



TECHNICAL STAFF REPORT
Planning Board Meeting of March 30, 2017

For Consideration of Cemetery Relocation

File No./Petitioner:

P-17-001 Elm Street Development/Jason Van Kirk

Project Name:

Redd & Sipes Properties

DPZ Planner:

Tanya Krista-Maenhardt, AICP, Planning Supervisor
(410) 313-2350, tmaenhardt@howardcountymd.gov

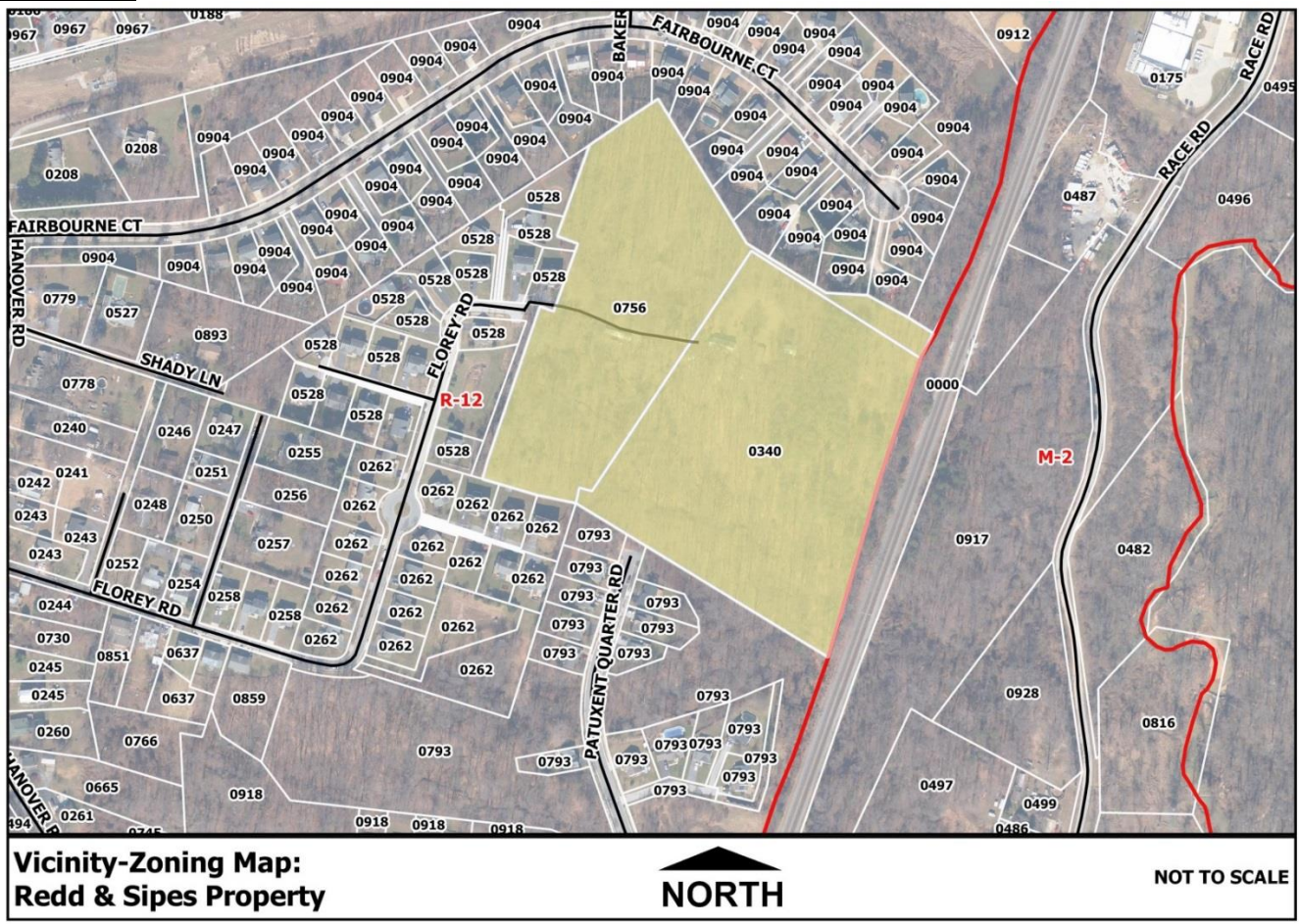
Request:

To approve disinterment and relocation of graves, any related remains and tombstones located on Parcel 756 (Tax Map 38, Grid 9) in accordance with Section 16.1304 of the Cemetery Preservation Act of Howard County.

Location:

The property (Tax Map 38, Grid 9, Parcels 756 and 340) is located at 5920 Florey Road, Elkridge, Maryland, in the First Election District of Howard County.

Vicinity Map:



Vicinal Properties:

North: Residential and open space properties of the “Canbury Woods” subdivision.

East: CSX right-of-way

South: Residential and open space properties of the “Elk Hill, Section 1” subdivision.

West: Florey Road and residential and open space properties of the “Whitetail Woods II” subdivision.

Plan History:

Pre-Submission Community Meeting – A pre-submission community meeting was held on July 21, 2015, at Rockburn Elementary School.

Environmental Concept Plan # ECP-16-008- The Environmental Concept Plan for conceptual stormwater management design was placed into revised plans on July 18, 2016. Revisions are pending.

Sketch Plan # S-16-001-The Sketch Plan for 42 residential lots and 2 open space lots was signed by the Planning Director on October 7, 2016.

Alternative Compliance Petition #WP-16-150 – An alternative compliance petition to Sections 16.1304(a)(1), 16.118(c) and Section 16.1205(a)(7) of the Subdivision and Land Development Regulations was submitted on June 20, 2016.

Section 16.1304(a)(1) requires accommodating a cemetery within a development by placing it in a non-buildable lot with a cemetery designation and dedicating the cemetery to either a Homeowner’s Association or a conservation or religious organization and requiring public access and that it be used as a cemetery in perpetuity. **Section 16.118(c)** prohibits grading or construction within 30 feet of a cemetery or within 10 feet of individual grave sites.

1. The petitioner is requesting disinterment of all grave sites and reinternment of any remains and associated tombstones to the Meadowridge Cemetery.

The petitioner has provided written justification as part of the alternative compliance request for the SRC to consider. On January 12, 2017, the Director of Planning and Zoning determined that no action would be taken on this request until after the Planning Board had an opportunity to review and consider the requested reinternment at a public meeting.

Site Proposal:

Forty-two residential lots (ranging in size from 7,200 square feet to 10,930 square feet) and two open space lots are proposed on 15.41 acres in the R-12 (Residential: Single) Zoning District, Parcels 756 and 340 (File # P-17-001). The site would be accessed by Florey Road extended. Up to 10 grave sites have been located in the area of proposed Lots 31, 33, and 34 (Parcel 756) and within close proximity to specimen trees #6 and #7 (30” Tulip Poplars).

