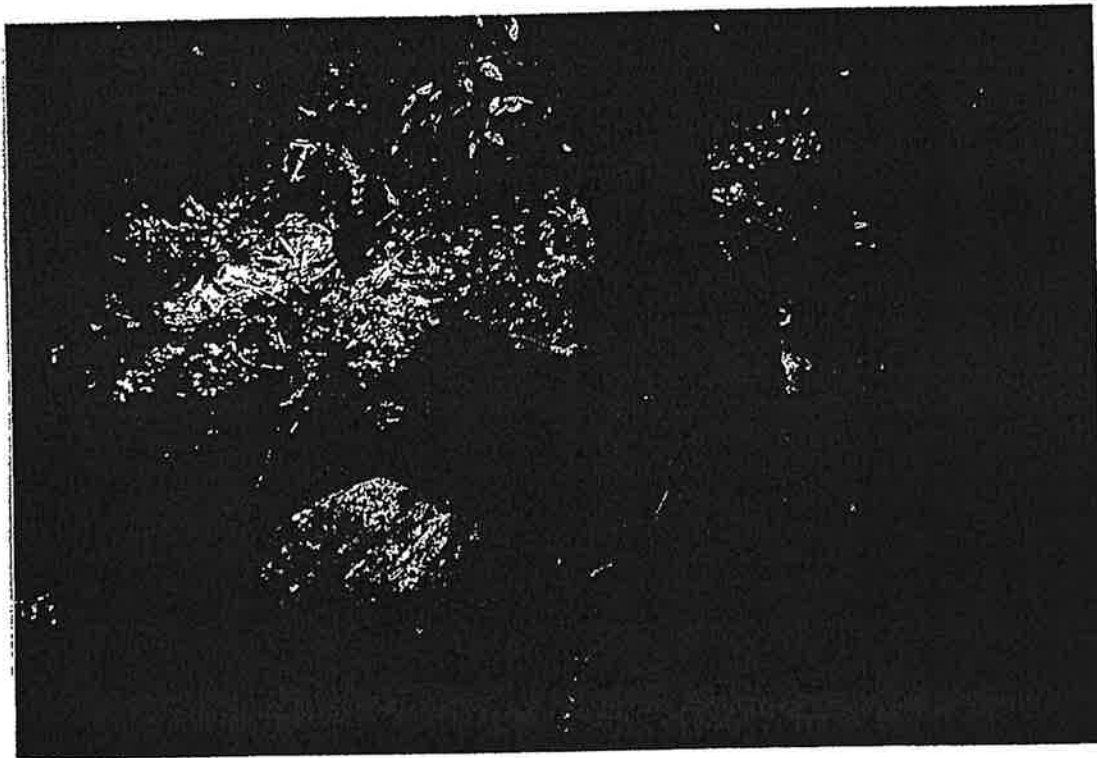


Grave #4-

Headstone Unknown top half missing
Stone is embedded into tree stump.
Partial stone close by embedded into ground.



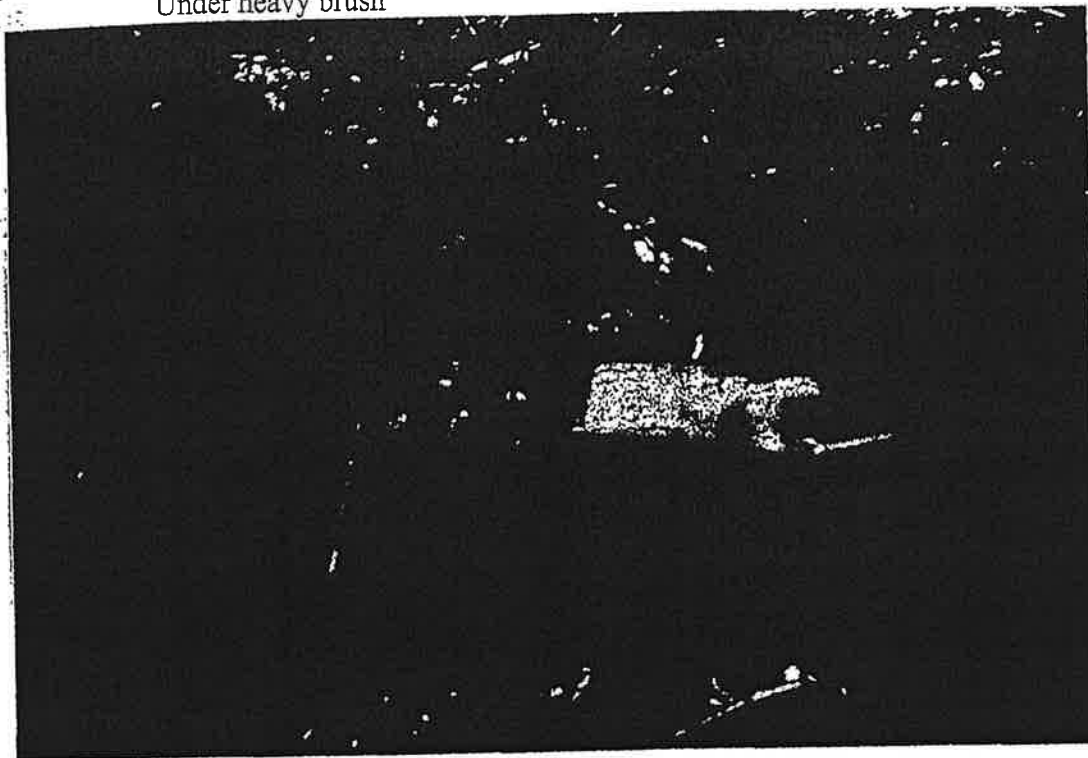
- Grave #5- Headstone Initials S. G.
Stone lying out of ground near sinkhole
- Grave #6- Headstone Unknown Possibly part of # 5
Small portion of Headstone sticking out of ground
Near sinkhole and graves 5 & 7
- Grave #7- Headstone Initials R. B.
Stone is lying on ground near #5 & 6
A few small chips off bottom of Headstone.



Grave #8-

Headstone Initials D. ?.

