

ATTACHMENT D

ROBERT BALL SR. FAMILY BURIAL GROUND
4201 FAIRFAX DRIVE
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201

HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION FORM
OCTOBER 2016; UPDATED FEBRUARY 2017



ROBERT BALL, SR.
Born November 13, 1776.
Died May 21, 1861.
HIS WIFE
ANN BALL
Born February 10, 1781.
Died October 7, 1864.

**ARLINGTON COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION FORM**

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**ARLINGTON COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION FORM**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Proposed District Name: Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground
Historic Name(s): Ball Family Burial Ground; Old Ball Burial Ground;
Robert Ball Graveyard
Other Name(s): Robert Ball Sr. Burial Ground

2. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Street and number: 4201 Fairfax Drive
County: Arlington County
State, zip code: Virginia, 22201

3. TYPE OF PROPERTY

A. Ownership of Property

Private
 Public
 Local
 State
 Federal

B. Category of Property

Building(s)
 District
 Site
 Structure
 Object

C. Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing		
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	Building(s)
				Sites
				Structures
				Objects
				Total

D. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places

Yes No

4. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Functions: Funerary; cemetery; family burial ground

Current Functions: Funerary; cemetery; family burial ground


5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Setting: The Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground is located at 4201 Fairfax Drive in the Ballston neighborhood of Arlington, Virginia. The Ball family first platted the one-quarter-acre graveyard in 1865 when the neighborhood consisted primarily of farmland; however, the first known interment occurred in 1854. The size of the burial ground decreased due to the conveyance of the property to the Central United Methodist Church, who built the present-day church on part of the land in 1923. In the twentieth century, Ballston experienced a period of dense urban development that now surrounds the burial ground. A section of the original graveyard parcel remains open green space (App. 1, Fig. 1). This remaining part of the graveyard parcel is bound as follows: the parking lot of Central United Methodist Church to the north; North Fairfax Drive and a section of the lawn of the Central United Methodist Church to the south; North Stafford Street to the east; and Central United Methodist Church to the west.

Raised above street level, the burial ground parcel lacks delineation other than a 12-inch tall stone retaining wall that parallels North Stafford Street (formerly known as Clements Avenue).¹ Presently, six grave markers are located towards the southeast corner of the site (App. 1, Fig. 1). Two markers, including a pedestal obelisk and a traditional headstone, are standing, and three headstones have fallen. A single fallen footstone correlates to one of the headstones. The current placement of the standing and fallen markers suggests a west-east orientation of the interred (App. 5, Fig. 1-11). A seventh marker, a footstone for Francis E. Dyer, is being kept within the Church. This marker will be relocated onsite in the future, and is therefore included as a contributing object to the district.

¹ Ca. 1922, the church and county revised the street layout of Clements Avenue to construct a new church. The new circulation network resulted in a gently curving roadway that avoided the graves.

Description of Grave Markers: On the subsequent pages is an inventory of the seven existing grave markers at the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground. See Appendix 5 for current photographs of the burial ground.

Map Identification Number	1
Deceased	Robert Ball Sr. and Ann Ball
Birth:	Robert: November 13, 1776 Ann: February 10, 1781
Death:	Robert: May 16, 1861* Ann: October 9, 1864*
Marker Type:	Headstone
Material:	White marble
Condition:	Good. The headstone has collapsed. The stone is broken at the base and chipped at the apex of the marker. A fragment from the base is missing.
Stone Location (in-situ, displaced, or unknown)	Unknown (fallen)
Inscription:	<p style="text-align: center;">ROBERT BALL, SR. Born November 13, 1776 Died May 21, 1861 HIS WIFE ANN BALL Born February 10, 1781 Died October 7, 1864</p>
Iconography:	N/A
Ornamentation:	N/A
Notes:	*The date of death for both individuals is incorrectly carved on the headstone.
Index Photograph:	

Map Identification Number

2

Deceased

Mary Ball

Birth:

July 4, 1800

Death:

October 4, 1870

Marker Type:

Headstone

Material:

White marble

Condition:

Fair. The headstone has fallen and horizontally snapped near its center. The upper half of the marker has a vertical and horizontal crack.

Stone Location (in-situ, displaced, or unknown)

Unknown (fallen).

Inscription:

OUR MOTHER
MARY BALL.
WIFE OF
JAMES T. BALL
Born July 4th 1800
Died October 4, 1870

*Blessed are the pure in spirit
For they shall see God.*

*Calm on the bosom of thy God.
Blessed are the pure in spirit
Fair spirit rest thee now
E'en while with ours thy
footsteps trod
His seal was on thy brow*

Iconography:

Lily, symbolizing innocence and purity.