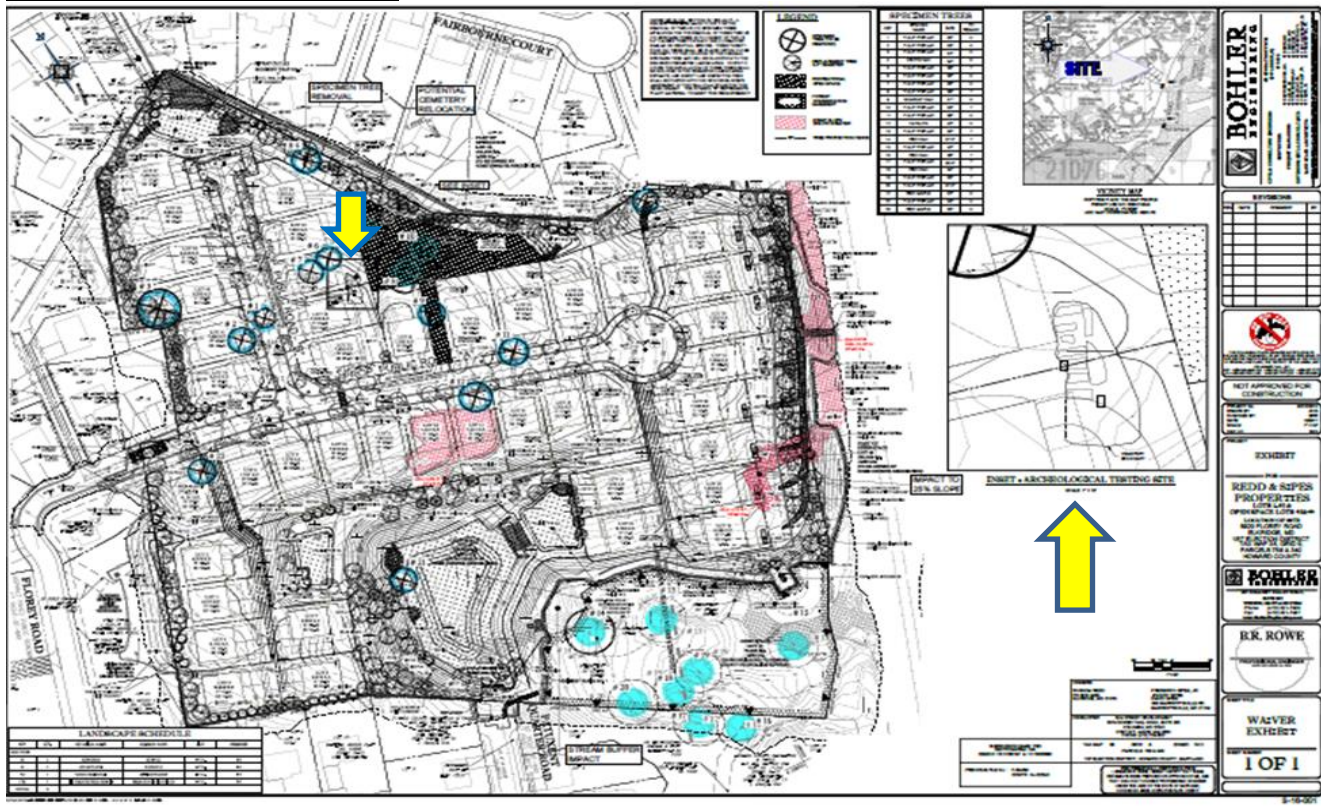
The applicant contends that “accommodating the burial grounds on site will deny

the property owner reasonable use of his entire property. The specific site location and drainage area, in combination with inadequate existing storm drain culverts on site, will result in the requirement that the site provide 100-year storm attenuation. To achieve this large storm water requirement, requires that a large portion of the site be dedicated for the management facility, as well as, grading, access and outfall of the storm water facility. This, in turn, consolidates the development potential to the balance of the property where the graves are located. To require a cemetery to be set aside on a separate lot further reduces the developable portion of the property (affecting proposed Lots 31-35 most significantly), thus denying reasonable use of the entire property.”

The challenges of site topography, cemetery setbacks (10’ grading or construction setback from individual grave sites and 30’ from a cemetery boundary) and small lot sizes as permitted under the R-12 Zoning district make it extremely difficult to provide and maintain a respectful buffer for the existing graves.

The applicant proposes “to accommodate the burial ground by reinternment of the enriched soil layer of each burial feature. Each feature will be manually excavated and placed in an individual vault or sleeve for transportation to the cemetery. Meadowridge Memorial Park is establishing a section of their cemetery for relocated historic Howard County family cemeteries. The reinternment of the Riemensnider cemetery will be arranged in the exact configuration and orientation as they lay today. The three grave stones found on site will be cleaned and refurbished by a professional for use in the new cemetery location. An additional monument will be added to address the unmarked/unknown graves. Meadowridge Memorial Park will oversee the ongoing maintenance of the area.”


Current Cemetery Location:



Planning Board Review:

The Department of Planning and Zoning is required to forward information on “accommodation and cemetery boundary documentation” to the Planning Board. In accordance with Section 16.1304(d) and 16.1304(e), “The Planning Board shall consider this information at a regular Planning Board meeting. The Planning Board shall make a recommendation to the Department of Planning and Zoning on the property owner’s plan. In the event that the Department of Planning and Zoning determines that accommodation of the cemetery within the development cannot be reasonably accomplished without denying the property owner reasonable use of its entire property, then the Department of Planning and Zoning shall require the property owner to develop...a plan for appropriate treatment of the cemetery in accordance with State Law.”

A copy of the “Archeological Investigation of the Reimensnider Family Cemetery Within The Redd Property” is attached for the Planning Board’s review and consideration.

 _____ 3/9/17
Valdis Lazdins, Director Date
Department of Planning and Zoning

Please note that this file is available for public review at the Department of Planning and Zoning’s public service counter, Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Dario J. Broccolino
State's Attorney

Mary V. Murphy
Deputy - Operations

Kim Y. Oldham
Deputy - Administration



Circuit Court Division
(410) 313-2108
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District Court Division
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Victim Witness
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Juvenile Division
(410) 313-2142

Diversion Program
(410) 313-3134
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Office of the State's Attorney for Howard County
Carroll Building
3450 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

December 19, 2016

Jason S. Van Kirk, V.P.
Elm Street Development
5074 Dorsey Hall Drive
Suite 205
Ellicott City, MD 21042

**Re: Disinterment/Reinterment Proceeding
Unidentified Remains**

Dear Mr. Van Kirk:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated December 16, 2016, stating through exhausted research, the previously unidentified tombstones that had been found on Elm Street Development's newly acquired property in Elkridge, have presumably been identified as members of the Reimensnider Family Cemetery. The State's Attorney's Office for Howard County has no objection to your request to disinter any unidentified remains located within the Reimensnider Family Cemetery and surrounding areas on the property, located at SDAT Parcel 01-168215, Map 38, Parcel 756, in Elkridge, and reinter them to Meadowridge Memorial Park, 7250 Washington Boulevard, Elkridge, MD 21075 and/or Mt. Zion Church Cemetery in Elkridge.