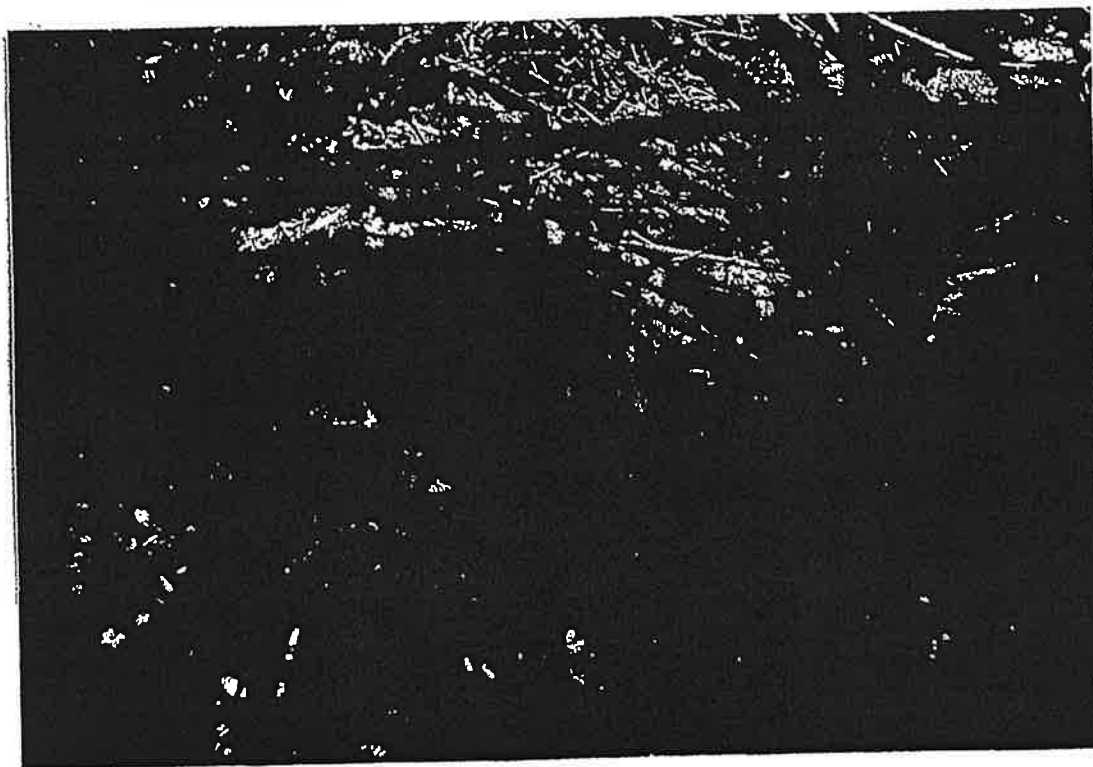
Small stone good condition halfway buried into ground
Under heavy brush



Grave#9-

Headstone Initials M. S.

