

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA HISTORICAL AFFAIRS AND LANDMARK REVIEW BOARD



#1 COURTHOUSE PLAZA SUITE 701 2100 CLARENDON BOULEVARD ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201 (703) 358-3810

January 19, 1990

Arlington County Board 2100 Clarendon Boulevard Arlington, Virginia 22201

Subject:

Historic District Designation for Travers Family Graveyard

Recommendation: Designate as a historic district the Travers Family Graveyard, including such archaeological and natural features as the gravestones and the holly tree, located on a portion of the property known as 1309 South Monroe Street, as shown on Attachment 4;

> Require fencing around the perimeter of the graveyard and regular maintenance;

> Require further archaeological study if the perimeter of the graveyard is encroached by development.

Dear County Board Members;

In response to a request from the County Board, the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) initiated proceedings to consider the historical significance of the Travers Family Graveyard located at 1309 South Monroe Street. The graveyard is in jeopardy because the owners, planning to redevelop the property, have petitioned the Circuit Court for permission to disinter the graves and move the remains to another location.

Although the graveyard had been identified in 1975 as one of 18 burial grounds in the County by the Arlington Historical Commission and was placed on the Arlington Inventory of Historic Resources, only preliminary information on the site was available. In order to adequately evaluate the graveyard, the HALRB requested the County to commission a study of the property and the family associated with it. The research was evaluated by the HALRB Survey Committee. At the October 18, 1989, HALRB

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public hearing, the Survey Committee reported that the Travers Family Graveyard meets the Arlington criteria for historical significance and recommended its designation. The Survey Committee and consultant's reports are enclosed as Attachments 1 and 2 respectively. Historic maps and a geneaological chart of the Travers family are included.

At the HALRB hearing, the attorney representing the property owners did not concur with the Survey Committee's evaluation. Arlington residents, representatives of the New Arlington-Douglas Park and Columbia Heights Civic Associations, and descendants of the Travers family testified in support of the designation, providing additional information on the history of the family and its contributions to the County. There were requests to preserve the large holly tree, estimated to be 150 years old, growing within the graveyard and to provide for a policy for maintenance of the the graveyard. Following the hearing, the HALRB voted unanimously to recommend historic district designation of an area measuring 25 feet x 45 feet known as the Travers Family Graveyard on the property located at 1309 South Monroe Street. A draft ordinance for designating the property and a map indicating the recommended historic district are enclosed as Attachments 3 and 4 respectively.

Seventeen gravemarkers have been identified in the graveyard, the oldest dated 1830. However, the exact number of burials has not been determined. The archaeologist, an expert in burial traditions, who studied the Travers Graveyard noted the probability that more than 17 burials took place. Often wooden grave markers were used which were dislodged or lost due to deterioration. Sometimes graves were left unmarked due to the cost of permanent stone markers. Therefore, it was not unusual for family graveyards to contain more graves than those identified by gravemarkers. Because of this the HALRB is requesting further archaeological research in the event that development of the property encroaches the perimeter of the designated area. The HALRB has further noted the possibile need to enlarge the historic district should additional graves be discovered.

The historic preservation movement in the United States has evolved from a focus on great events, places and people to an appreciation for and concern with everyday people and their related events and sites which make up the fabric of our communities and commemorate our basic cultural traditions.

Designation of the Travers Family Graveyard will personalize Arlington's early history and identify a specific pioneer family whose everyday life on and from the land symbolizes the building of the County. These were average people who made their living as farmers, passing their land among their children and kin from one generation to the next. They provided the County's economic foundation through their land and labor, and established the social, educational and religious institutions in which our contemporary lives are rooted. Recognition of the Travers family provides a personal link to Arlington's past through a family of

five which was counted among Arlington's sparse rural population of 1332 persons in the 1840 Census. The Travers family and its heirs occupied various portions of their 30-acre property for nearly a century and have been associated with Arlington County for 160 years. Descendants of these early pioneers continue to live in and make contributions to the County.

The Travers Family graveyard also has cultural significance as a representation of the burial practices and traditions prevalent in rural Virginia. The tradition of family burial grounds on family property dates back to the early 17th century. Family cemeteries originated during the colonial period, necessitated by a widely dispersed settlement pattern with family homesteads located at great distances from a church. Over time family cemeteries became commonplace; once the tradition of burying family members on family land was established, subsequent generations maintained the pattern. Family graveyards remained the dominant burial pattern in rural Virginia until the late 19th century. Few, however, have survived urban development.

Twenty-eight stone gravemarkers have been identified in the Travers family graveyard. These are head and footstones marking 17 graves. The markers include professionally cut marble gravestones as well as folk product stones and fieldstones. Some contain religious or biblical inscriptions.

The research on the graveyard did not provide information on the age or historical significance of the large Holly tree situated within the graveyard. However, Eleanor Lee Templeman reports in Arlington Heritage that soldiers serving in the Civil War recalled both the graveyard and the tree. There is general acknowledgement that the tree has been a part of the graveyard as far back as anyone can remember; therefore, it is included in this designation recommendation.

Through designation of the Travers Family Graveyard the County will continue to recognize and incorporate the variety of social, economic and ethnic groups which contributed to the growth and development of the County.

Sincerely,

Gail Baker

Chairman

enc.

HISTORICAL AFFAIRS AND LANDMARK REVIEW BOARD

SURVEY COMMITTEE

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION - REVISED

DATE:

October 18, 1989

PROPERTY:

Cemetery at 1309 S. Monroe Street

EACKGROUND:

By letter of March 24, 1989 the New Arlington/Douglas Fark Civic Association request: the HALRB to consider this property for historic. designation. This letter and supporting material: provided by the Association were referred to the Survey Committee by the Chairman on March 29, 1989. The Survey Committee submitted a majority and a minority report to the HALRE on April 26, 1989. After discussing these reports, the HALRB voted to request the staff to gather additional documentation. A research contract was awarded a the report, "Historical and Genealogical Study, Travers Family Cemetery, 1309 South Monroe Stree Arlington County," was submitted September 30, 1989 by Robinson and Associates. The Survey Committee met to review the findings of that report and thus submits this report.

EXISTING CEMETERIES

The following demeteries are designated historic districts either individually or as part of a related site: Walker Chapel/Cemetery, Pall-Carli Cemetery and Loma: AME Zion Church/Cemetery.

FINDINGS:

- 1. This property was added in February, 1986 to the Arlington County Historic Resources Inventor It was one of the 18 other demeteries/burial grounds identified in March, 1975 by the Arlingt County Historical Commission.
- 2. This property is not presently identified or commemorated by any historical marker.
- 3. While the existing surviving portion of the cemetery is believed to represent only a portion of the original site, the surviving portion does in and by itself represent an early example of a family cemetery in Arlington County.
- 4. In accordance with Faragraph V of the HALRB's "Rules of Fractice and Procedure," the Survey Committee has reviewed the submitted documents a individual members have conducted site visits. I has evaluated the presently available documents and the site. The Survey Committee finds that it

is a site meeting the following criteria:

- 1) Its value as part of the heritage of the country: A family burial ground of at least 15 individuals spanning almost a full century (1830 to c. 1915) and traceable to a specific family with living descendants.
- 7) Its unique location or singular physical characteristics that make it an established or familiar visual feature: This plot has survived continually throughout the history of Arlington to the present time and is safely (the actual human remains) surrounded by a residential neighborhood. It has mutely withstood the growth of suburbia and the more recent urbanization of the county.
- 9) Its potential to yield information important the history of the county: This is manifest in i very nature as a graveyard. The scientific study of human remains reveals data concerning social status, religion, health, nutrition, demographic etc. Surface manifestations also harbor socio/religious/economic information.
- 10) Its suitability for preservation or restoration: This small demetery double easily be refurbished and would be easy to maintain once it was restored.
- 11) Its educational value: The preservation of a site, especially a cemetery, reflects the values of a society. There is a growing trend throughou the country to preserve graveyards in the path o development. Preservation of the Travers plot would evidence Arlington's commitment to the pas and represent the respect that the contemporary residents have for their predecessors.
- 12) Its historical significance: This item has been covered in the above discussion but can be briefly reiterated. The Travers demetery is a small plot used for approximately 100 years, it has associations with living descendants, and is survivor of the continued growth of the county. The oldest grave is 157 years old.