This letter does not absolve you of any other obligations required by state statute, local ordinance or health and zoning regulations.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dario J. Broccolino".

Dario J. Broccolino
State's Attorney

DJB/mr

ARCHEOLOGICAL TESTING AND CONSULTING, INC.

**AN ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF
THE REIMENSNIDER FAMILY CEMETERY
WITHIN THE REDD PROPERTY:
A 7-ACRE+/- PARCEL LOCATED ON FLOREY ROAD
IN HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND**

November 29, 2016

by

Phillip J. Hill, Ph.D., and Katherine Rogers, M.A.

**Prepared by:
Archeological Testing and Consulting, Inc.
12025 Remington Drive
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902**

**Prepared for:
Elm Street Development
5074 Dorsey Hall Drive, Suite 205
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Archeological Testing and Consulting, Inc. (ATC) of Silver Spring, Maryland was asked by Elm Street Development (the client) to conduct an archeological investigation of the Reimensnider family cemetery. The burial resource is located on the 7-acre+/- Redd Property located on Florey Road in Howard County, Maryland (Figure 1). The cemetery is thought to contain between eight and twelve graves belonging to the above mentioned family (Sipe, pers. comm., 2016). This number is based on the recollection of Fred Sipe, the current owner of the adjacent 8-acre+/- Sipe Property, who as a youth played in the woods containing the burial resource. He recounts numerous headstones forming a line facing in a southeastward direction on what can be described as a gently sloping wooded landform. The approximate location of the cemetery is assumed to lie in the vicinity of two recently identified headstones belonging to Reimensnider family members. The markers, however,

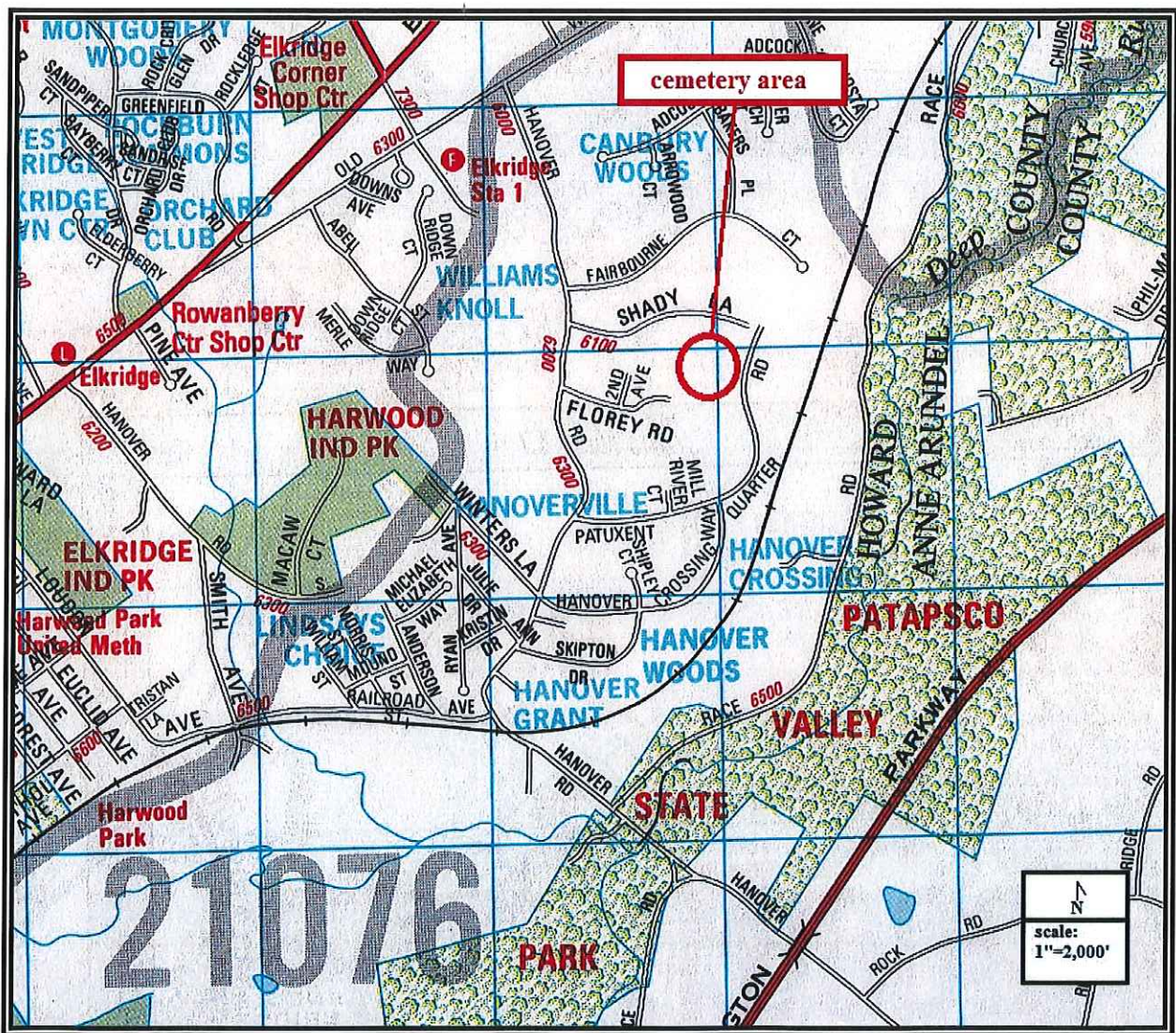


Figure 1. Section of the ADC Map of Howard County, Maryland Depicting the Approximate Location of the Reimensnider Family Cemetery

are damaged and no longer stand upright in their original positions, an indication of earlier vandalism to this burial resource. The name "Catherine" is engraved on one of the headstones and is believed to belong to the first wife of Charles Reimensnider. The other headstone contains the initials "C. R." which likely mark his burial in the cemetery.