Full size stone half buried into ground
Good condition

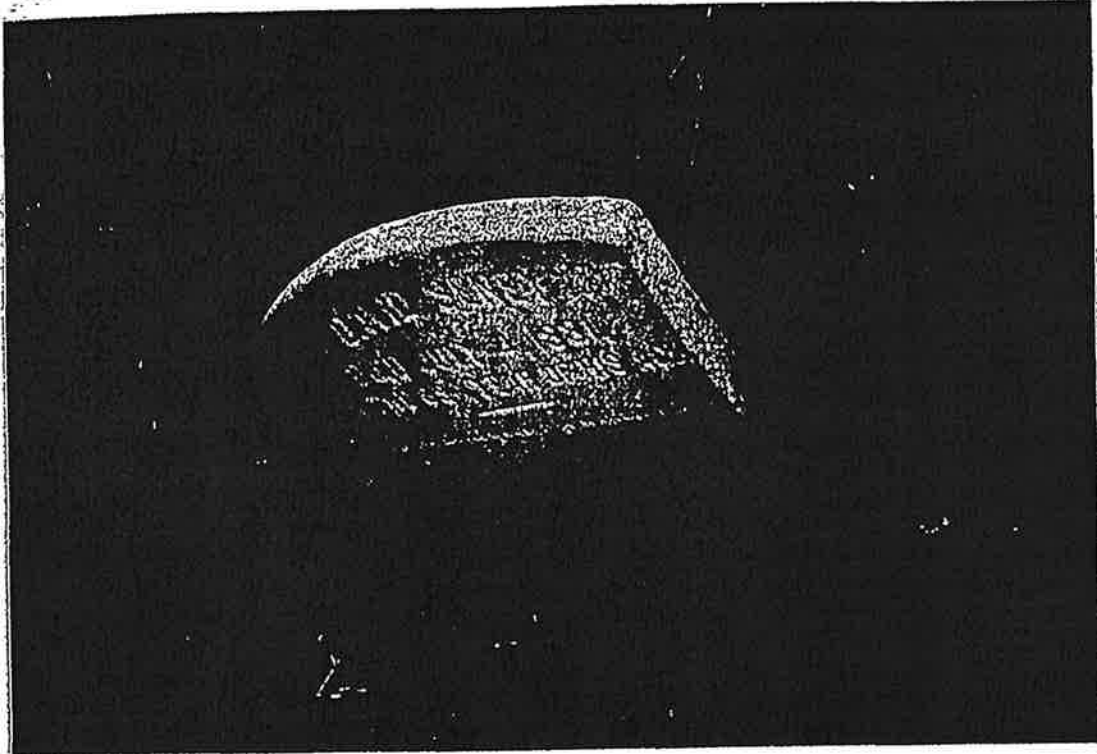


Grave #10-

Headstone Name

David Seney
Died July 4, 1881
In the 89th year of his age

Full size stone in good condition
Slightly tilted into ground

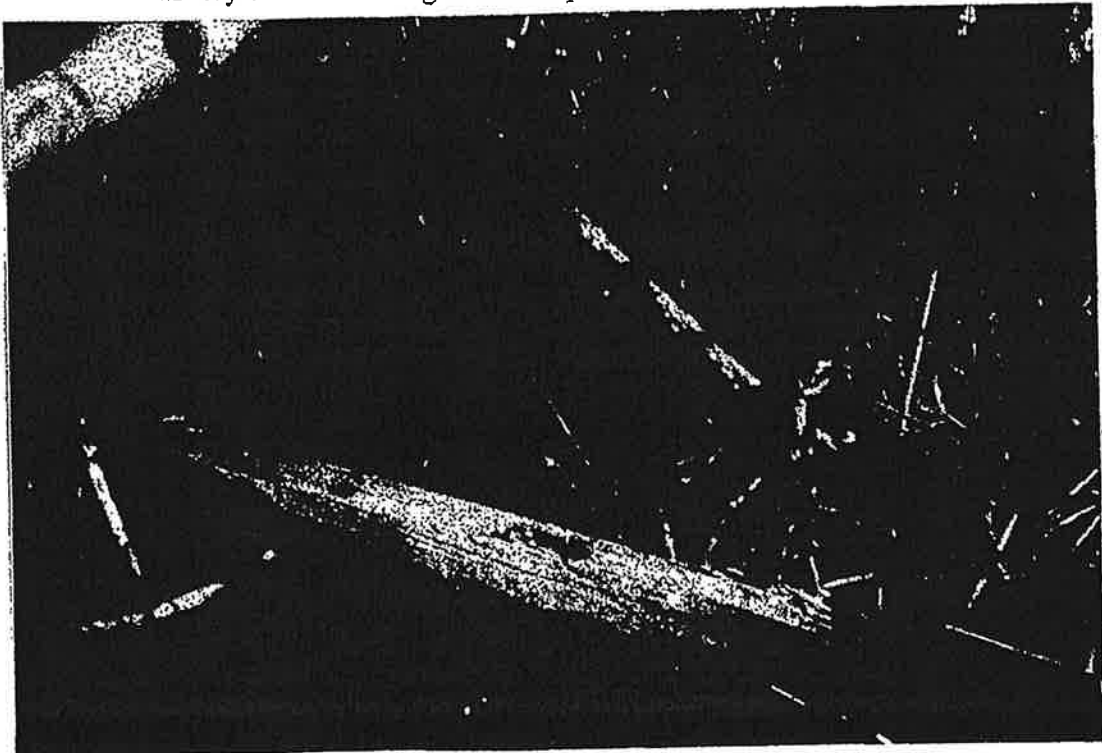


Grave #11-

Headstone Initials

G. D.

Stone in good condition
Heavy debris covering stone and plot



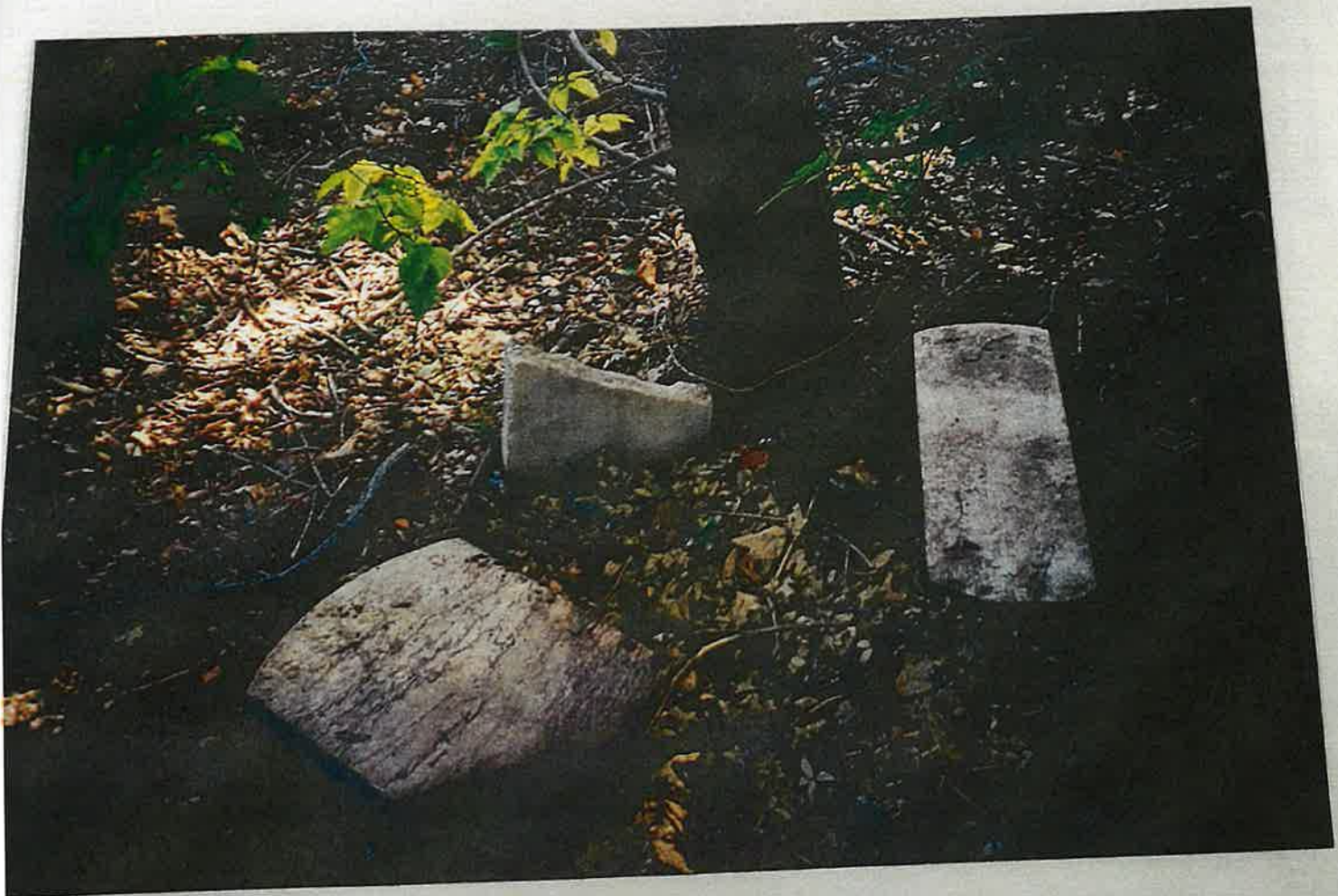
Grave #4- Headstone Unknown top half missing
Stone is embedded into tree stump.
Partial stone close by embedded into ground.



Grave #5- Headstone Initials S. G.
Stone lying out of ground near sinkhole

Grave #6- Headstone Unknown Possibly part of # 5
Small portion of Headstone sticking out of ground
Near sinkhole and graves 5 & 7

Grave #7- Headstone Initials R. B.
Stone is lying on ground near #5 & 6
A few small chips off bottom of Headstone.



Grave #8- Headstone Initials D. ?
Small stone good condition halfway buried into ground
Under heavy brush



Grave#9- Headstone Initials M. S.
Full size stone half buried into ground
Good condition



Grave #10-

Headstone Name

David Sney

Died July 4, 1881

In the 89th year of his age

Full size stone in good condition
Slightly tilted into ground



Grave #11-

Headstone Initials

G. D.

Stone in good condition

Heavy debris covering stone and plot



THE CHURCHES OF DELAWARE

by

FRANK R. ZEBLEY

Author of "Along the Brandywine"



*A history, in brief, of the nearly 900 churches
and former churches in Delaware as
located by the Author.*

1947

Christiana Presbyterian Church. On May 18, 1708, at a meeting of the Philadelphia Presbytery, a letter was received from the residents of the White Clay Creek section asking that the gospel be administered nearer their place of abode. Letters from the New Castle congregation were read objecting "to disrupting this congregation." The Presbytery ordered that there should be no division but that the Rev. Mr. Wilson should preach in New Castle on one Sunday and in the country on the following Sunday.

Tradition and circumstantial evidence set the period 1730-38 as the time when this church was founded. A plot made on July 28, 1738 showed the church as standing at that time. It was of frame construction and measured 26 ft. by 36 ft. At a later date 20 ft. were added to the western end of the building.

At the time of the schism in the Presbyterian Church, in 1741, the Christiana Church attached itself to the "new side." This breach was healed in 1758. In the meantime, the "new side" records during that period have been lost.

The church site, of 80 sq. perches, was donated by Rees Jones on Aug. 19, 1752, in the 26th year of the reign of King George, II, of England.

On June 11, 1800, the sexton's pay was set at \$4.00 per year and the prices on digging graves were set at 75 cts., \$1.00 and \$1.50. The church was incorporated on Mar. 13, 1800. In 1802, the front stone wall and a new church roof were built.

On Oct. 14, 1837, one of the church members was reported to the Session as having been seen intoxicated. A committee was appointed to call on him; which they did and he was very repentant and promised not to drink liquor in the future. At a later date, he was reported to have fallen a victim again and he was expelled from the church. When the Moderator checked the Session minutes he disapproved the action of expulsion without written charges and a trial. The former action was rescinded and he was again received into the church. It is to be hoped that his reformation was complete as no further mention of him appears in the minutes.

On Nov. 28, 1856, the project of building a new church was discussed. A building committee was appointed on Dec. 28, 1856. The old frame church was sold at public auction on Sat., July 4, 1857.