Further, viewed in the context of a 19th century working family in Arlington County, it also possesses significance for:

- Being identified with a person or persons who contributed to the development of the county;

- The vernacular elements of design, detailing, materials, or craftsmanship represented in the surviving gravestones; and
- Does have physical characteristics that make an established or familiar visual neighborhood feature.

RECOMMENDATION: Considering all of the preceding findings, the Survey Committee recommends that:

- 1) This family demetery be considered by the HALL for designation as a historic district under the provisions of Section 31A of the Zoning Ordinance
- 2) The boundaries of the recommended historic district be no less than an area of approximatel 45 by 25 feet in order to incorporate all of the known family burial sites.
- 3) If designated, the a procedure be developed tallow for the proper fencing of the area and the installation of a suitable historical marker to interpret the site to the public.

HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL STUDY TRAVERS FAMILY CEMETERY 1309 SOUTH MONROE STREET, ARLINGTON COUNTY



SEPTEMBER 30, 1989

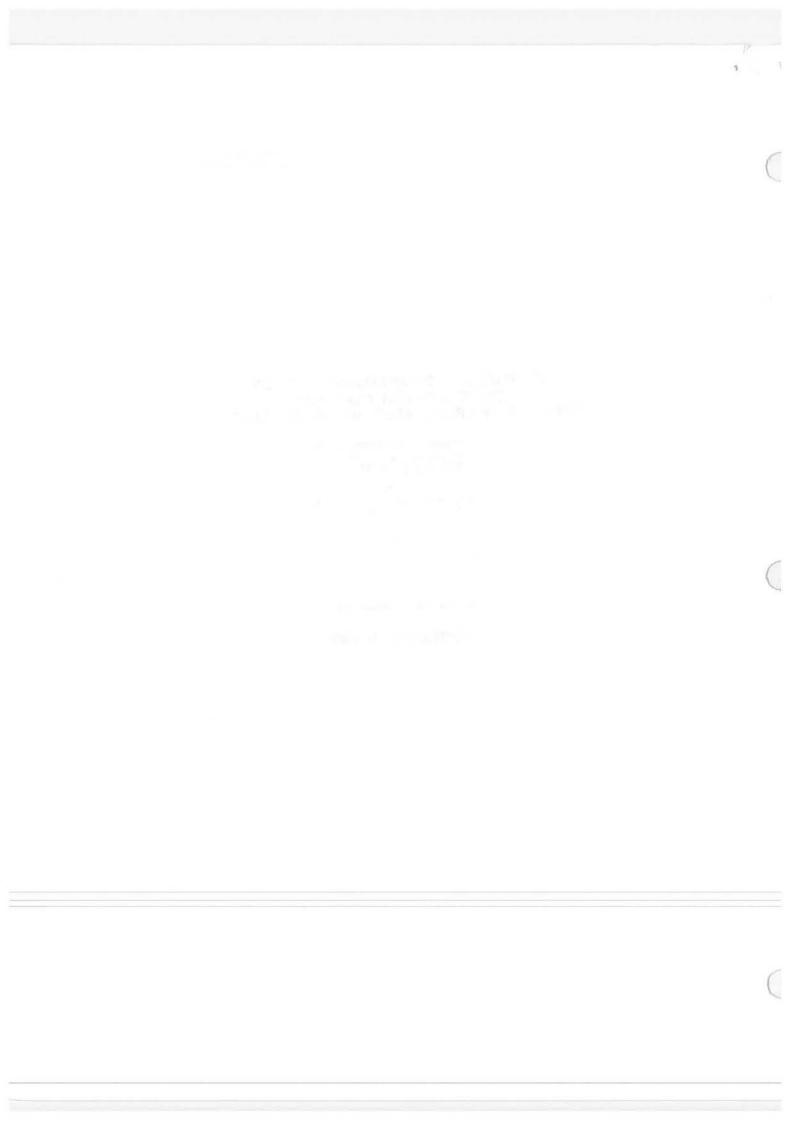


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FOREWORD

The following study of the small family cemetery at 1309 South Monroe Street was commissioned by Arlington County, Virginia. The purpose of the study was to provide documentation that would allow for a thorough evaluation of its historic architectural, and archeological significance. The study was completed by the architectural history and consulting firm of Robinson & Associates, with Engineering Sciences providing archeological data and recommendations.

INTRODUCTION

The small family cemetery at 1309 S. Monroe Street was originated by and has been primarily associated with the Travers family and its heirs since the 1830s. According to extant tombstones and oral history, members of the Travers, Whitehead, Dyer, and Whiteraft families are buried there. All except the latter are descendants of (or people related by marriage to) John and Elizabeth Travers.

OWNERSHIP SUMMARY

The earliest known owner of the cemetery property was John Travers, who acquired it as part of a larger parcel of land in 1832, from John Casseen. In 1851, after John's death, the land was subdivided and distributed among his children and wife. (See Family Lineage Chart and Family Record Groups in the Appendices A & B.) The four-and—half acre lot containing the cemetery, known as Lot #2 on the subdivision plat, was designated for Mary Ann. (Map 1) Six years later, Mary Ann and her husband John W. Clement sold the lot to her brother Henry W. Travers for \$400.3 When Henry died in 1887, he bequeathed the property to his wife. Ann or Anna, who conveyed real estate including the cemetery to member(s) of the Henson family who were relatives of Anna's (see below).

In 1924, a 6,149-square-foot lot containing the cemetery, known as Lot #5, was sold for \$10 to Herbert A. Cleveland, most likely a relative of William's son-in-law, Andrew Cleveland. (Map 6) One year later, Herbert conveyed the property to Harry C. Morgan, another son-in-law of William Henson, who conveyed it to William J. and Carrie M. Stuart, in 1945. This lot is today known as #26001070, in the Real Property Code.

THE CEMETERY'S BEGINNINGS

The Travers family settled in the area as early as 1832. On April 27 of that year, N. John Travers (1803-1837)⁷ paid \$200 for a 30-acre parcel of land at the intersection of Columbia Pike and Glebe Street, which he bought from John Casseen.³ He and his wife, Elizabeth, had moved to Virginia from

¹Deed Book N2-U2, p. 432, 27 April 1832.

Deed Book, Q3-T3, p. 400, 1 April 1851

³Deed Book S-3, p.402, 8 December 1857.

⁴Will Book 10, p.133, 21 February 1887, probated 3 October 1887; Deed Book 102, p.165, 24 January 1900.