The client is currently seeking to subdivide and develop the Redd and Sipe properties for residential purposes. With that development goal in mind, the client is seeking re-interment of the buried members of the Reimensnider family within an appropriate nearby cemetery. The State Attorney Office, Howard County Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board (CPAB), and Howard County Planning and Zoning Office are aware of the process of this re-interment goal and associated study described herein. In order to meet this re-interment objective, an initial identification study is required. The overall goal of this study is to identify or expose all of the grave shafts present within the Reimensnider cemetery. An earlier study using ground penetrating radar (GPR) was completed in the vicinity of the headstones and established that soil anomalies were present. The identification study outlined herein serves to "truth" whether these anomalies are in fact burial shaft features. The study involves historical research and archeological fieldwork. Presented below are the methods and procedures employed and results obtained in completing these tasks.

2.0 RESEARCH METHODS AND RESULTS

Research Methods It was established through prior research and personal communication that the Redd Property contained a small cemetery consisting of numerous members of the Reimensnider family. Two of the remaining headstones exposed in the cemetery were thought to belong to Charles and Catherine Reimensnider, the patriarch and matriarch of the family. With the goal of re-interring those buried in the family cemetery, Howard County Planning and Zoning requested that additional research be conducted prior to the re-interment process.

Several sources were employed during the research task which included visits to repositories, a nearby cemetery in Elkridge, and Internet websites. This process involved examining Howard County land records, the Federal Census, family wills, local newspaper articles and obituaries, historic maps, and a burial inventory at Zion Church Cemetery. It should be noted at the onset that several forms of the family name "Reimensnider," were encountered throughout the research task. Some of these forms are directly associated with those buried at the cemetery, while others may be distantly related to the interred family or have no actual family relation. This variation in the name made the research task much more challenging. The list of variant names includes the following: Reinsnider, Reinsnyder, Remsnider, Remmsnider, Remsnyder, Reimsnider, Reimsneider, Reimsnyder, Rensnider, Rennsnider, Rensnyder, Reimensnider, Reimensnyder, Reymensnider, Rennmensnyder, Riemensnyder, Rimsnider, and Rinsnider. For consistency, the form "Reimensnider" is used throughout this document. Presented below are the results of the research task.

Research Results Between 1845 and 1849, Charles Reimensnider acquired three parcels of land. In 1845, he purchased 8 acres, 30 perches of land from Septamus and Mary Hopkins

(Howard County Land Records [HCLR] JSM6/103). And 52 perches and 4 ½ acres were acquired from Henry Weaver and Septamus and Mary Hopkins, respectively, in 1849 (HCLR EPH9/336, EPH9/251). All of these land conveyances were sections of land referred to in the deeds as part of “Hanover.” The Reimensnider residence is depicted on the Simon Martenet Map of Howard County, Maryland in 1860 between what is assumed to be later Florey Road and Hanover Switch Rail Road (Figure 2).

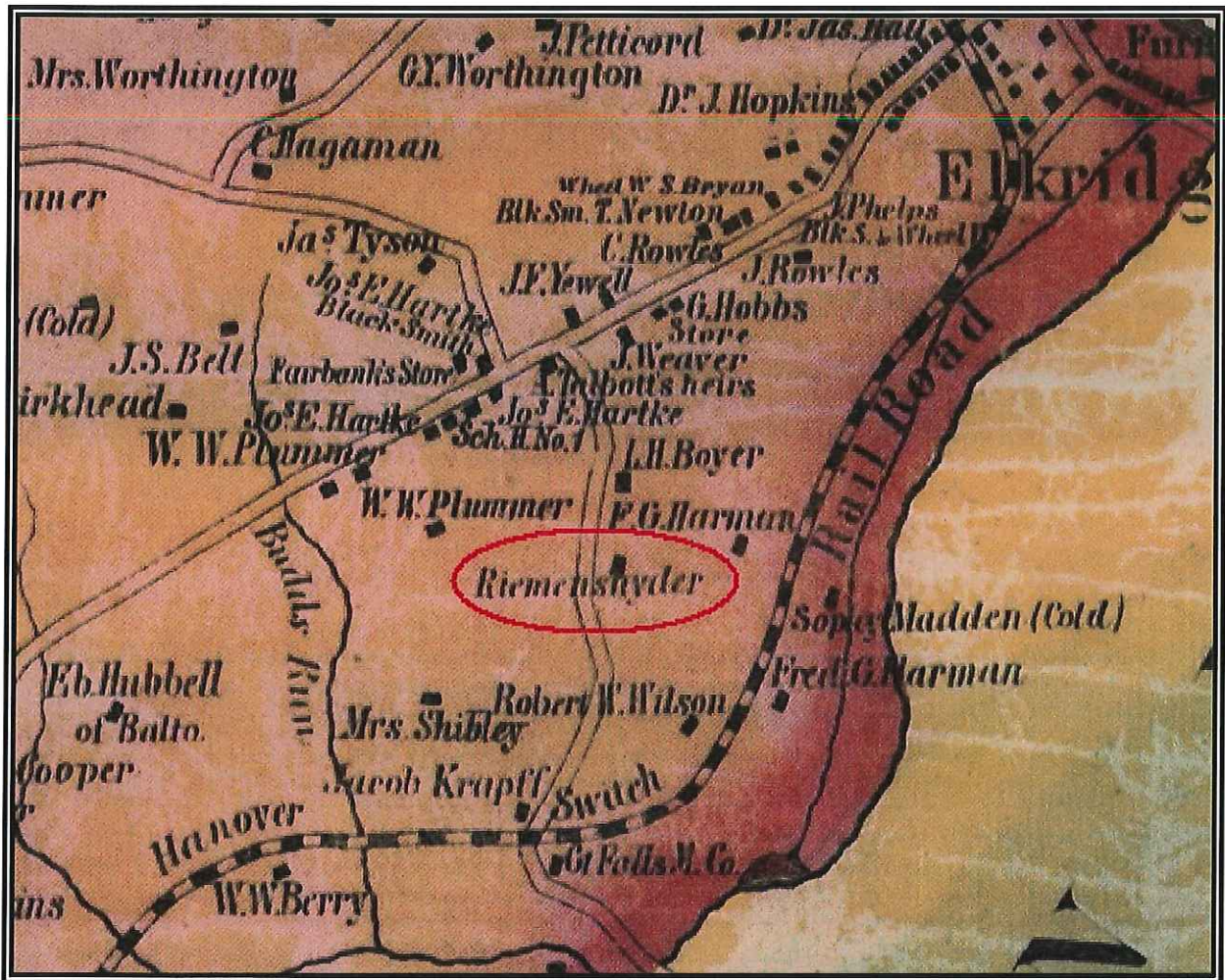


Figure 2. Section of the 1860 Simon J. Martenet Map of Maryland Depicting the Reimensnider Residence