Ornamentation:

Various fonts/scripts

Notes:

The epitaph is from a poem titled "Calm in the Bosom of Thy God" written by Late Romantic poet Felicia Hemans (1795 – 1836).

The headstone matches the design of James T. Ball's (her husband) marker; however, there is no visible footstone associated with Mary Ball.

Index Photograph:



Map Identification Number | 3A

Deceased James Thrift Ball
Birth: November 3, 1806
Death: March 6, 1867
Marker Type: Headstone
Material: White marble
Condition: Good. The marker has fallen but there is no visible damage.

Stone Location (in-situ, displaced, or unknown) Potentially displaced (fallen). The location of the headstone does not align with the footstone (Identification Number 3B). See Appendix 5, Figure 1 for the location of these markers.

Inscription:

OUR FATHER
JAMES T. BALL
Born November 3, 1806
Died March 6th. 1867

*The sweet remembrance
of the just
Shall flourish when he sleep in dust.*


Iconography: Masonic symbol.
Ornamentation: N/A.
Notes: The epitaph is from Psalm of David 91. The carver misspelled the word “flourish.”

The headstone matches the design of Mary Ball’s (his wife) marker.

A corresponding footstone (Identification Number 3B) is located to the northeast of the headstone.

Index Photograph:



Map Identification Number	3B
Deceased	James Thrift Ball
Birth:	November 3, 1806
Death:	March 6, 1867
Marker Type:	Footstone
Material:	White marble
Condition:	Good. The marker has fallen but there is no visible damage.
Stone Location (in-situ, displaced, or unknown)	Potentially displaced (fallen). The location of the footstone does not align with the headstone (Identification Number 3A). See Appendix 5, Figure 1 for the location of these markers.
Inscription:	J. T. B.
Iconography:	N/A
Ornamentation:	N/A
Notes:	The headstone corresponds to the footstone.
Index Photograph:	

Map Identification Number**4****Deceased**

Francis E. Dyer

Birth:

September 1, 1843

Death:

December 4, 1881

Marker Type:

Obelisk

Material:

White marble

Condition:

Fair/Good

**Stone Location (in-situ,
displaced, or unknown)**

Potentially displaced. Lichen is present on the south and east faces of the stone. The apex of the obelisk and a piece of the shaft has broken and is missing. There are other minor cracks. Historic photographs from the mid-twentieth century do not show any upright grave markers suggesting it may have fallen.

Inscription:

To my
beloved
Husband

In memory of
my Husband
FRANCES E.
DYER
Born Sep. 1 1843
Died Dec. 4 1881

Iconography:

Primrose, representing eternal love.


Ornamentation:

Different fonts/script.

Notes:

N/A.

Index Photograph:

Map Identification Number	(Marker presently located inside of church)
Deceased	Francis E. Dyer
Birth:	September 1, 1843
Death:	December 4, 1881
Marker Type:	Footstone
Material:	White marble
Condition:	Fair/Good
Stone Location (in-situ, displaced, or unknown)	Displaced. The stone is presently located inside the church.
Inscription:	F.E.D.
Iconography:	N/A
Ornamentation:	N/A
Notes:	N/A
Index Photograph:	

Map Identification Number | **5**

Deceased Alice Ball
Birth: August 8, 1853
Death: June 22, 1854
Marker Type: Headstone
Material: White marble
Condition: Good. The face of the headstone has spalled at the corner of the arc. There is minor damage to the edges of the marker.

Stone Location (in-situ, displaced, or unknown) Potentially displaced.

Inscription:

IN MEMORY OF
ALICE.
infant daughter of
Robert & E. A. Ball
Died June 22, 1854
Aged 10 mos & 14 days

Iconography: N/A

Ornamentation: N/A

Notes: N/A

Index Photograph:



6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A. Applicable Designation Criteria as described in 11.3.4.A.4 of the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance (ACZO):

The Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground meets five of the eleven designation criteria as listed in Section 11.3.4.A.4, Establishment of Historic Districts, in the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance (ACZO).