⁵Deed Book 205, p.133, 5 May 1924.

⁶Deed Book 238, p.34, 8 April 1925; Deed Book 667, p.255, 20 April 1945.

The 1851 deed refers to Travers as John. His tombstone appears to read "L. N. Travers," while the footstone reads "I. N. T." A reference to his will records the name as "N. John Travers," (The will itself, in Book WB4, p. 158, could not be found.) The latter is assumed to be the correct name. Wardell, Alexandria County Wills, 1800-70.

⁸Deed Book N2-U2, p.432, 27 April 1832

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the District of Columbia where their first child Eliza Ann⁹ had been born, in 324. Their other children were: John L. (1828), Rebecca (1833), Henry W. (1835), and Mary Ann (1837). Travers may have been attracted to the area by the communication opportunities offered by the Columbia Turnpike, which was completed in 1812.

The earliest graves in the cemetery are for "M.E.T." (1830) and "W.T." (1832). They were presumably also children of John and Elizabeth. The earlier grave predates John's purchase of the land: the family may either have buried the child there in 1830 with the permission of previous owners (if the owners were family members, for example), or the grave may have been moved to its location after the 1832 purchase.

Like other cemeteries in the area, the Monroe Street Cemetery was not used in connection with any of the churches in the area, neither Hunter's Chapel (c.1857-9), located at Glebe Road and Columbia Pike, nor the Seventh Day Adventist Church (1894?), socated on the Travers property Lot A (see below).

THE FIRST SUBDIVISION OF THE TRAVERS PROPERTY

In 1837, John Travers died at the age of 34, and was buried in the Monroe Street Cemetery. Within a year, Elizabeth married 26-year-old William P. Taylor (1813-1866), a farmer who was nine years her junior. In seven years, in 1846, her daughter Eliza Ann (or Ann Eliza) married a George W. Taylor. A relationship between William and George has not been determined. In 1849, Elizabeth and William Taylor bought a 47-acre market garden southeast of the Columbia Pike-Glebe Road intersection. (The property is noted as "William B. Taylor" on the 1878 map. See Map 3.)14

In a deed dated April 1, 1851, the Travers land was subdivided into six lots for Elizabeth and each of her five children. (Map 1) Lot A was designated for Elizabeth, Lot 1 for Rebecca, Lot 2 for Mary Ann. 3 for John, 4 for Eliza Ann, and 5 for Henry. The family homestead is indicated clearly at the Columbia Pike-Glebe Road intersection. 15

^{&#}x27;In her will (Book 10, p. 519) and on the 1857 deed, cited above, she is called Eliza Ann. A transcription of her marriage record refers to her as "Ann Eliza." (Miller, p. 80)

¹⁰U.S. Census Records, 1840-80.

¹¹Irene Deuterman, "History of the Arlington United Methodist Church," pp. 7-9 (this publication lists John Wesley Travers as a founding member of Hunter's Chapei); interviews with Susan Wiseman, member of Arlington United Methodist Church (9-21-89) and Sara Collins, Librarian, Virginia Room, Arlington Public Library (9-19-89).

¹²Census Records; Bruce McCoy, "Reinternment of the Burials at 1309 S. Monroe St., Arlington, Virginia." December 1988, p. 3.

¹³T. Michael Miller (ed), Alexandria County Minister Returns & Marriage Bonds, 1801-1852, p.154.

¹⁴Elizabeth Taylor, Claim #20352, Southern Claims Court. Arlington Public Libary, from National Archives.

¹⁵ Deed Book Q3-T3, p.400, 1 April 1851.

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Lot #2, which included the cemetery, was allotted to Mary Ann Travers, the youngest of the family. Six years later, after her marriage to John W. Clement, Mary Ann sold the four-and-a-half acre property for \$400 to her brother Henry W., the sibling closest in age to her. About this time, Henry married Anna (or Ann), who was born in 1830 and whose parents came from England. Since his father's death, Henry lived with his mother, stepfather, and three stepbrothers, presumably at the house at Columbia Pike and Glebe Road. Henry and Anna had a daughter named Angeline who was born in 1858. (Transcriptions of relevant census records are included in Appendix C.)

THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD

As an integral part of the defenses of Washington, D.C., Arlington County was dramatically affected by the Civil War.

Property and possessions were confiscated from residents throughout the area. Directly south of the Travers property, the Federals seized Sewell Corbett's property for Fort Berry, which was erected in June 1863. Named in honor of Major General Hiram G. Berry, who was killed at the battle of Chancellorsville. Virginia, in May 1863, the fort was located about where the present house at 3525 17th Street stands, approximately a quarter mile south of the Monroe Street Cemetery. 19

Though the cemetery was close to the fort, there has been no record found to date which indicates that it was used by the U.S. Army to bury Civil War soldiers. The only known use of the cemetery during the war was as a food preparation area, since it is believed to have been adjacent to the fort's mess tent.²⁰ Officers Quarters were located at 3225 17th Street.²¹

¹⁶Deed Book S-3, p.402, 8 December 1857. The initial plot of land allotted Henry from his father's estate was apparently sold almost immediately to the Corbett family. See V.P. Corbett map, 1861, and Deed Book 7, p. 412.

Wardell's Alexandria County Wills lists a Henrietta, wife of Henry Travers, whose will is dated 1841. She could not have been the wife of this Henry Travers, since he would have been six years old when she died.

¹⁸U.S. Census Records 1860-80

¹⁹National Archives, RG 94, Adjutant General's Records, Index of Reports; Cooling & Owen. Mr. Lincoln's Forts, p. 81; Templeman, Arlington Heritage, p. 82.

²⁰Eleanor Templeman records the recollection of a Civil War veteran who recalled that the "barracts' bakers raised their bread on the sun-warmed tombstones. Many a loaf's bottom was imprinted with the dates and names of the departed." This story is problematical since the stones would have had to have been laid horizontally to provide sufficient surface area, and the bakers would have had to have baked the bread on the stones for them to retain impressions of the inscriptions. Arlington Heritage, p. 32.

²¹Cooling & Owen, <u>Lincoln's Forts</u>, p. 81. A connection between the cemetery and a military hospital reputed to have been located at 3520 17th Street has been suggested (see Bruce McCoy Report, p. 6), or between the cemetery and Camp Convalescent (interview with Bruce McCoy). No documentation to support or refute such connections has been found.

The cemetery is depicted on an 1861 map published by the U.S. Army's Engineering Department. (Map 2) According to this map, the boundaries of the graveyard are estimated to have been 100 to 150 feet wide by 450 to 500 feet long. A search of the records of private cemeteries used in the Civil War has not revealed a reference to the Monroe Street cemetery. Neither was there a claim allowed for its use.