In his last will and testament in 1876, Charles Reimensnider bequeathed all of his land to his son George Reimensnider (Howard County Last Will and Testament [HCLWT] TBH2/362). George bequeathed the inherited land to his wife Catherine Reimensnider at his death in 1893. In his will he states the following: “I direct that the cemetery on my farm wherein members of my family are interred shall never be sold, but reserved as a place of interment for members of my family.” Widow Catherine Elizabeth Reimensnider, Charles’s second wife, sold the three family parcels of land to Henry Lerch and his wife Barbara Lerch in 1894 (HCLR JH61/640). Two years later, the land

totaling 13 acres +/- was acquired by James and Sarah Wright, residents of Baltimore City (HCLR JHO/325). In 1901, the Reimensnider land was conveyed to John and Martha Mitchell (HCLR JHO 73/282). That same year, the property was conveyed once again to Charles Nagel (HCLR 74/566). Between 1905 and 1961, the same property was acquired by the Eck, Lerp, and Ward families (HCLR 80/72, 92/231, 201/188, 366/48, and 366/53). In 1962, the reduced property of 6-1/2+/- acres, which contained the Reimensnider family cemetery, was conveyed between the Ward and Hart families (HCLR 390/85). Samuel Redd purchased the subject property in 1967 (HCLR 771/440).

Charles Reimensnider, Sr., the original family member to own the subject property, was born in 1817 and died in 1876 as previously noted. His first wife was Catherine who was born in 1826. Together, they had six children, all males including Valentine (b. 1846), Charles, Jr. (b. 1848), John (b. 1851), William (b. 1856), George (b. 1858), and Henry (b. 1860). The eldest child, Valentine, was named after the brother of Charles, Sr., who lived in neighboring Anne Arundel County. At the young age of 35 years, Catherine died in 1861. Charles remarried after her death to Catherine Elizabeth Reimensnider. She was older than first-wife Catherine and was born in 1819.

In 1850, Charles, Sr., at age 34 years, was listed in the census records as a laborer with a real estate value of \$800. His household at the time included his wife Catherine and sons Valentine, Charles, and John (U.S. Federal Census 1850). Ten years later, he was listed as a 43-year-old white farmer living with his wife and six sons (U.S. Federal Census 1860). By 1870, Charles, Sr., at age 55 years, was still listed as a farmer with a household consisting of his second wife Elizabeth and son George, then 12 years old. The fact that his youngest son Henry was not mentioned in the census indicates that he died sometime between 1860 and 1870.

At the death of Charles, Sr., in 1876, his brother Valentine of Anne Arundel County served as executor of his last will and testament. At his death, Valentine was instructed to "devise all lands in Howard County of which I may be possessed at the time of my death together with all the stock, farming utensils, household and kitchen furniture and personal property of every description, thereupon, upon condition, that, within two years from the day of my death he shall pay sixty five dollars to my wife Elizabeth if she shall be living at the time of my death, sixty five dollars to my son Charles, sixty five dollars to my son John, forty five dollars to my son William and thirty two dollars and fifty cents to Chards Edgar, son of my son Charles and thirty two dollars and fifty cents to George John son of my son Charles and I charge the land so devised to my son George with the payment of said legacies. In a codicil of Charles's will he stated "I do invoke the devise in my said will contained to my son Valentine Reimensnider [spelled differently] of the sum of five dollars and increase the same to the sum of sixty five dollars to the said son Valentine Reimensnider from funds now in the Bank." As Executor, his brother Valentine was instructed to give Zion Church of Elkridge, Maryland a sum of forty dollars toward the construction of a much-needed building. Son Henry was not mentioned in the will. He would have been 16 years old at the time of his father's death. Such further indicates that Henry prematurely died prior to his father's death.

Given the Reimensnider family connection with Zion Church, it was possibly that some family members were interred within the associated cemetery. A search of the interment records

uncovered numerous potential family members buried there. However, associations with names and date-of-birth data found that only one of the direct Reimensnider family members was buried at the Zion Church cemetery. This member was Charles, Jr., the second oldest son to Charles, Sr., and Catherine. Married to Barbara Reimensnider, they had at least two sons, both of whom were named in the will of Charles, Sr.

3.0 FIELDWORK METHODS AND RESULTS

Fieldwork Methods An initial site visit was made to the Redd Property prior to the excavation process (Figure 3). This visit involved flagging the two exposed headstones, as well as searching for additional grave markers (Figures 4 and 5). Noted during the pedestrian survey of the assumed cemetery area was the expanse of periwinkle covering the landform. The use of the words “assumed cemetery area” was based on the presence of two headstones with secondary context.



Figure 3. Photograph Depicting the Cemetery Setting Including a Ground Cover of Periwinkle



Figure 4. Photograph Depicting the Headstone of Catherine Reimensnider

Primary context appeared to have been lost by vandalism based on the broken, horizontal position of the two grave markers. Although the headstones seemed to be located near the center of the periwinkle, this ground cover had spread extensively in all directions and nearly covered an acre of land. The periwinkle obscured the ground surface making it nearly impossible to find additional grave markers if present. Thus, a metal probe was used to penetrate the surface in the search for impermeable objects such as headstones and footstones. The probing was initiated around the known headstone locations and then fanned out to approximately 25 feet from these two grave markers. Because the soils contained natural chunks of iron sandstone, many false positives were unearthed. However, no additional grave markers were found. A subsurface investigation using mechanical trenching followed the pedestrian survey a few weeks later.

Commonly employed in the investigation of cemetery resources is back-hoe trenching used in tandem with manual excavation methods. This overall field procedure was employed on the Redd Property where the Reimensnider family cemetery was located.

Fieldwork was initiated with the layout of a grid over the assumed cemetery location. This location was defined by the presence of two exposed headstones belonging to Catherine, wife of Charles Reimensnider, Sr., and Charles himself (Figure 6). The grid involved a main axis oriented