The corner-stone of a new church was laid on Sept. 8, 1857. Those taking part included the Revs. Dr. D. H. Emerson, George Foot, Wm. Aikman, Geo. F. Wiswell and Mr. Gaylord.

The dedication services were held on June 8, 1858. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. J. Jinkins and the dedicatory prayer was offered by the Rev. Geo. Foot. This was followed by a series of meetings during the next two weeks.

The church seal was adopted on June 21, 1860. The first communion service, of pewter, is still used on special occasions.

After extensive renovations, a reopening service was held on Sept. 4, 1921, by the Rev. David A. Reed. Colonel John Read, father of George Read, the Signer, who died on June 15, 1756, and his wife are both buried in the adjoining graveyard. The oldest tombstone that the writer could find is that of Ruth Adams, who died on Dec. 6, 1754.

There are two colored churches at Christiana. **R. Trinity A. M. E. Church** was founded in 1884, and **Union A. M. E. Church** was incorporated on May 6, 1854. The present church was built in 1897.

Salem Methodist Church (M.E.) is located three miles s. e. of Christiana. Meetings were held as early as 1771 in the home of Isaac Hersey. Trustees were

1875.

Stephen Gale
Will and Testament

No. 1.

In the name of God Amen.

I Stephen Gale of Red Lion Hundred New Castle County and State of Delaware being of sound and disposing mind and memory do make this my last will and Testament revoking any and all others made by me

Item, first: I Stephen Gale will and bequeath to Ann Gale my wife all my Personal and Real estate her life time.

Item, second. I Stephen Gale will and bequeath at the death of my wife all my Personal and Real estate to Elizabeth Holland and Margaret Gale their life time, the said parties are not to let the property depreciate in value nor are they to have the power to sell or barter the same.

Item third. At their death I will and bequeath my Real estate to the American Union Church at Christiansa the stewards of said Church are to keep said Real estate in good repair and the Church to have the balance of the proceeds from said properties.

Item fourth. I make and appoint Ann Gale my legal executrix to this my last will and Testament.

In witness whereof that this writing on this page marked at top No. 1. is my last will and Testament I have hereunto set my hand and seal this nineteenth day of April A. D. eighteen hundred and seventy five. (1875)

Signed sealed and declared in to be his last will and Testament in the presence of me the subscribers witnesses

Stephen ^{his} Gale
mark



Samuel Sibley
George Hawthorn

Newcastle County, S. D.

Personally appeared before me
Sewell La Biggs Register for the probate of Wills in
and for the County aforesaid Samuel Silver and
George Hawthorn the subscribing witnesses to
the foregoing Instrument of writing who being
duly severally sworn according to law, did say
they saw Stephen Hale the Testator sign said
Instrument of writing by making his mark
and heard him publish and declare the same
as and for his last will and testament; that it
was in his presence at his request and in the
presence of each other they subscribed their
names ~~their names~~ thereto as witnesses and
that at the time of their so doing the Testator
was to the best of their belief of a sound and
disposing mind and memory.
In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand at
Newcastle this 11th day of May A. D. 1875

S. C. Biggs Register

1875.

Inventory of
Stephen Gale's
Estate

Cedron, Delaware, May 15th 1875.

Personal effects of Stephen Gale, deceased.

Household effects

Beds, chairs & tables &c

\$ 50.00

Iron Shroats

10.00

Real Estate

Two acres & parcels of land with
log house, sheds &c thereon erected

\$ 300.00

Attest

Sam^l Silber
Henry M Silber

in and for Newcastle County

Estate of Stephen Gale dec'd.

INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT.

State of Delaware, } ss.
NEW CASTLE COUNTY,

WE, Samuel Silber and Henry M. Silber
do solemnly swear — that we will appraise the goods and chattels of
Stephen Gale — deceased, at their true value in money
according to our best judgment; and that we will perform our duty as appraisers with
fidelity. So help us God

Samuel Silber
Henry M. Silber

WE, the subscribers. do on oath — say that the goods and
chattels in this Inventory have been appraised by us at the sums stated, which are, accord-
ing to our best judgment, their true value.

Samuel Silber
Henry M. Silber

New Castle County, ss. Ann Gale
make solemn oath that she made due inquiry concerning the
goods, chattels and money of Stephen Gale
deceased; and that this Inventory doth contain all the goods, chattels, and money of the said
Stephen Gale — which have come to the knowledge of the
Executrix : and that she made due inquiry concerning the
debts and credits due or belonging to Stephen Gale
deceased, and that the annexed list doth contain all the debts and credits due or belonging
to the said Stephen Gale which have come to the
knowledge of the said Executrix

Ann Gale
her
mark

Subscribed and sworn the 11th day of September
1875 before Wm. L. Vire Justice of the Peace &c
in and for New Castle County

1876

First Wind settlement

of
Stephen Gales
Estate

May 12/76

H. 574

First and Final
of the last will of ~~Elizabeth~~

1876

May 12

The Executing charges
herself with the foll
-owing amounts received
to wit

Amount of Inventory
and Appraisal \$ 60 00
Cash Recd of Ephraim Sterling
Book account 5 00
Cash Recd from Elizabeth
Rhodes Book Account 5 00 70 00

Executed Excepted
Ann ^{her} Gale
mark

Witness
Sam^l Silber

Account examined and
justified & passed May 12th 1876
S. C. Biggs
Register

70 00

Settlement of Ann Gale Executrix
 per ^{of} Gale Red Lion hundred deceased

1876
 May 12

The Executrix craves an
 Allowance for the fol-
 lowing Amounts paid
 To Wit:

Cash paid Registered fees	8.75	
" " Wash Barron funeral Exp	20.00	
" " William Williams digging Grave &c	5.50	
" " Dr Sutherland services		
Medical services pro &c	<u>27.25</u>	61.50

Commissions Allowed
 Executrix 5.50

Register setting and filing
 Recording and indexing
 settlement stating account
 and Copy 3.00 8.50

70.00

from or under law, than or any of them shall not will demand and
power defend by their parents, or others whom the said party of the
said first said hath named and has named and used the day and year
first above written

read and returned
in presence of us
Edward Chalmers
John S. White

Wm. White

Received the day of the rate hereof paid consideration for the sum of
hundred

Received March 25: A.D. 1854

State of Delaware

whereof the sum of 200, that now to wit the tenth day of March in
the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty four,
before me Henry White Chancellor of the State of Delaware per
sonally appeared the said named Edward Chalmers party to the pre
sent instrument, who in due form of law solemnly depose that the
said instrument to hereof and read and done that it may be
recorded, he knows nothing of any kind at any time the
day and year aforesaid

Henry White, Chancellor

Received for record of the sum of 100, one hundred and fifty four
A.D. 1854, one thousand eight hundred and fifty four

**Incorporation of the African Union Church of Christiana County, in the
State of Delaware.**
of the records of deeds in and for New Castle County in the