Members of the family known to have fought in the Civil War were Joel H. Whitehead, Eliza's son-inlaw (buried in Arlington National Cemetery) and two sons of Elizabeth Taylor, Fairfax and Charles W.²⁴

THE CEMETERY IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY

In 1870, Henry's real estate was appraised at \$2,000, a substantial sum for the period. (Robert Ball, a prominent Arlington citizen, owned real estate worth \$10,000 in 1860.) Henry was described as a laborer by profession, and the occupation for "Annie" was "keeping house," which was the standard term for women working at home. The census taker also noted that Anna was unable to write. 25

Angeline moved out of the house in the 1870s when she married her cousin John Leven Travers, son of John Wesley Travers. By 1894, the couple had moved into the house of John's mother, Rachael. (Map 4) Angeline and John had three children before Angeline's death, c.1880-86.²⁶ After his wife's death, John was remarried late in 1886, to Charlotte Isabel Peverill (1868-1931).²⁷

The 1878 map of Arlington County depicts the cemetery and Travers family houses. (Map 3) One cannot rely on the distances between these elements as depicted on the map, since they were often only estimates made by the surveyor. It is useful to compare this map with the plat map made in the 1857 deed dividing up John Travers' land. Lots A and 1 would have been situated between the graveyard and Columbia Pike, to the north. Lot 2 must have held the graveyard and the house occupied by "Anna Travis" (sic). (It is not clear why Anna's name was recorded on the map, rather than Henry's.) Lot 3 would contain the house of Rachael Travers, who was the widow of John Wesley, to whom the lot was allocated. Lot 4 held the house of Joel H. Whitehead, son-in-law of Eliza Ann. Henry's former Lot 5

²²McCoy report, "Reinterment of the Burials," p. 5; Templeman, Arlington Heritage, p. 82.

^{**}Rachael Travers, who owned land south of the cemetery lot (Lot #3), applied for a claim (#19 390), but no record of its allowance has been found to date. Henry's mother, Elizabeth Taylor, was allowed \$447 of her claimed \$2,250 worth of materials used for the construction of Forts Richardson and Berry (#20352). The Taylors lived east of Glebe Road, National Archives, RG 92 Office of the Quartermaster General, Series 594 List of Headstones, Private Cemeteries, 1861-86 & Series E-662 Burial Records; Microfilm M1407, Civil War Claims; Transcription of Claim 20352 in Arlington Public Library.

²⁴Interview with Irene Deuterman (grandaughter-in-law of Joel's), 9-21-89; Elizabeth Taylor Civil War Claim #20352, Arlington Public Library copy.

²⁵ Thid.

²⁶Angeline's father (Henry) and Aunt Rebecca also died prematurely, in 1887. The possible existence of a regional epidemic at that time could be explored.

Finterview with Helen Sher, 26 September 1989.

must have been located south of the Whitehead house and was possibly incorporated into Sewell B. Corbett's already existing real estate holdings in this area, as well as into Joel's holdings. 28

Joel Hibler Whitehead, a veteran of the Civil War, moved to Arlington from Elmira, N.Y., married Laura V., Eliza's daughter. Joel and Laura lived with Eliza and their three children. Earning his living as a farmer, Joel was overseer of the roads in Arlington's District #1. Laura worked at home.²⁹ In 1874, Laura died at the age of 27 and was buried in the Monroe Street Cemetery.

Henry died at the age of 51, on August 31, 1887, two months after his sister, Rebecca. Both were buried in the family cemetery. (See next section for transcription of gravestones.) In a will probated October 3, Henry bequeathed his entire estate to Anna.³⁰ By 1900, the property containing the cemetery was conveyed to the Henson family.³¹ G.P. Strum's map of that date indicates that "S. H. Henson" owned about one-and-a-half acres north of "Annie Travers" whose lot was over two acres. (Map 5) S. H. was Seymour H. Henson, who had been a witness to Henry Travers' will in 1887. Henson's house is represented in an 1894 map. It must have been rather close to the cemetery, which was across the road from the C. F. Corbett house, later 1314 South Monroe Street.³² (Map 4) The Henson's were relatives of Henry and Anna, but the exact connection is not known. In 1880, a nine-year-old girl named Ida Henson was living with Henry and Anna; Ida was described as their niece.³³ Likely, either Anna's maiden name was Henson, or she had a brother-in-law named Henson.

THE CEMETERY IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Still largely rural around the turn of the century, development in Arlington County grew dramatically in the second quarter of the 20th century. In the 1920s and 30s, a great expansion of the federal government in the District of Columbia area drew large numbers of workers to this area. Between 1920 and 1940, the county population increased fivefold. In 1925, the area bordered by Columbia, Glebe, Monroe and 14th Street contained a dozen buildings. By 1938, the number had doubled.³⁴

²³Further deed research would determine whether this is indeed the case. Eleanor Lee Templeman. Arlington Heritage, p.82. Griffith M. Hopkins, Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, 1879.

²⁹Interview with Irene Deuterman; Bruce McCoy Report; Census Records, 1870; Rose, "Map of Arlington in 1878," p.28.

³⁰Will Book 10, p.133.

³¹Anna sold a large southern portion of her lot to William Henson in 1900; however the 1900 Strum map depicts Seymour Henson living in a smaller lot to the north of Anna. This discrepancy has not ben clarified in any materials available to date. Deed Book 102, p.165, 24 January 1900; Book 205, p.133, 5 May 1924. Also see Maps 3 & 4 of this report.

³²Tempieman, p.82.

³³Deed Book 102, p.165, 24 January 1900; U.S. Census Record, 1880; Will Book 10, p.133, 21 February 1887, probated 3 October 1887.

³⁴Map of Arlington County, Engineer's Office, August 1925; Map of Arlington, 1938; Rose, Arlington County, Virginia, p. 198.

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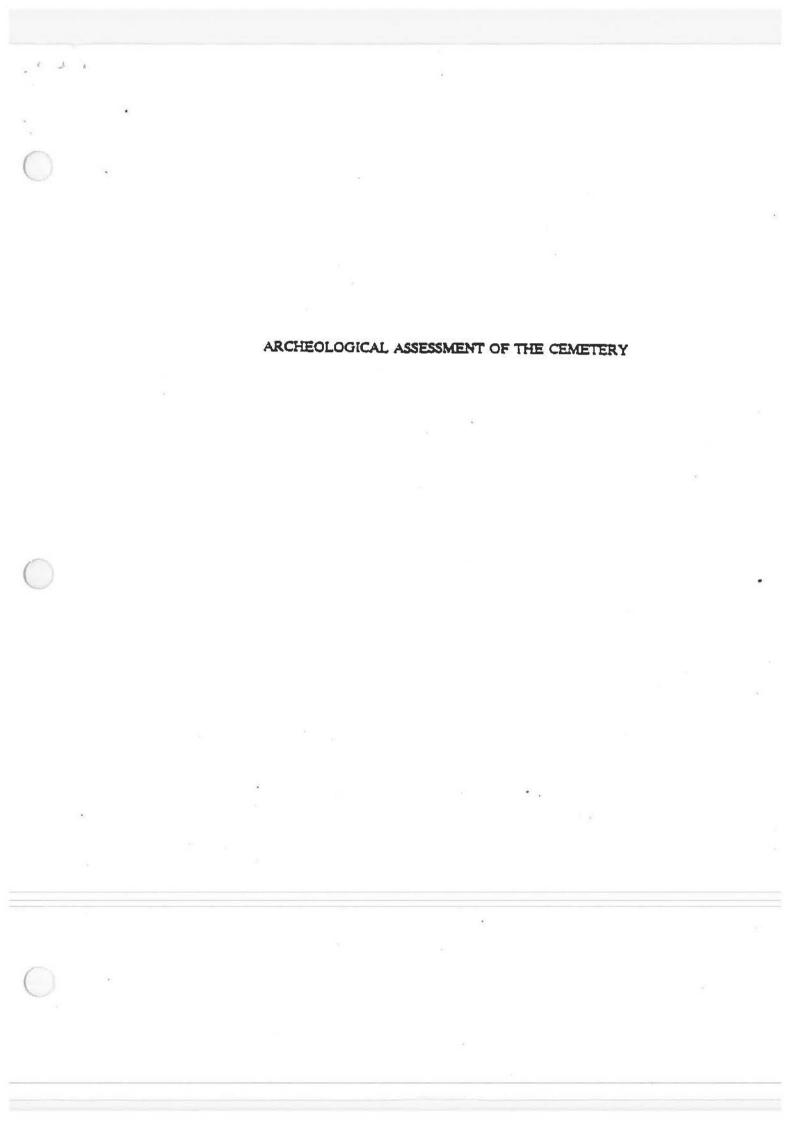
Seymour Henson and his siblings subdivided the Henson property into eight lots. In 1924, they sold the cemetery lot to Herbert A. Cleveland in 1924. The property, known as Lot #5, totaled 6.149 square feet. (Map 6) In 1926. Cleveland sold the lot to Harry C. Morgan who in turn sold it to William J. and Carrie M. Stuart, in 1945. Between 1925 and 1938, a house and an outbuilding were constructed on this lot, the house being situated quite close to the cemetery. (Map 7) The house was still standing in 1952—it is not known when it was removed. (Map 8) The structure on the lot (Lot #26001070) today appears to be the same outbuilding shown on Maps 7 and 8.