B. Statement of Significance

The Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground is one of the last remnants of Ballston's rural heritage. Located directly across from the Ballston Metro Station, the graveyard tangibly connects visitors to the origins and namesake family of the community. The burial ground serves as an accessible location to reflect upon the Ball family's contributions to Arlington County. The extended Ball family remained in Alexandria County (present-day Arlington County) after the Civil War, and held prominent positions in local government, politics, and civic life well into the twentieth century. In addition, the headstones are reminders of our past and speak to life in the mid-nineteenth century. The markers' inscriptions, iconography, and ornamentation evoke the economic standing of the interred, the religious beliefs of the community, and details of the particular histories of and relationships between members of the Ball family.

C. Period of Significance

1854-1922

D. Significant Dates

1854: Robert Ball Jr. and Elizabeth Ann (nee McElwee) Ball buried their infant daughter Alice Ball. This is the first known burial at the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground.

1865: The heirs of Robert Ball Sr. platted the family burial ground.²

1906: Charles A. Ball, Mary E. Hyatt, Clara E. Ball, and Florence Ball, the descendants of Robert Ball Sr., conveyed the burial ground parcel to the Methodist Episcopal Church South (present day Central United Methodist Church).³

² Arlington County Land Records, "Robert Ball's Executors vs. Robert Ball's Devisees," December 5, 1865, Liber W3, Folio 439-443.

³ The Central United Methodist Church has been known as the following: Methodist Episcopal Church South and Central Methodist Episcopal Church, South Ballston. Arlington County Land Records, "Charles A. Ball et al to E. W. R. Ewing et al," November 12, 1906, Liber 115, Folio 186.

1922: The Alexandria County Circuit Court authorized the closing of Clements Avenue (present-day North Stafford Street) to the southwest, west, and northwest of the graveyard parcel, and the enlargement/realignment of Clements Avenue to the east of the graveyard parcel. Any unmarked graves found during the realignment of Clements Avenue were to be reinterred near the existing marked graves within the parcel.⁴

E. Significant Person(s)

Robert Ball Sr. and Ann Ball

Robert Ball Sr. (1776-1881) established the subject burial ground to the rear of his plantation in the mid-nineteenth century (App. 2, Fig. 1-2). He married Ann Thrift on June 9, 1803, and served in the War of 1812. By 1820, the couple resided in Alexandria County, District of Columbia. The Balls owned approximately 103 acres of land at Ball's Cross Roads (Wilson Boulevard and Glebe Road) and may have owned the tavern at the southwest corner of the intersection (App. 2, Fig. 2).⁵ Assisted by his son Robert Ball Jr., he served as jailer in the District of Columbia in 1847.⁶ In 1853, the Governor appointed Robert Ball Sr., George W. P. Custis, and Wesley Carlin as Justices of the Peace for Alexandria County for a four-year term.⁷ Robert Ball Sr. died on May 16, 1861, and was interred at the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground.⁸ The family buried Ann Ball on October 8, 1864, with her husband at the graveyard.⁹

James T. Ball and Mary Ball

James T. Ball (1806-1867), the son of Robert Ball Sr. and Ann Ball, lived near Ball's Cross Roads (App. 2, Fig. 1). On February 11, 1835, Ball married Mary Sewell (1800-1870) in the District of Columbia.¹⁰ In 1850, he owned approximately 188 acres of land and two slaves: a 45-year-old male and 22-year-old female.¹¹

On numerous occasions, he served as Commissioner of Elections with other prominent Alexandria County residents such as Wesley Carlin, Anthony R.

⁴ Circuit Court Records, "E. W. R. Ewing, et als., trustees, vs. Heirs of Robert Ball, Sr., deceased, et als." October 30, 1922, Liber 8, Folio 76-77.

⁵ Arlington County Land Records, "Robert Ball's Executors vs. Robert Ball's Devisees," December 5, 1865, Liber W3, Folio 439-443.

⁶ John Clagett Proctor, "St. Elizabeth's Has Notable History," *Evening Star*, November 4, 1934, Newsbank.

⁷ "People; Robert Ball Sr.," Center for Local History Archival Records, Arlington County Public Library.

⁸ "Died," *Alexandria Gazette*, May 18, 1861, Chronicling America.

⁹ "Died," *Evening Star*, October 10, 1864, Chronicling America.

¹⁰ "James T Ball and Mary Sewall," *Washington, D.C. Marriages, 1826-1850*. Ancestry.

¹¹ "James Ball," *U.S. Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850*. Ancestry; "James T. Ball," *1850 U.S. Federal Census – Slave Schedules*. Ancestry.