State of Delaware, that a meeting of the
members of the religious society or congregation known as the African
Union Church of Christiana County (the said society consisting of
more than fifteen persons) was held at the usual place of meeting of
said said society or congregation on Saturday the 10th day of
May A.D. 1854 at 2 o'clock P.M. to elect trustees in order
that the said society or congregation might become incorporated
agreeably to the laws of the State of Delaware, the day previous
to the first day of said meeting having been given by advertisement at
written by a plurality of members of said society present, that
wherein was to wit (the undersigned) for said society were duly
elected at said meeting to act as trustees and the undersigned the trustees
of Christiana County and directed the undersigned the trustees
to file in the records of deeds for the County of New Castle
to the State in such case made and printed, do witness

47

whereof we have herunto set our hands and seals this 7th, day
of June A.D. 1854,

signed and sealed
in presence of,
Wilson Morris
Thomas Blackson

Isaac Bostick
Lewis W. Porter
Perry Daniels & his
James Pease & his
James Busco & his
Robert Bailey & his
Henry Bishop & his

Received for Record June tenth A.D. one thousand eight hundred
and fifty four,
W. D. Oehlert, Recorder

This Indenture made the sixth day of August in the
year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty one Between
Levi Gause and Martha W. his wife, Nathana Gause, William Gause
and Mary his wife of Chester County, Pennsylvania, Charles E. Gause
also of Chester County aforesaid (formerly of Burlington, Kentucky) Lea W.
Gause and Elizabeth his wife of Lancaster County, Levi's Gause and
Sarah his wife of Germantown formerly of Harrisburg, Mary B. Gause
of Harrisburg in the State of Pennsylvania and Washington Gause and
Rebecca R. his wife, and Sol King and Lavinia his wife of the City of
Wilmington, in the State of Delaware all of the first part and Samuel
Gause of the City of Wilmington aforesaid of the second part, Witnesseth
that the said parties of the first part for and in consideration of the
sum of Five hundred and seventy five dollars lawful money of the
United States of America, unto them well and truly paid by the said
Samuel Gause at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents
the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have devised, granted, bar-
gained, sold, aliened, conveyed, released, conveyed and confirmed
and by these presents do devise, grant, bargain sell, alien, convey,
release, convey and confirm unto the said Samuel Gause and to his
heirs and assigns, All that certain Lot or tract of land, situate
lying and being in the City of Wilmington aforesaid, and more
particularly bounded and described as follows, Beginning at a point
on the west side of west street twenty two feet north of the easterly
side of Eleventh street, and running thence north fifty eight degrees
west eighty feet to a corner, thence north thirty two degrees east sixteen
feet to another corner, thence south fifty eight degrees east eighty feet
to the side of west street aforesaid, and thence thenceby south thirty
two degrees west sixteen feet to the place of beginning, containing one
thousand two hundred and eighty square feet of land be the same
more or less, (It being the same lands and premises of which the said
Levi Gause, Nathana Gause, William Gause, Charles Gause, Lea Gause, Levi's
Gause, Mary Gause, Samuel Gause, Washington Gause and Lavinia wife
of Sol King became seized in fee as tenants in common by virtue of

WILMINGTON MORNING NEWS, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



POWCH, Hercules Powch head, has been rector of Central Research and a dent of Food Ma and Chemical Cor- chemical divi

ved as chairman of ment committee. of the International Chemistry, the Food tural Organization of Nations, The Society l Industry (England) ciete de Chimie In- France.

L FOR WIFE CES GALA FETE

LU, T. H., Nov. 16 S. Army captain left today aboard a Mil- ansport Service plane ye in New York where and his wife's funeral the homecoming party ned.

n H. Greve was leav- by ship Monday after is tour of duty in Ko- ne was advised of his h in New York.

was taken from his t Yokohama and given riority for his flight

the father of three

py buyer-hunting call Ads 4-3351.

DUMP CLOSED AT NEW CASTLE

Special to the Morning News

NEW CASTLE, Nov. 16—One of New Castle's biggest "eyesores," the old city dump, is now a thing of the past.

The dump ceased to be yesterday when the street department cleaned, graded and closed off the area. The men then commenced the operation of a sanitary landfill at a new location obscured from public view on low-lying land of the Chicago Iron and Bridge Company.

Long a target of the local Board of Health and other civic groups, the council has been striving for years to get rid of the dump, located on one of the main approaches to the community.

Finally after much study the lawmakers decided it was impossible to secure the necessary land in the city for an incinerator. They then decided upon the landfill practice. After considerable negotiation they were able to reach an agreement with the Chicago firm to use part of their low land along the river, north of the city. The company has no plant here but owns a large industrial site along the river.

A D-2 Caterpillar tractor, purchased at a cost of \$7,800, arrived yesterday. Richard T. Wilson, landfill engineer, has instructed city employes in the use of the equipment and how the landfill practice should be carried out.

Each day's deposit of trash and rubbage will be bulldozed over. When a low area is sufficiently filled the section will be levelled and eventually will result in a land improvement.

Meanwhile residents in the vicinity of the old rat-infested dump will no longer be plagued with smells, unsightly appearance or odors.

J. Harry Truitt, president of council, said the old area will be planted.

STONE IS RETURNED TO UAME CEMETERY

New Castle County police have solved the mystery of the wandering tombstone.

By a systematic check of the older graveyards in the area, Patrolmen Richard Hill and Homer Guest, yesterday found the rightful resting place for a tombstone found last week near the New Castle County Airport.

Police are of the opinion that Halloween vandals broke the stone from its foundation and abandoned it.

The stone, which has been re-

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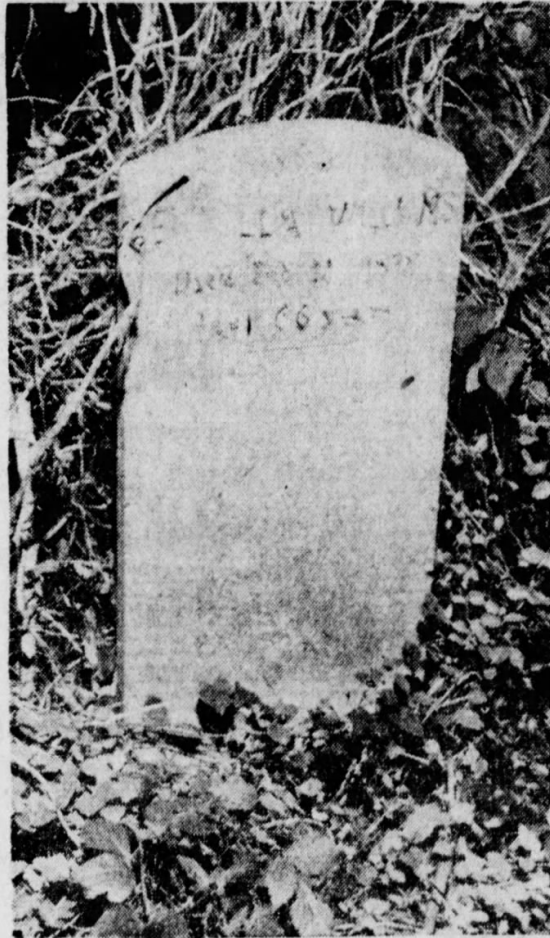
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determine the efficiency of oper- 107, Teamsters Union, The Met was opened in 1833,
See POLICE—Page 14, Col. 4 See STRIKE—Page 16, Col. 1 See OPERA—Page 25, Col. 4

'Lost' Cemetery Found at Clinic Site



Morning News Photo

OVERGROWN WITH VINES, WEEDS AND BRUSH, a "lost" Negro graveyard, near Christiana, dating back to 1819, has got into the news because of uncertainty of its ownership today. The gravestone above is that of the Rev. William Williams, a former pastor of the UAME Church, which once stood alongside the graveyard. He died Feb. 19, 1878.