³⁵ Deed Book 205, p.133, 5 May 1924.

³⁶Deed Book 238, p.34, 8 April 1925; Deed Book 667, p.255, 20 April 1945. Arlington County Engineering Office map, August 1925.

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A DESCRIPTION

General Notes:

Relationships between people discussed in this section can be determined by consulting Appendices A & 3. Grave numbers correspond with the cemetery sketch which was prepared by Bruce McCoy, an annotated copy of which is contained in Appendix E³⁷ There are two predominant types of stones: professional white marble stones (#s 1, 5, 9, 10, and 14), and folk stones of a grayish hue (#s 2-4, 6, and 7). The only carving on a stone is the finger pointing to heaven on Stone 9. A popular motif in southern graveyards, the carving symbolizes a belief in life hereafter.38 For those stones which are inscribed, basic vital statistics are provided. In addition, as is typical of the period, three include epitaphs which are biblical (#1 & 5) or religious in tone (#10).

HEAD: Cut stone, white marble, professional. Broken, only base remains. Inscription:

> ...vears Blessed are the [pure in heart] for they shall see God."

- HEAD: Cut stone, gray, folk. No inscription. FOOT: "
- HEAD: 3. FOOT: Field stone, rounded. Broken. No inscription.
- 4. HEAD: Cut stone, gray, folk. Inscription:

"L N. TRAVER Dyed [Dec?] 1837 AGED 34 years"

FOOT: Cut stone, gray, folk. inscription:

"I: N. T."

5. HEAD: Cut stone, white marble, professional. Inscription:

> 'IN MEMORY OF HENRY W. TRAVERS Died Aug. 31, 1887 Aged 52 years He that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whosoever liveth and believeth in

³⁷In addition to Robinson & Associates' observation records, this section is based on Bruce McCoy's 'Measurements, Interment Locations, and Description of Stones' (June 1989).

³⁸Gregory James, "Rural Southern Gravestones." p. 69.

me shall never die. Believest thou this.

5. HEAD: Cut stone, gray, folk.

Inscription:

'W. T.

Dyed 1832*

FOCT: Cut stone, white, folk. No inscription.

7. HEAD: Cut stone, gray, folk.

Inscription:

"M. E. T.

1830"

FOOT: Fieldstone. No inscription.

3. HEAD: Cut stone, brownish, folk. No inscription.

FOOT: Cut stone, folk. No inscription.

9. HEAD: Cut stone, white marble, professional. Broken base.

Stone lying between graves 7 and 12:

Cut stone, white marble, professional. Bottom section broken off. Repaired around edges with cement (early 20th century).

Inscription:

"[Gone to] heaven...

In memory of

LAURA V.

Wife of Joel H. Whitehead

Died April 2[6?], 1874

Aged 27 years..."

Carving: closed hand with index finger pointing at top of stone. Contained within medallion. Inserted between first two lines of text.

FOOT: Cut stone, white marble, professional.

Inscription:

"L V. W."

10. HEAD: Cut stone, white marble, professional. Broken into five large pieces, four of which lie near base still planted in ground.

Inscription:

'IN MEMORY OF

REBECCA

WIFE OF ROBERT DYER

Died June 27, 1887

Aged 51...[broken]

Only Asleep'

FOOT: Cut stone, white marble, professional.

Inscription:

"R. D."

11. HEAD: Field stone, flat face. No inscription.

FOOT: Field stone. No inscription.

- HEAD: Field stone or cut stone, folk. No inscription.
- 13. HEAD: Field stone, round, broken. No inscription. FOOT:
- 14. HEAD: Cut stone, white marble, professional. Broken, only base remains. No inscription.
- 15. HEAD: Cut stone, whitish, folk. No inscription. FOOT: Fieldstone(?), brown.

Persons Reputed to be Buried in the Monroe Street Cemetery

Descendants of the Travers family and of neighbors recall oral traditions of others buried in the cemetery. A granddaughter of John L. Travers by his second marriage (see Family Group Record G-1) recalls being told that John L.; his brother, Charles; father, John W.; and grandparents, John and Elizabeth, were all buried in the cemetery. In addition, five of John L.'s children, Pearl, Mary, James, Anna and Adie Louise, are said to be buried there.³⁹

Another descendant remembers being told by his great-aunt. Alice Gott Williams, that her grandfather, William B. Dyer, was buried at the cemetery. Because they were deterred by a former owner of the property, the great aunt was not able to point out the exact grave. William Dyer (1820-1873) is likely a brother of Robert Dyer (1826-1898), whose wife Rebecca is buried in the cemetery (grave #10).

Finally, one person is reputed to be buried at the cemetery who was apparently not related to the Travers family, but whose family lived nearby. Doretta Doremus Whitcraft (1862-1900) lived in the District of Columbia upon her death, but had three sisters in Arlington. Family records owned by Doretta's niece state that Doretta was "buried in a private cemetery at 1309 South Monroe Street, Arlington."

B. ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE CEMETERY

The Monroe Street Cemetery contains 28 visible stone gravemarkers. These stones include professionally cut marble gravestones, stones which appear to be folk products, and fieldstones. These stone markers are used as headstones and footstones marking 17 graves which have been previously identified.

Although only 17 graves have been identified in the cemetery thus far, it is probable that many more burials took place in this cemetery. In the Middle Atlantic and Southern United States during the colonial period and 19th century, graves were often left unmarked. Wooden gravemarkers sometimes were used to memorialize the deceased; however, this type of marker was impermanent and quickly

³⁹Interview with Helen Sher, 9-25-89. Susan Wiseman, long-time member of the Arlington United Methodist Church, also remembered hearing that John Wesley was buried in the Monroe Street C-emetery. Interview, 9-21-89. John W. was an active member of the church.

⁴⁰Interview with John Gott, 9-21-89.

⁴¹Interview with Adeline Robertson, 9-18-89.

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deteriorated. In other instances, families were financially unable to produce gravemarkers at the time of death and such markers were never erected. In most commences which date to the 19th contury or surface, there are more burials than are represented by the gravemarkers.