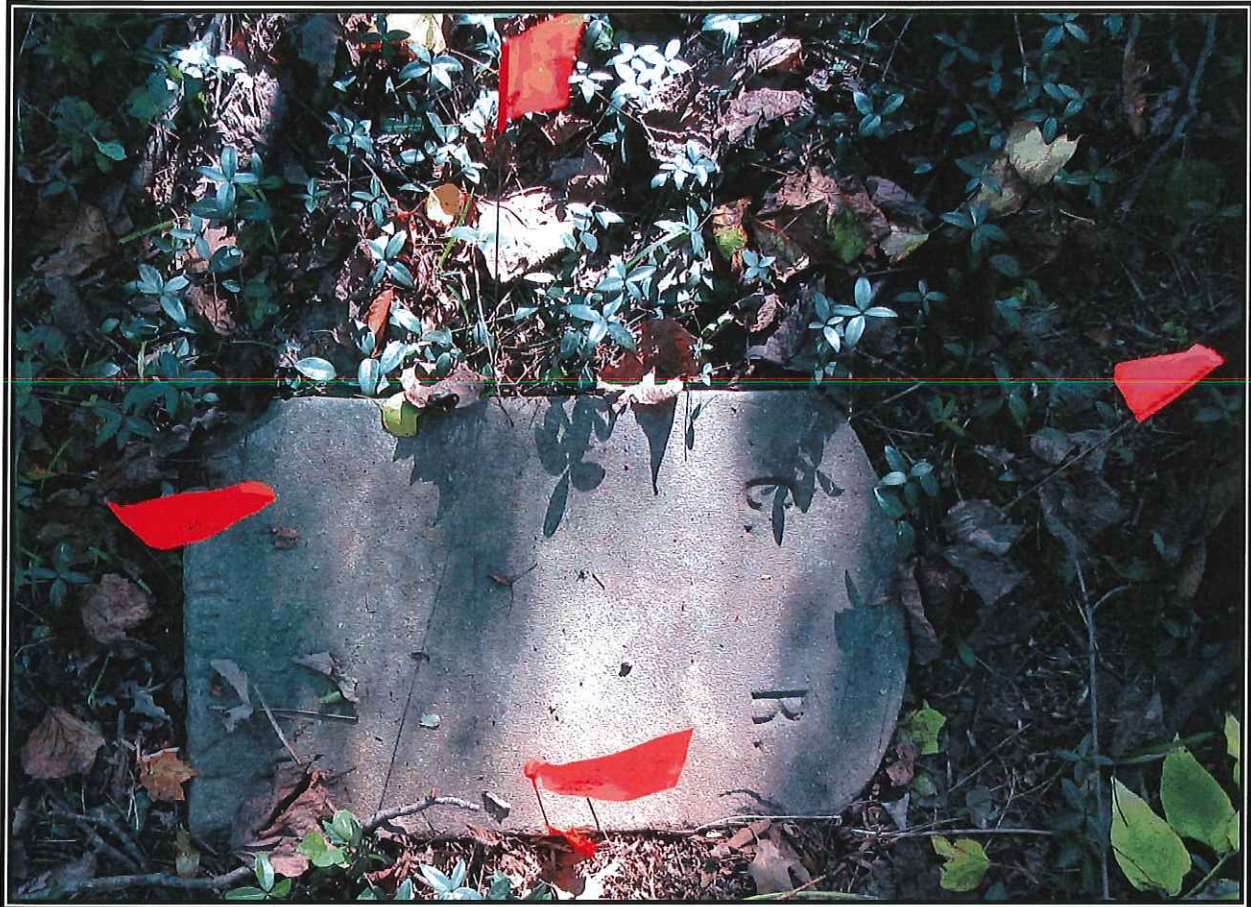


Figure 5. Photograph Depicting the Probable Headstone of Charles Reimensnider, Sr.

toward magnetic north. Perpendicular transect lines were placed across this axis with a diagonal orientation to the existing sloping landform. The spacing interval between transect lines was 10 feet. The transects extended 25 feet east and west of the axis, totaling 50 feet across the cemetery area. Mechanical trenching was to follow each of these transect lines except in those portions blocked by mature tree cover. The use of the 10-foot spacing increment served to accommodate the excavation of trenches with 3-foot widths, thereby not allowing more than 6 feet of unexposed land between excavation units.

The trenching process involved a field monitor and crew of one or two field technicians. The field monitor directed the back-hoe operator on how deep to excavate, when to start and stop, and where to expand trench areas in order to maximize information (Figure 7). The field crew helped clean and scrape trenches and expose cemetery features, i.e., grave shaft stains and headstones, when found. As the number of burial features increased and the limits of the cemetery were more defined, the use and maintenance of the trenching unit locations were slowly lost. By the end of the excavation process, the cemetery area was almost completely exposed with numerous grave shaft features thoroughly documented.