Frazier, and Washington T. Harper.¹² He was appointed Overseer of the Poor, served on a committee to establish the Agricultural Society for Alexandria County, and ran for numerous local political offices including Commissioner of Revenue and Sheriff.¹³ He later served as a police officer in the District of Columbia.¹⁴ During the Civil War, the Union Citizens File has numerous records of Ball traveling to and from Ball's Cross Roads and Washington, D.C. for family supplies and marketing.¹⁵ James T. Ball and Mary Sewell Ball died on March 6, 1867, and October 4, 1870, respectively.

Francis E. Dyer

Francis E. Dyer (1843-1881) was the son of William B. Dyer and Ellen (nee Ball) Dyer. His mother died when he was only six years old.¹⁶ Robert Ball Sr. and Ann Ball, his grandparents, raised Dyer and his two siblings at their plantation at Ball's Cross Roads. During the Civil War, Dyer served the Confederate States of America as a Private in Captain Edward B. Powell's Company of Cavalry, Virginia 6th Cavalry. He enlisted on May 21, 1861, and later promoted to Full Sergeant on September 15, 1862.¹⁷ In 1880, he resided in Washington, D.C. with his wife Annie Dyer and was employed as a watchman.¹⁸ He died the following year on December 4, 1881.¹⁹

F. Cultural/Social Affiliation

Not Applicable

G. Architect/Builder

Not Applicable

H. Narrative

Family Burial Grounds

Family burial grounds were typical features of family farms and plantations in the southern and mid-Atlantic colonies. Life in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries often necessitated interments of immediate and extended family on the property due to the distance of the farmland or plantation from formal or church cemeteries. Slaveholders often buried their slaves in

¹² "Commissioners of Elections," *Alexandria Gazette*, April 7, 1847, Newsbank.

¹³ "[untitled]," *Alexandria Gazette*, July 7, 1849, Newsbank; "Alexandria County Agricultural Society," *Alexandria Gazette*, November 6, 1851, Newsbank; "James T. Ball," *Alexandria Gazette*, April 14, 1852, Newsbank; "Advertisement," *Alexandria Gazette*, April 13, 1854, Newsbank.

¹⁴ "News of the Day," *Alexandria Gazette*, March 20, 1855, Newsbank.

¹⁵ "Ball, James," *Union Citizens File*, Fold3.

¹⁶ "Died," *Alexandria Gazette*, September 8, 1849, Newsbank.

¹⁷ "Francis E. Dyer," *U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865*, Ancestry.

¹⁸ "Francis Dyer," *United States Federal Census Records, 1880*, Ancestry.

¹⁹ "Obituary," *Evening Star*, December 12, 1881, Ancestry.

segregated graveyards on the plantation property; however, there are examples within Arlington County and others in the mid-Atlantic region where white owners buried their slaves in the white family burial ground.²⁰

Landowners often located family burial grounds in close proximity to the dwelling on high, well-drained land, and delineated the graveyard by means of a wall or fence. The ownership and establishment of family burial grounds became the traditional burial method in rural communities.²¹ In Arlington County, early residents platted numerous nineteenth-century family burial grounds remain within the fabric of our urban and suburban environment. In 1985, the Arlington Genealogy Club documented the existence of at least 31 family burial grounds.²² Consistent with his contemporaries, Robert Ball Sr. established the subject graveyard on his 103-acre property directly north of his dwelling (App. 2, Fig. 1-2). The subject graveyard is one of three known Ball family burial grounds located in the County.

Brief Lineage of Robert Ball Sr.

Robert Ball Sr. descended from one of the pioneers of Arlington County (then part of Fairfax County). In the mid-eighteenth century, the sons of John Ball (ca. 1670-1722) and Winifred Williams (1678-1751) received land patents. On January 15, 1742, John Ball II (1714-1776) received a 166-acre patent on Four Mile Run from Lord Thomas Fairfax.²³ He constructed the present-day Ball-Sellers House shortly after acquiring the property.²⁴ Moses Ball (1717 - 1792), his brother, acquired the adjacent 91 acres on Four Mile Run on May 26, 1748.²⁵ The area owned by the Ball families would later become Glencarlyn.

Moses Ball married Ann Nancy Brashear (1729-1816) on June 23, 1745. The couple had at least eight children including John Ball (1746-1814), their eldest son. John Ball signed an agreement in 1770 not to import British goods along with his father and brother, Moses Ball and Moses Ball II. He served as a clerk and lay reader of the (Episcopal) Falls Church prior to the Revolutionary War.²⁶ On February 26, 1776, John Ball was commissioned as an ensign in the Sixth Virginia Calvary.²⁷

²⁰ These examples include the following: Birch-Payne Cemetery, Arlington County, Virginia, and Fairview Cemetery, Bowie, Maryland.