The cametary useff is a family cometery which would have been associated with a 19th century residence agreet to it. The practice of burying family members in cometeries located on family property dates tack to the early 17th century in Virginia and Maryland. Initially, the widely dispersed settlement patterns in the Chesapeake region dictaved the practice of plantation burial. The small number of churches located at great distances apart prohibited churchward burial for all but those persons living in close proximity to the church. During the colonial period in the Chesapeake region and the Southern United States in general, burial in family comotories was the predominant burial pattern. Once the precedent for burial in family cometeries was set, subsequent generations continued to follow it. Therefore, the practice continued to be customary in this region into the late 19th century.⁴²

This temperary represents a type of burial practics which was very common in previous centuries. It should be noted, however, that the increase in development in this region has depleted the number of family completely still extant.

C RECOMMENDATIONS

No recommendation is being made on the historical or architectural significance of the Travers Cametery which would take away the decision-making role from the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) and the County Board. For the purpose of assisting the HALRB and County staff in the preservation of the site, or in case there should be a later decision to move the graves, this report report makes the following recommendations for archeological investigation:

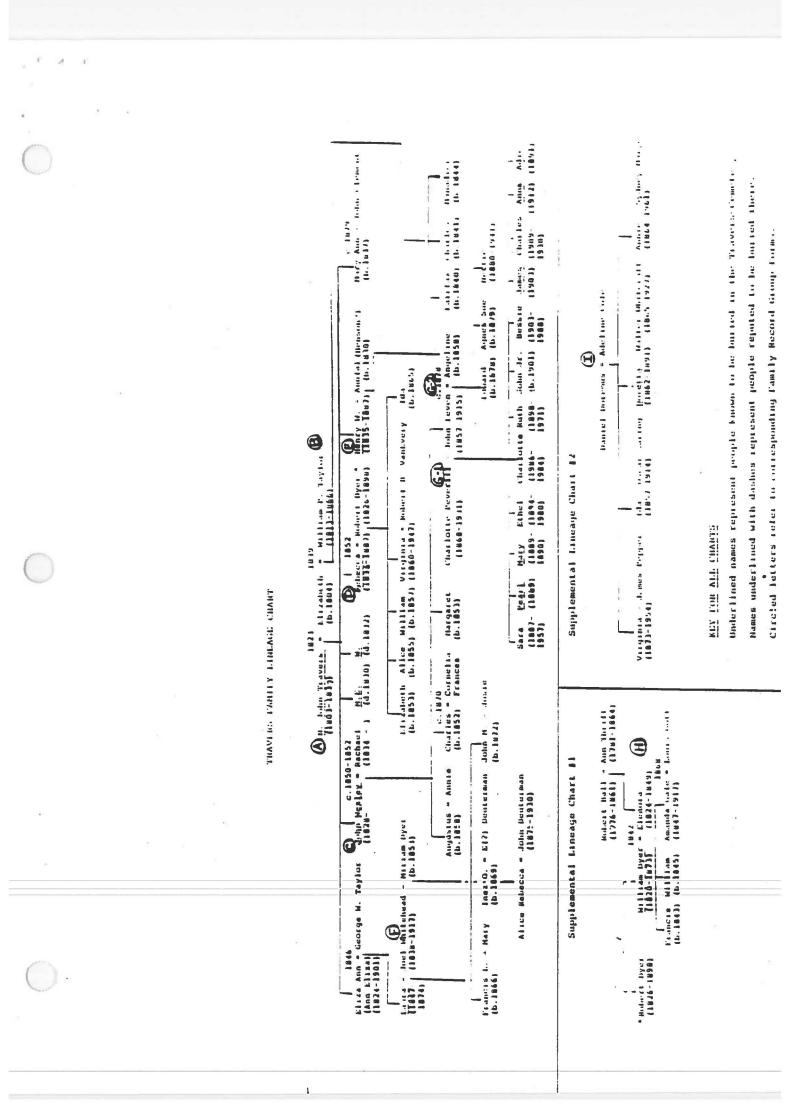
If development plans necessitate the moving of the Monroe Street Cometery, it should be completely recorded prior to any ground disturbing activities. This would include the recording of each stone according to material and style. Each stone should be measured, drawn and photographed.

In addition, the property should be tested to determine the presence of absence of additional burials which may be unmarked. A Civil War era map depicts the cemetery as much larger than its present boundaries. This cometery could have been the sits of Civil War burials in addition to unmarked family burials. Remote sensing should be used to determine the present or absence of additional burials. When the total number of the graves has been determined the cemetery should be mapped using a transit, and a site map should be made showing the presence of graves, both marked and unmarked.

If the graves are excavated to be moved, the excavation be done by an archaeologist. This will ensure the proper recordation of the historic attributes of the burials. Each body should be reburied separately and marked with the appropriate gravemarker, if present.

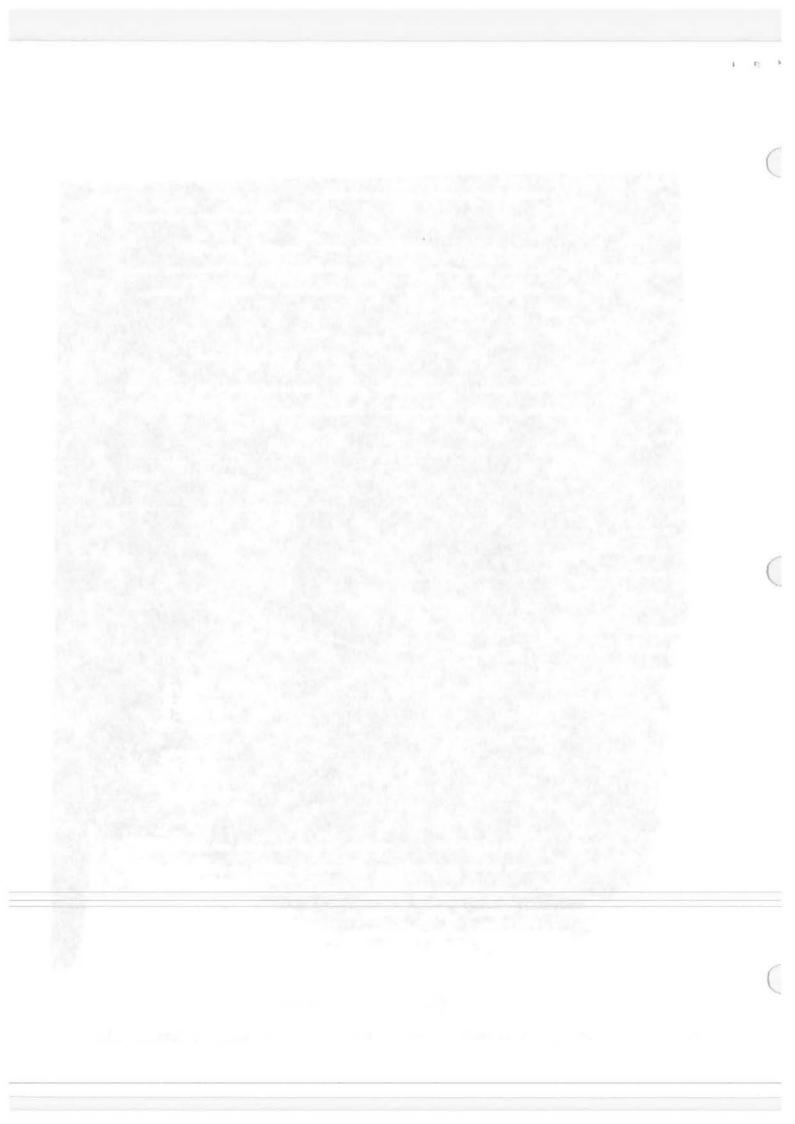
At the completion of this project, a report should be prepared which describes the gravemarkers, the cometery in context, and each of the burnsis. It would include a map of the cemetery, photographs and drawings of each gravemarker, and photographs of each grave as excavated.