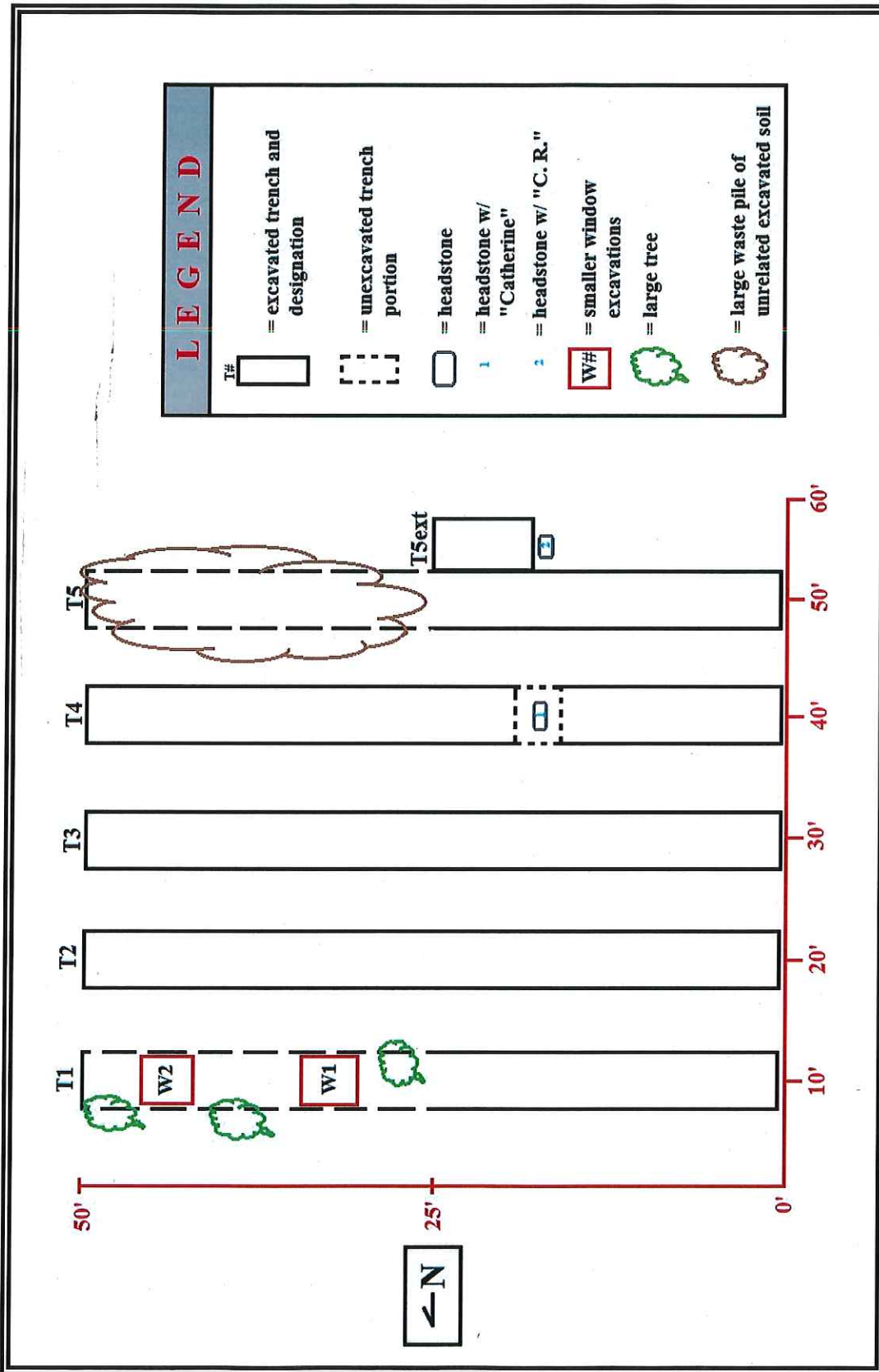


Figure 6. Field Map Depicting Trench and Headstone Locations



Figure 7. Photograph Depicting Trenching within the Cemetery Area

The goal of the initial fieldwork was to establish the size of the cemetery and determine the number of graves to be re-interred. Upon accomplishing this objective the burial resource was prepared for site closure until the final stage of fieldwork was initiated. The closure involved laying plastic individually across each exposed burial feature. Orange pin flags were used to pin the corners of the sheet plastic and were inscribed with the appropriate feature numbers, i.e., Features 1, 2, etc. or F1, F2, etc.). Large rocks were also used as weights to hold the plastic sheets in place. After each grave shaft was properly covered two large overlapping field tarps were placed over the entire cemetery area. These tarps were held down using a hammer and large spikes. One tarp overlapped the other in order to prevent water seepage between the two. The cemetery was located on a landform with gradual slope. An open trench was excavated at the base of this sloped area in order to help drain the burial resource during period of precipitation. Caution tape was placed around the cemetery area in order to address safety concerns.

Fieldwork Results The subsurface investigation sought to “truth” or provide strong evidence for the presence of graves. The use of mechanical trenching was the most effective and

efficient way to prove such a presence. During the fieldwork session, a total of five 25-to-50-foot trenches were excavated across the presumed cemetery area. From north to south, the trenches were designated as Trenches 1 through 5 or (T1 through T5). (See Figure 6.) These trenches were placed between unrelated mounds of ground disturbance and large trees to east and open space to the west with the exposed headstones lying between. The numerous, much-older trees lying outside of this area suggested that the cemetery was once maintained several decades ago. Trenches 1 and 5 (T1 and T5) were reduced in size from several feet to 25 feet because of tree and dirt mound obstructions. Trench 5 was extended several feet on the south-central side because of the early discovery of a soil anomaly that was thought to be burial related.

Trenching within the cemetery area uncovered a natural stratigraphy overlying the sloping landform. Exposing such soils was significant toward discriminating between naturally laid strata and disturbed matrix associated with burial features. Generally speaking, the soil column consisted of a brown silty loam topsoil with a depth of 9 to 12 inches and an underlying subsoil consisting of a yellowish brown or brownish yellow silty loam or loamy clay with a below-surface depths of 24 to 30 inches. Where trenching exceeded this depth, a second subsoil layer of a reddish loamy clay was exposed. This lower subsoil uniformly marked the presence of grave shaft features exposed below the topsoil. As backfill soil during the burial process, it was visible in stark contrast to the natural strata surrounding the grave features.

Upon excavating the five trenches and pursuing the exposure of grave shaft stains, it was estimated that nearly all of the Reimensnider cemetery was opened and its horizontal limits established. With the exception of possible unexposed grave shafts in the southwestern corner of the cemetery, the horizontal extent of the burial resource was estimated to be 26 feet north-to-south and 14 feet east-to-west. Establishing limits of the cemetery to the southwest was hindered by the presence of two trees of 30+/- years of age. Tree removal at the time of the fieldwork would have disturbed the matrix of any graves present in the area. The presence of at least one more grave in that part of the site area was indicated by the mottled nature of the soils in a soil profile observed nearby. The profile depicted a sizable depth of back-filled soils below topsoil. Other than this portion of the site area, the horizontal limits of the cemetery were established by at least 20 feet of excavated trench yielding negative results, i.e., the presence of natural stratigraphy.

Upon completing the excavation process, it was concluded that nine cemetery features were exposed as part of the Reimensnider family cemetery (Figures 8 and 9). Also included were three headstones. Two were located on the ground surface and discovered well prior to the excavation process and belonged to Charles Reimensnider, Sr., and his first wife Catherine Reimensnider. The third headstone was discovered in close proximity to the other two during the excavation process. The headstone consisted of a base *in situ* and was associated with an exposed grave shaft, as well as fragments of the marble marker once exposed above the ground. As with the other headstones, its condition was impacted by vandalism. Unfortunately, the remaining portion of the headstone lacked engraving which would have helped identify one of the Reimensnider family member's burial location.