UAME Church Believed Owners of Plot at Christiana

By WALTER E. F. SMITH

Ownership of a "lost" cemetery near Christiana, believed to have been acquired by a Union American Methodist Episcopal congregation in 1819, has become of interest with the recent sale of a large tract surrounding the burial ground.

Indications are that Old Fort UAME Church, rebuilt in the town of Christiana more than 60 years ago, probably still owns the abandoned graveyard three-quarters of a mile away.

The graveyard lies within an 86-acre farm which has just been sold by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. VandePoele to the Sisters of St. Francis, who plan to build a hospital-clinic and ultimately a general hospital on the tract.

The tiny graveyard, about 100 by 80 feet, does not, however, figure in the sale of the VandePoele property because it is not owned by the VandePoeles.

They said that they understood the graveyard, on which there are still a number of headstones, belongs to the Old Fort UAME Church, which once stood alongside the graveyard.

However, if the Old Fort UAME Church owns the long abandoned graveyard near Christiana, the pastor, the Rev. W. H. Harris; the presiding elder of the district, the Rev. E. H. Barkley; and trustees of the church are not aware of it. None of them seems to know the whereabouts of the deed to the old graveyard.

See CEMETERY—Page 7, Col. 3 See F.

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WILMINGTON MORNING NEWS, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE. WEDNESDAY

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Cemetery-

Continued From First Page

The church has had its own small cemetery on the outskirts of Christiana for many years.

According to oral tradition among members of Old Fort UAME Church, the old graveyard near Christiana has not been used for probably at least 75 years. A Morning News photographer yesterday found and photographed a gravestone of a former pastor, the Rev. William Williams, who died Feb. 19, 1878.

Officials of the Old Fort UAME Church in Christiana said that the present church was erected with the same bricks and other materials in the original UAME Church which once stood alongside the abandoned graveyard, about three-quarters of a mile from the present church. That church, erected in 1850, was dismantled some 65 to 68 years ago.

Louis H. Waters, Sr., 20 Bayard Street, Christiana, a trustee of Old Fort UAME Church, who is more than 75 years old, remembers that as a young boy he helped load bricks from the razed old church into wagons which transported them to the present site in the town of Christiana.

Another veteran member and trustee of Old Fort UAME Church, Richard Neal, Sr., 7 North Old Baltimore Pike, Christiana, also failed to recall whether the church still owns the old, abandoned graveyard or not.

His son, Richard Neal, Jr., chairman of the board of trustees, said that he is sure the church had never sold the old abandoned graveyard, but that it is believed the deed to the property was lost when the church was razed.

Proof of ownership of the abandoned graveyard would likely be difficult, unless the deed is found, Mr. Neal, Jr., said, but he expressed the belief that the church really does still

own the graveyard enclosed within the VandePoele farm.

New Castle County Board of Assessment office staff members yesterday afternoon found a map, dated 1893, which shows what is listed on it as "African Church" on the spot where the present abandoned graveyard is situated. The map does not, however, carry any designation of a graveyard. The date of the map would appear to prove that the Old Fort UAME Church was still on the old site until at least 1893.

The Recorder of Deeds office where a Morning News reporter tried to obtain some record of the old graveyard, referred him to the County Assessment office.

According to J. Thomas Scharf's "History of Delaware," the original Union American Methodist Church in the Christiana area was built near Christiana Bridge in 1819 on a half-acre of land obtained from the estate of Jeremiah Lewden. The Negro congregation built a brick structure there in 1850.

This original brick church was a plain edifice, 30 by 40 feet, with galleries on three sides. Scharf states that services and meetings were held regularly in the brick UAME Church, and that the "congregations are usually large, those attending coming from a large scope of country outside of the hundred" (New Castle Hundred).

Scharf's history also states that "a part of the church lot is devoted to burial purposes, and among those there interred was the Rev. William Williams who died Feb. 19, 1878."

TIME FOR TV

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — When George Shabatura, 11, stopped for an innocent look at a swimming muskrat, he became bogged in soft mud. Within minutes there arrived a rescue squad, a fire department ladder company and park board rescue squads. George was pulled out with the complaint that the whole commotion made him miss his favorite TV show.

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
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Wilmington, Del.



Focus

Trying to save a black cemetery

Construction of new luxury apartments threatens overgrown graveyard that dates to the 1800s, but plans are being made to preserve the site

By ROBIN BROWN
Bear Bureau reporter

David Tackett scrambled through dense undergrowth and briars, searching for gravestones. He uncovered one belonging to David Seney, who died in the 89th year of his age. Seney's crooked stone and caved-in burial spot sits just inches from heaps of dirt and stone from the construction of luxury apartments at Del. 7 and School Bell Road.

Tackett is trying to help save the few scattered remains of an 1800s black graveyard near the construction site.

"We've found nearly a dozen stones," he said.

Tackett is working with the leadership of the Old Fort A.U.M.E. Church in nearby Christiana, which owns the 0.27-acre cemetery. They are making plans to clear, preserve and document the site.

New Castle County's Department of Land Use also is evaluating the site, spokesman Tim Hubbard said. That evaluation is expected to be complete within weeks.

When construction began early this year, Tackett wondered about the fate of the graveyard, which he has known since his childhood in Bear's Fairwinds area.

"I played there in the woods when I was a kid," he said. "... And I'm worried what will happen when the families move in. There's barely anything left of it now."

The rapid and widespread loss of black historical sites has been a long-standing trend in all three counties, according to historian Robin Bodo, of Delaware's State Historic Preservation Office.

But that's changing. And the changing trend could benefit the growing effort on behalf of the old cemetery nearly destroyed by time and the elements.

"There's much more focus on African-American resources," Bodo said. "It's been a public outcry, a big public outcry."


The cemetery also enhances the historic significance of the Old Fort A.U.M.E. Church, she said.

The church was built in the early 1800s in wood next to the cemetery. The sanctuary was replaced with a brick building in 1850, county records said.

The church, moved to its current site at North Old Baltimore Pike and Browns Lane from its original spot next to the cemetery, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The church qualified for listing, National Register documents said, "as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction and for its association with events which made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the local past."


Official Register documentation said, "In 1807, the church was dismantled, the bricks were transported to the new site by horse and wagon, where the women washed the bricks and the men reassembled the church."



The News Journal/ANET B. CAMPBELL
As a child, David Tackett played in the woods near the Bear-area cemetery owned by Old Fort A.U.M.E. Church. He is working with the church's leadership on plans to clear, preserve and document the old black graveyard.



The News Journal



The News Journal
The grave of David Seney, who died in 1811, "the 89th year of his age," is just inches from piles of dirt and stone from the construction of luxury apartments at Del. 7 and School Bell Road.