²¹ Elisabeth Walton Potter, *National Register Bulletin 41: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places*. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1992), 2-4.

²² Arlington Genealogy Club, *Graveyards of Arlington County Virginia*. (Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 1985), v-vi.

²³ Historical records do not list John Ball as the "II," but for clarity, he will be listed as John Ball II in this designation report. "Ball, John" Northern Neck Northern Grants F, 1742-1754, p. 57. Library of Virginia.

²⁴ Arlington Historical Society, "Ball-Sellers House," <http://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org> (accessed October 12, 2016).

²⁵ Historians suggest that Moses did not live at this property until 1755. "Ball, Moses," Northern Neck Northern Grants F, 1742-1754, p. 288. Library of Virginia Northern Neck Grants F, 1742 – 1754, P. 288

²⁶ Doris LeClere Ball, *The Ball Family of the Potomac, 1654-2004*. (Provo, Utah: Stevenson's Genealogy Center, 2004), 122.

²⁷ "John Ball," *Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army during the Revolutionary War, compiled 1894 - ca. 1912, documenting the period 1775 – 1784*, Fold3.

John Ball married Mary Ann Thrift (1750-1804) in 1771. John Ball and Mary Ann Thrift had eight children: Anna Ball, Robert Ball [Sr.], John Ball, William Ball, Aquilla Ball, Horatio Ball, Dabney Ball, and Mary Ball. Their children and descendants largely remained in the region with many settling in present-day Arlington County.²⁸

Robert Ball Sr., Ann Thrift Ball, and the First Recorded Burial at the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground (ca. 1800-1862)

Born on November 13, 1776, Robert Ball Sr. was the son of Ensign John Ball and Mary Ann Thrift. He married Ann Thrift on June 9, 1803, in Alexandria County, District of Columbia.²⁹ Robert Ball Sr. and Horatio Ball (1785-1873), his brother, both resided near the present-day intersection of Wilson Boulevard and Glebe Road. (App. 2, Fig. 1). First known as Birch's Crossroad, this intersection was later renamed Ball's Cross Roads, often spelled as Ball's X Roads.

In *Arlington Heritage: Vignettes of a Virginia County*, Eleanor Lee Templeman noted that one of the Balls erected a two-story log inn, known as "Ball's Tavern," at the southwest corner of the crossroads at the turn of the nineteenth century.³⁰ Robert Ball Sr. may have owned and/or operated the tavern as he acquired the property by the time of his death.³¹ Templeman cited the tavern as a central point of the community, serving different functions including local voting precinct, general store, and post office.³²

Robert and Horatio Ball both served in the District of Columbia Militia in the War of 1812.³³ In 1820, Robert Ball's household in Alexandria County, District of Columbia, consisted of 12 individuals (ten free caucasians and two slaves).³⁴ Three of the household members were engaged in agriculture on the property.

In addition to farming, Robert Ball Sr. established a working relationship with George Washington Parke Custis of Arlington House. In 1823, Ball served as an agent for Custis in the sale of the Forest Estate, 250 acres of woods and meadows.³⁵ The business association and friendship continued as indicated by a letter from Custis to Ball on September 12, 1854.³⁶ Robert

²⁸ John Ball and Mary Ann Thrift were buried at the Old Ball Family Burial Ground near Washington Boulevard between North Lincoln and North Kirkwood Road. Doris LeClere Ball, *The Ball Family of the Potomac, 1654-2004*. (Provo, Utah: Stevenson's Genealogy Center, 2004), Appendix A.

²⁹ "Ball, John," *Washington, D.C., Marriages, 1801-1825*, Ancestry.

³⁰ Eleanor Templeman, *Arlington Heritage: Vignettes of a Virginia County* (Arlington, Virginia: Templeman, 1959), 90.

³¹ Further archival research in Fairfax County and the District of Columbia is necessary to determine when Robert Ball Sr. acquired the property. Alexandria County Land Records, "Robert Ball's Executors vs. Robert Ball's Devises," December 5, 1865, Liber W3, Folio 439-443.

³² Templeman, 90.

³³ *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812*, Fold3.