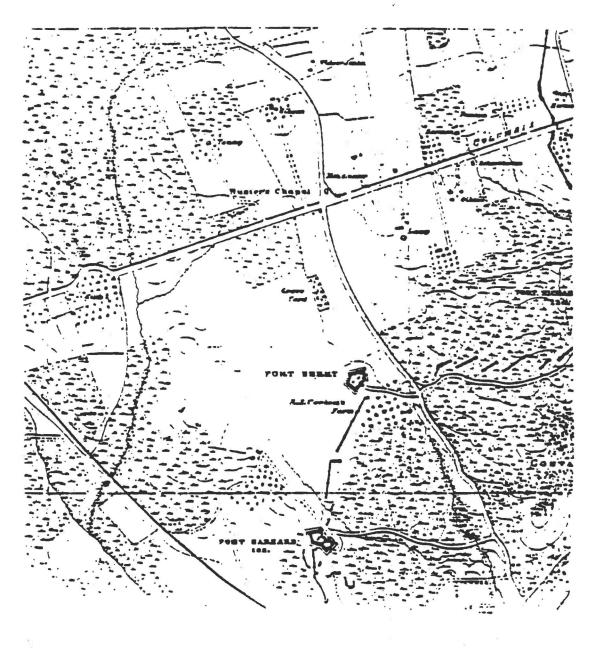
¹²Crowell and Mackie, 1985



MAP 1 ←N

Arlington County Deed Book Q3-T3, Book 7, page 400, 1 April 1351

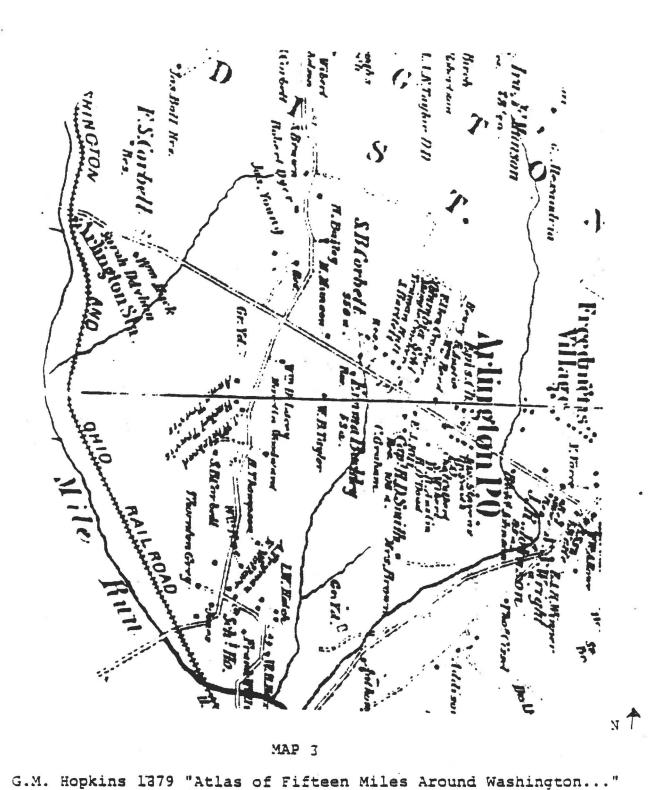




MAP 2

Nt

"Environs of Washington" Prepared from original Surveys in the Engineer Department. 1861



Graveyard is directly left of major intersection at center of map. It is indicated as "Gr.Yd."

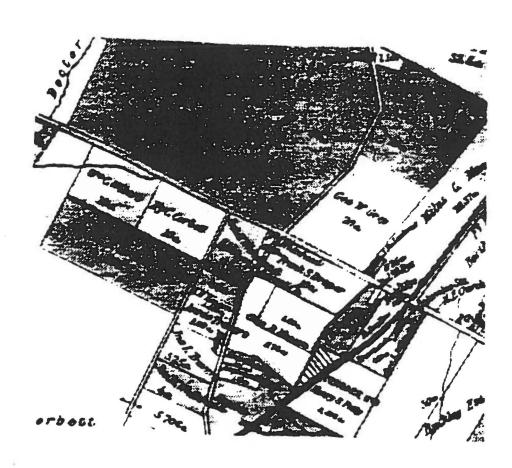




MAP 4

G.M. Hopkins 1894 "Map of the Vicinity of Washington, D.C. Graveyard is located directly below the intersection noted near the upper right-hand corner of the map. Note family names such as Travers and Whitehead along dark diagonal line.





MAP 5

G.P. Strum 1900 Detailed map of Alexandria. Note family names such as Henson, Whitehead and Travers along diagonal road extending from center of map down to the lower left-hand corner.

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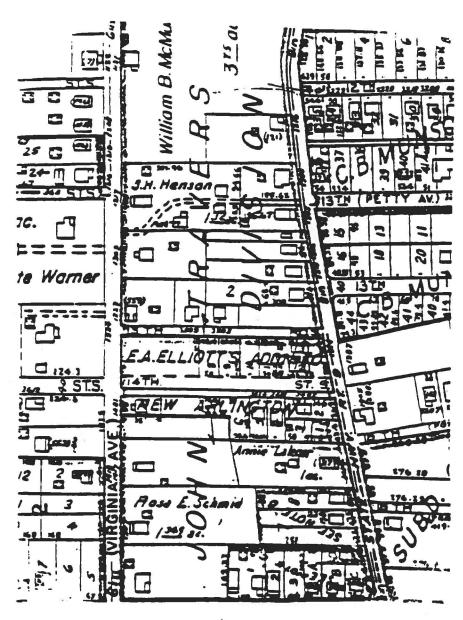
K I C. LCATH

Sicary Public.

Mrs. Blanch Margan Located near Arting ion, Artington Co Virginit. partition of the William Henson property autemon R P Hough CE Clarendon, Va. Mrs. Cofferine Chrolond THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY. Scymour Herson April 29.1984 Mrs Heaven A.

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...:



MAP 7

1938 map located at Arlington County Public Library

Graveyard is located in lot directly below that labeled S.H. Henson (center, top).

Robert R. Dye

Albert E. Dye

S.H.Henson

S.C.Henson

L.C.

Morgan

MAP 8

Plat Book of Arlington County, Virginia Franklin Survey Co., Philadelphia, 1952 (tracing).