The church was moved because most of its members lived in Christiana.

AROUND OUR TOWNS

New Castle County

Members chosen for Red Clay Valley board

Frederick M. Rogers of Kennett Square, Pa., was elected presi-

managing director for the Research and Engineering Council of the Graphics Arts Industry for 12 years.

Rogers and his wife, Lois, have lived in Kennett Square for 13 years.

TELL US

Have news about your community? Mail it to Around Our Towns, 850 W. Basin Road, New Castle, DE 19720, fax to 324-5252 or e-mail to: njnews@newsjournal.com

Please submit items three weeks before the event. Items may appear in Around Our Towns or the weekly Crossroads section.

CALEN

TODAY

ASTRONOMY LECTURE: Mike Cox will talk at 8 p.m. at the Mount Cuba Astronomical Society. Reservations required. Members, \$1. Call 654-6407.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING: Participants will discuss on their insurance for a three-year period upon successful completion of the DE will be today and Wednesday from 6:00 to 8:

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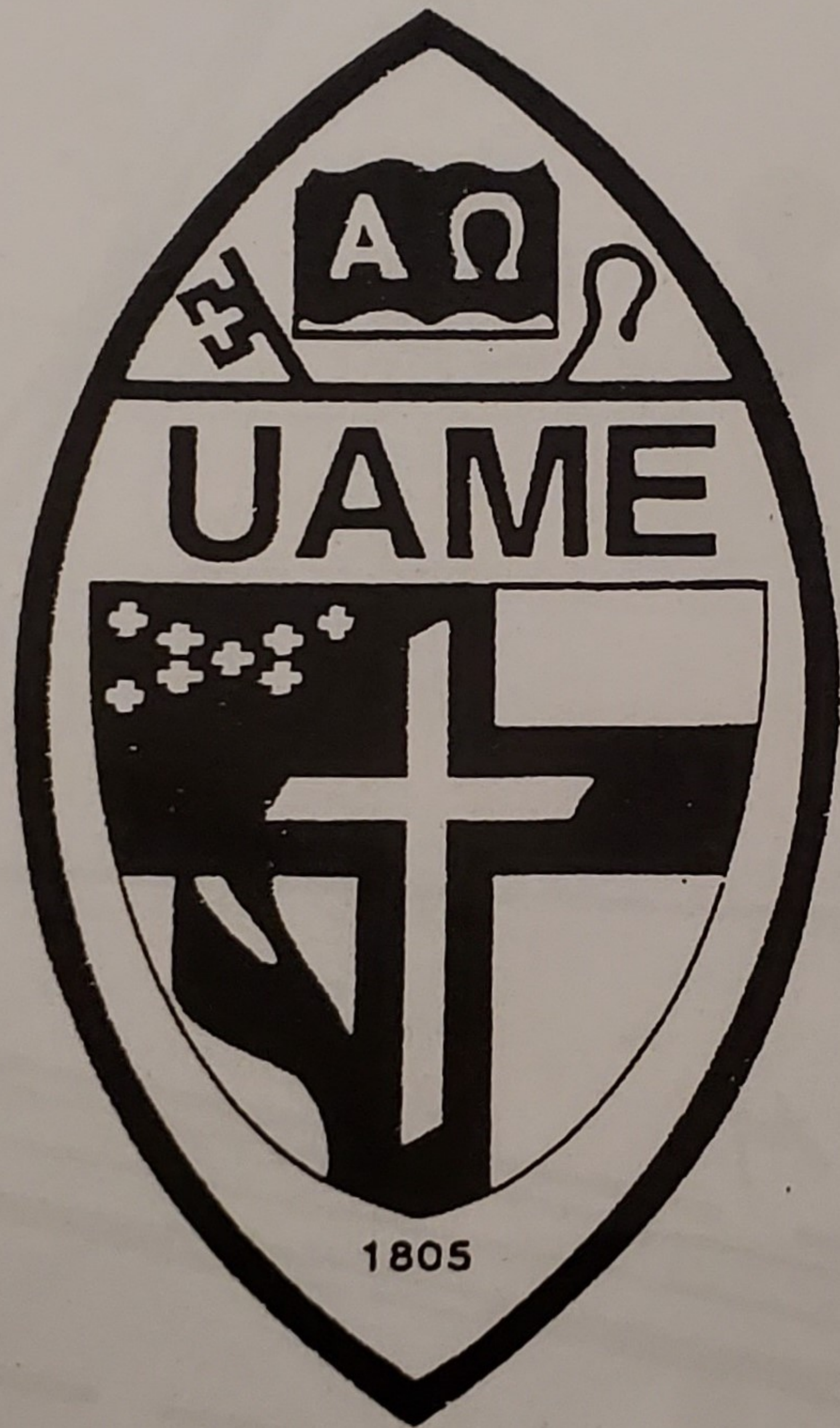
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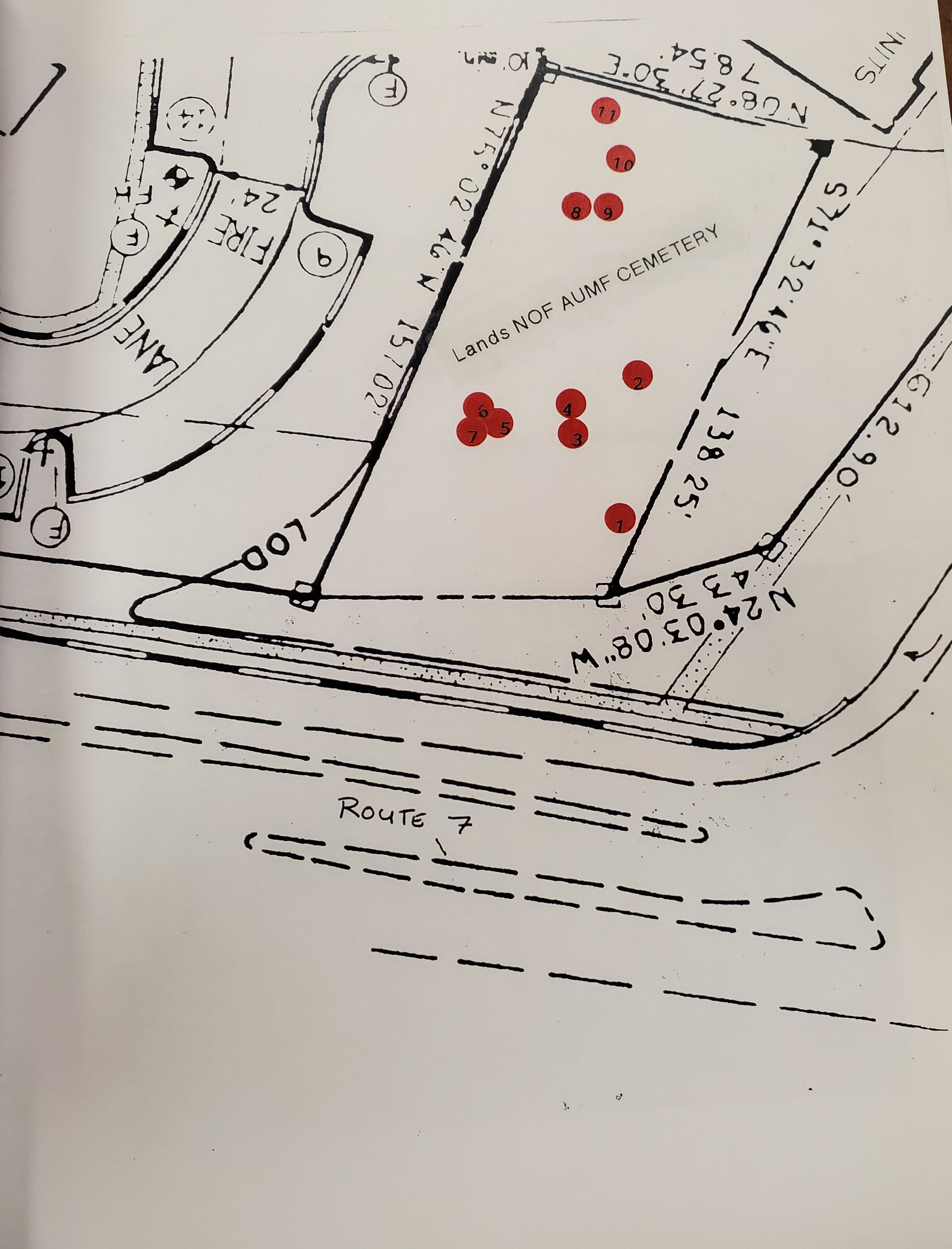
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Old Fort U. A. M. E. Church