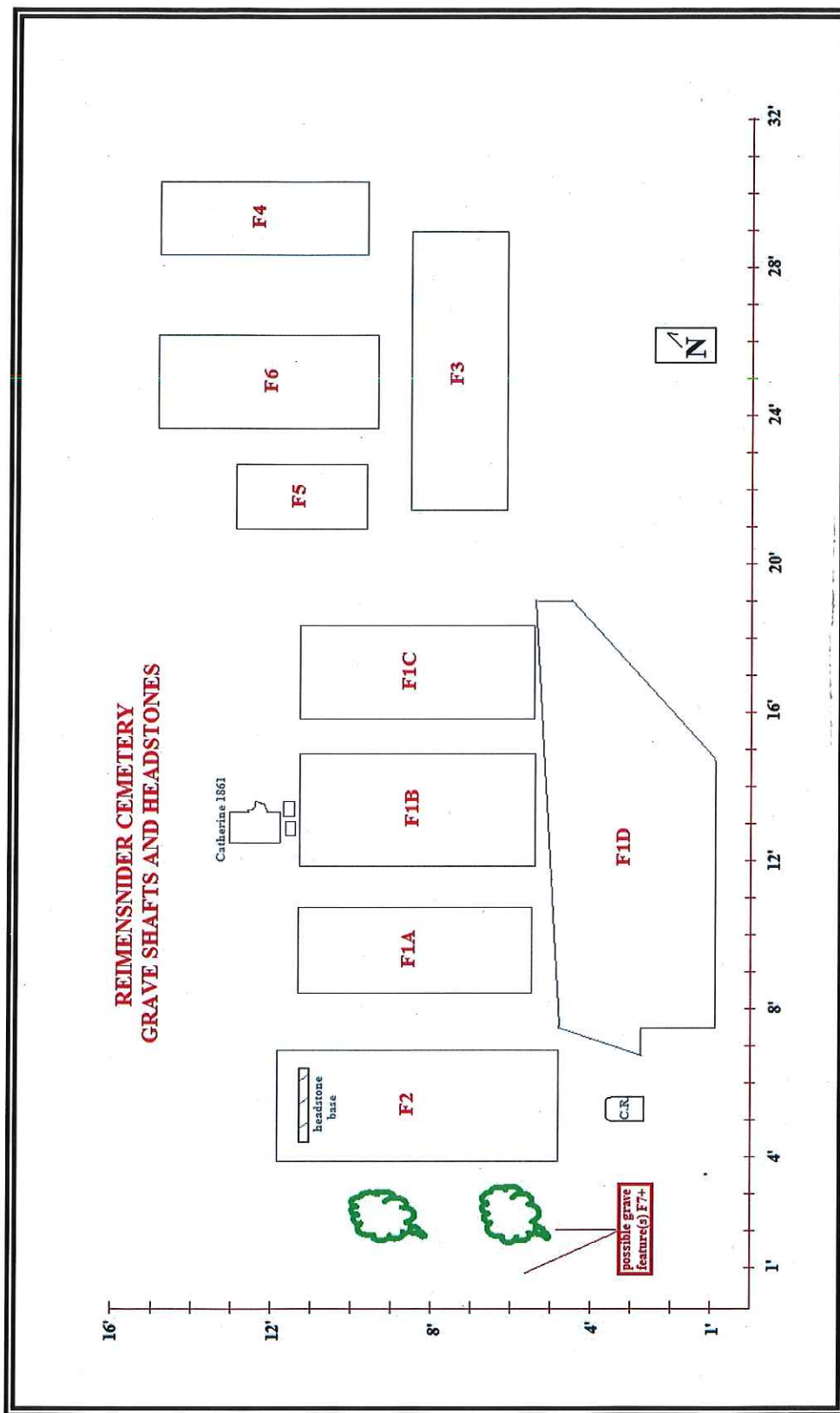


Figure 8. Detailed Map Depicting the Locations of Grave Shaft Features and Headstones

The exposed portion of the cemetery contained eight well-defined grave shafts and a larger, more anomalous shaped feature (see Figure 8). These burial features were designated as Features 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 (or F1A-F1D, and F2-F6). As noted through personal communication, Fred Sipe recalled an entire line of graves containing between 8 and 12 Reimensnider family members. As a plan view of the cemetery indicates, at least seven of these grave stains, i.e., all but F1D and F3, as well as an eighth marked by a tree, were purposefully placed in a linear fashion facing southeast. Feature 2, located in the southernmost location, was associated with the headstone



Figure 9. Photograph Depicting the Grave Shaft Features Associated with Three Reimensnider Family Burials

and related marble rubble. Situated two grave shafts to the north was a burial feature thought to be connected with the abutting headstone engraved with “Catherine,” the first wife of Charles, Sr. To the east of Feature 2 and south of Feature 1D was the headstone thought to belong to Charles Reimensnider, engraved as “C. R.,” the patriarch of the family. This headstone may be associated with Feature 1D which was the largest soil anomaly encountered. Because of its much larger size and odd shape, the feature was thought to potentially contain two graves. This feature, as well as Feature 3 were the only grave shafts exposed that were oriented north-to-south, essentially breaking the overall horizontal pattern of the greater cemetery. Apparently, two ideological patterns were imposed on this burial resource which may have been a function of time, family relationship, or some other factor.

All of the single grave features were rather uniform in dimension, ranging between 6 to 7 feet from head to toe with a width of 2-1/2 to 3 feet. The only exception was Feature 5 which was nearly half the length of the others. This grave was thought to belong to a child. Research indicates that it may have been the interment location of Henry Reimensnider, the youngest son of Charles, Sr., and

Catherine, who as a child apparently died between 1860 and 1870. Perhaps both Henry and Catherine passed away at the same time since both died at premature ages.

4.0 SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Research established that the Reimensnider family owned the property containing the family cemetery between 1845 and 1894. Thus, any of the family members who died within that time period were likely interred there. This would have included Charles Reimensnider, Sr., his first wife, Catherine, and their youngest son Henry. George, the son who inherited of the family property and died in 1893, was likely buried there as well. An examination of the burial records at nearby Zion Church where Charles, Sr., willed a small sum of money indicates that only one blood-related family member was buried there. This member was Charles, Jr., son of Charles, Sr., and Catherine. Unknown is whether the remaining three sons, including Valentine, John, and William, died before 1894 and were interred in the family cemetery. Other potential interments may have included the parents of Charles, Sr., and Catherine, as well as any of the spouses of their children other than Charles, Jr.

The fieldwork consisted of a pedestrian survey or walk-over, site probing with a metal rod, and field monitoring and mechanical excavation. The pedestrian survey located the two headstones believed to belong to Charles Reimensnider, Sr., and his wife Catherine. No other headstones were identified during the walk-over and associated probing.

The subsurface investigation involved the mechanical excavation of five trenches across the site area where the two headstones were found. After expanding these trench area, a total of nine soil anomalies were exposed and classified as grave shaft stains. One of these features was relatively large and thought to contain two interments. At least one unexposed grave was thought to lie at the southern end of the cemetery area where two large trees stood. These trees were barriers to exposing this probable tenth burial shaft. In addition to exposing nine grave features, a third headstone was unearthed. The base of this headstone was found *in situ*. The remnant marble fragments were collected, although the lack of engraving on them added nothing to the identification of who was buried in the associated grave.

A GPS total station was used to map the Reimensnider family cemetery boundaries, exposed headstones, and burial features. A system of large tarps was placed over the cemetery for protective purposes prior to initiating the third and final stage of fieldwork involving feature excavation with the goal of re-interment.

Several recommended tasks are presented herein as part of the re-interment investigation of the Reimensnider family cemetery. It is recommended that the trees standing at the southern boundary of the cemetery be carefully removed to ground surface. This will permit additional mechanical excavation in that area in order to expose at least one more probable grave shaft. It is also recommended that additional matrix be mechanically removed from the cemetery area in order to alleviate the extent of grave shaft excavation conducted manually. Given what is known about

who was buried within the Reimensnider family cemetery, it is recommended that the client begin planning the required public newspaper announcement about the proposed re-interment. The announcement is required to be posted for at least a 15-day period and should be coordinated with the timing of the fieldwork. Any supporting letters or required permits should be obtained by the client prior to final excavations.

5.0 REFERENCES

ADC Map of Howard County, Maryland

- 2002 The Street Map Book. The Map People. 21st Edition. The Langenscheidt Publishing Group, Virginia.

Baltimore Sun

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