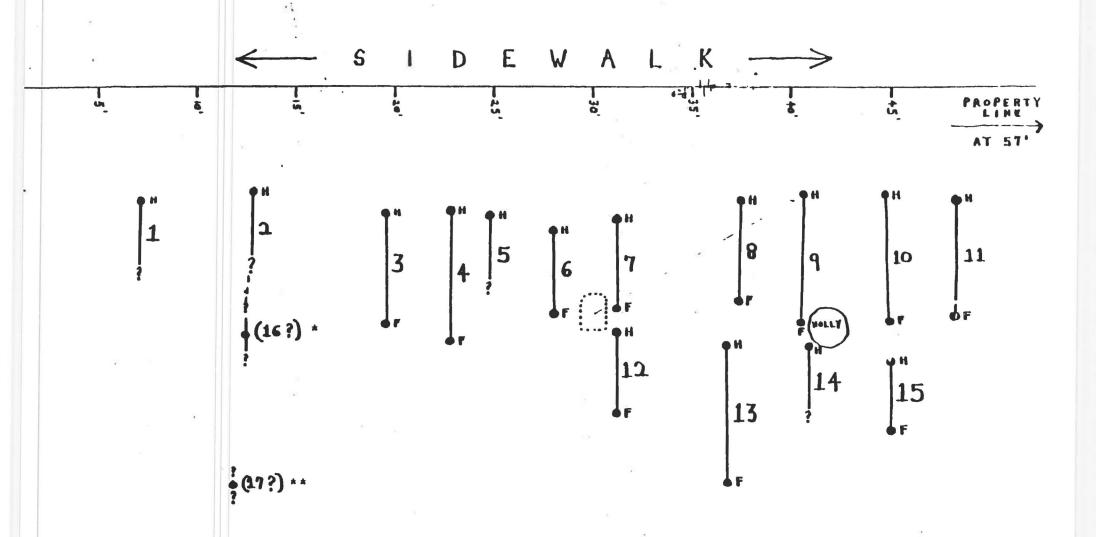
>0) VG IS HOLLY, STYRAGE 31 2 STY FR 20 CECAR WILLIAM STUART DB 667 Pg. 255

MAP 9
Map from Bruce McCoy report "Reinterment of the Burials...", 1988

A 10 V

13Ø9 S. Monroe St., Arlington, Va.

DIAGRAM OF CEMETERY



* This stone appears to mark the foot of Grave 2.

** This stone appears to be a random fieldstone.

Source: Bruce McCov "Measurement, Interment Locations & Descriptions of Stones,"

h 1 0

DRAFT ORDINANCE (12/14/89)

Z-2382-89-HD
PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION
TRAVERS FAMILY GRAVEYARD
1309 SOUTH MONROE STREET

AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO HISTORICAL AFFAIRS AND LANDMARK REVIEW BOARD SUBMITTAL Z-2382-89-HD TO ESTABLISH AS A HISTORIC DISTRICT THE TRAVERS FAMILY GRAVEYARD, INCLUDING SUCH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL FEATURES AS THE GRAVESTONES AND THE MATURE HOLLY TREE, LOCATED ON A 45 FOOT BY 25 FOOT PORTION OF THE PARCEL OF LAND KNOWN AS 1309 SOUTH MONROE STREET, AND TO SHOW IT ACCORDINGLY AS AN OVERLAY ON THE ZONING MAP.

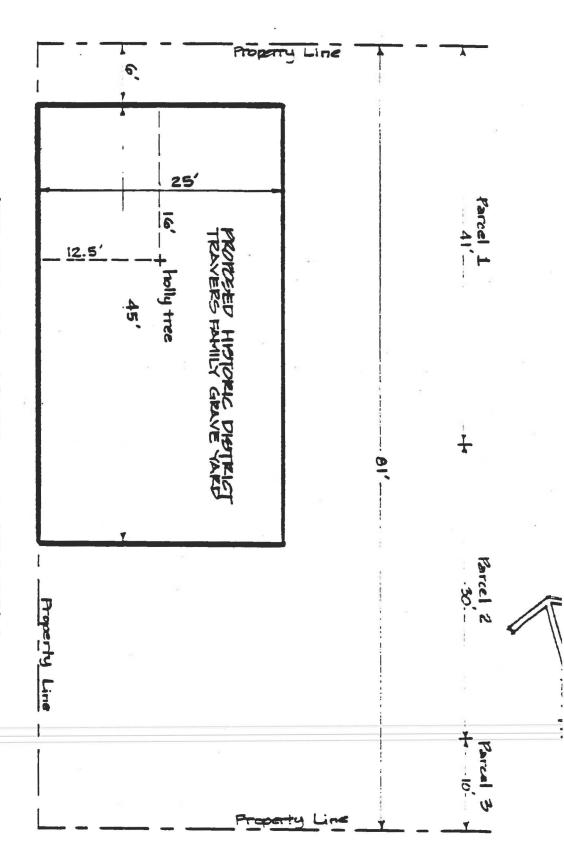
BE IT ORDAINED that, in order to serve the public necessity, convenience, general welfare, and good zoning practices and principles of historic preservation, the Travers Family Graveyard, including such archaeological and natural features as the gravestones and the mature holly tree located on a 45 foot by 25 foot portion of the parcel of real property known as 1309 South Monroe Street, is hereby designated as a historic district pursuant to the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board submittal Z-2382-89-HD on file in the office of the Zoning Administrator and the zoning map is hereby amended to show the designation as an overlay. The boundaries of this historic district are shown on the attached maps and shall be as follows: on the north, a line 6 feet from the north property line; on the south, a line 51 feet from the north property line; on the west, the west property line; and on the east, a line 25 feet from the west property line. The mature holly tree is located approximately 16 feet from the north property line and approximately 12 feet from the west property line.

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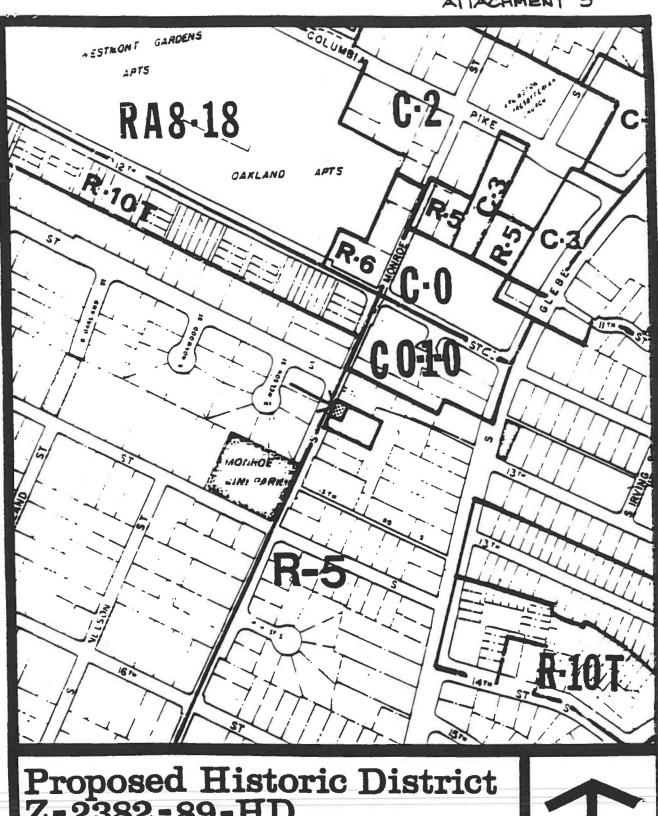
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PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT



SCALE: 1"-10'-0"

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o lake

Proposed Historic District Z-2382-89-HD

Travers Family Grave Yard 1309 S. Monroe St.

Arlington County Department of Community Planning, Housing & Development Community Improvement Division



1"=300"