Cemetery Report

Prepared by Switzenbaum Realty Capital



LANDS NOF AUMF CEMETERY
Route 7 & School Bell Road
New Castle County, Delaware

Report on remaining gravestones

On October 8, 1999 I entered the AUMF Cemetery for the purpose of inspecting the remaining gravesites and to document the condition and location of these remaining graves. I found possibly 11 different headstones in various conditions. To follow are descriptions and pictures of my findings.

Grave #1- Headstone reads STEPHEN GALE
1801-1875

The headstone is in good condition.

The burial plot has either been dug up or has eroded into itself.



Grave #2-

Headstone is Unknown

Headstone is lying on the ground in solid shape.

No burial plot noted. Covered by heavy brush.



Grave #3-

Headstone Initials read S. S.

The headstone is embedded into ground halfway.

A small chip of other grave stone lying near by.

No burial mound detected.



Grave #4-

Headstone Unknown top half missing
Stone is embedded into tree stump.
Partial stone close by embedded into ground.



Grave #5- Headstone Initials S. G.
Stone lying out of ground near sinkhole

Grave #6- Headstone Unknown Possibly part of # 5
Small portion of Headstone sticking out of ground
Near sinkhole and graves 5 & 7

Grave #7- Headstone Initials R. B.
Stone is lying on ground near #5 & 6
A few small chips off bottom of Headstone.



Grave #8-

Headstone Initials D. ?.

Small stone good condition halfway buried into ground
Under heavy brush



Grave#9-

Headstone Initials M. S.

Full size stone half buried into ground
Good condition



Grave #10-

Headstone Name

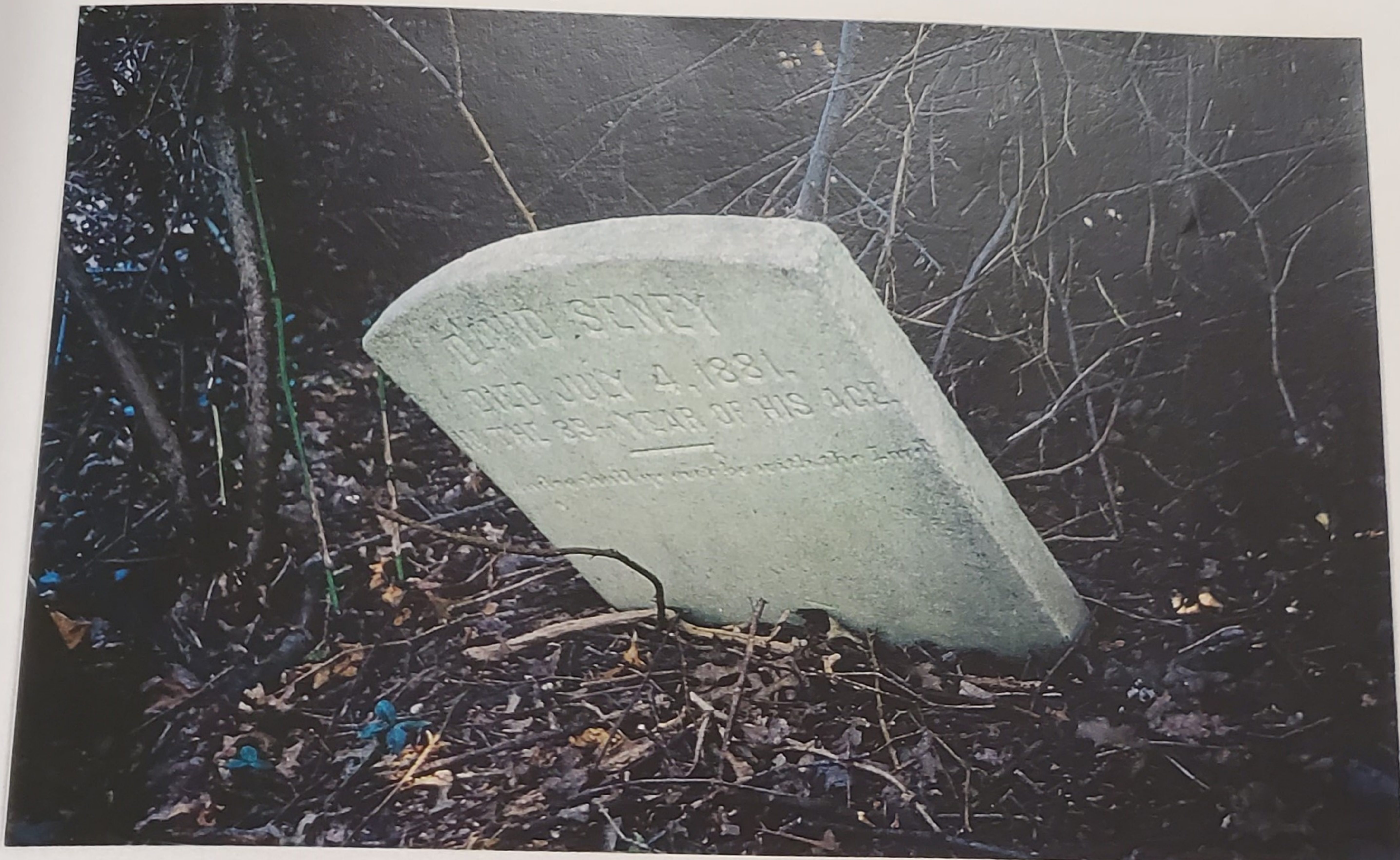
David Seney

Died July 4, 1881

In the 89th year of his age

Full size stone in good condition

Slightly tilted into ground



Grave #11-

Headstone Initials

G. D.

Stone in good condition

Heavy debris covering stone and plot