³⁴ By this time, Robert and Ann Thrift had four daughters and three sons: William, James Thrift, John, Sarah, Mary M., Martha, and Amanda. "Robert Ball," *1820 United States Federal Census*, Ancestry; Doris LeClere Ball, *The Ball Family of the Potomac, 1654-2004*. (Provo, Utah: Stevenson's Genealogy Center, 2004), 122.

³⁵ "Valuable Land for Sale" *Alexandria Gazette*, October 23, 1823, Newsbank.

³⁶ Letter from George W. P. Custis to Robert Ball, September 12, 1854, <http://www.nps.gov> (accessed October 12, 2016).

Ball Sr.'s connection to Arlington House continued as family historians noted that Robert E. Lee visited his house before 1861.³⁷

Fifteen individuals (14 free caucasians and one slave) lived on the Ball plantation in 1830.³⁸ Robert Ball Jr., born at Ball's Cross Roads on April 30, 1827, lived at the house for only seven years before moving to Washington, D.C.³⁹ He married Elizabeth Ann McElwee in 1848.⁴⁰ The couple moved back to Ball's Cross Roads and remained there until he was appointed to a position in the Washington, D.C. post office.⁴¹ The couple's third child, Alice Ball, died on June 22, 1854, before her first birthday. She is the first known burial at the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground.⁴²

In 1850, Robert Ball Sr.'s farm and orchard consisted of 103 acres and had a cash value of \$2,000.⁴³ There were three horses, six milk sows, four cattle, and six swine valued at \$275. The farm produced crops including wheat, rye, corn, oats, and potatoes, and butter.⁴⁴ There were three slaves laboring at the property: a 15-year-old male, 30-year-old female, and 65-year-old male.⁴⁵ In 1853, Robert Ball Sr., George W.P. Custis, and Wesley Carlin were appointed Justices of the Peace, for Alexandria County.⁴⁶

Living with Robert and Ann Ball were three of their children and four grandchildren, including Francis E., William, and Amanda Dyer. They were the children of Ellen (nee Ball) Dyer, the daughter of Robert and Ann, who died on September 3, 1849.⁴⁷ The Ball family would later bury Francis E. Dyer in the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground.

Robert Ball Sr.'s farm value increased to \$10,000 by 1860.⁴⁸ Ball still resided on the property with his wife and three grandchildren, and owned one slave, a 14-year-old female.⁴⁹ The following year, Robert Ball Sr. died on May 16, 1861. The family buried him in the subject burial ground. His obituary stated:

³⁷ Doris LeClere Ball, *The Ball Family of the Potomac, 1654-2004*. (Provo, Utah: Stevenson's Genealogy Center, 2004), 122.

³⁸ Robert and Ann had an additional three children: Barbara Elizabeth, Ellenora, and Robert Ball, Jr. "Robert Ball," *1820 United States Federal Census*, Ancestry; Doris LeClere Ball, *The Ball Family of the Potomac, 1654-2004*. (Provo, Utah: Stevenson's Genealogy Center, 2004), 137.

³⁹ "Robert G. Ball," *Alexandria Gazette*, March 24, 1897, Chronicling America.

⁴⁰ There are two marriage records for the couple. One from Washington D.C. on September 18, 1848, and one from Baltimore County, on September 20, 1848.

⁴¹ "Robert G. Ball," *Alexandria Gazette*, March 24, 1897, Chronicling America.

⁴² Interments in this section of the property may have predated the burial of Alice Ball. Landowners of other plantations in Arlington County often buried their slaves within or in close proximity to family burial grounds.

⁴³ The acreage corresponds to the amount of property subdivided at the time of his death. "Robert Ball," *U.S. Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850*. Ancestry

⁴⁴ "Robert Ball," *U.S. Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850*. Ancestry

⁴⁵ "Robert Ball," *1850 U.S. Federal Census – Slave Schedules*, Ancestry.

⁴⁶ "People; Robert Ball Sr.," Center for Local History Archival Records, Arlington County Library.

⁴⁷ The family buried Ellen Dyer at the Travers Family Cemetery in Arlington County. "Died," *Alexandria Gazette*, September 8, 1849, Newsbank.

⁴⁸ "Robert Ball," *United States Federal Census Records, 1860*. Ancestry; "Robert Ball," *1860 U.S. Federal Census – Slave Schedules*, Ancestry.

⁴⁹ "Robert Ball," *1850 U.S. Federal Census – Slave Schedules*, Ancestry.

A very large circle of sincerely attached relatives and friends, in this District and the region surrounding it, will hear with deep regret that the venerable Robert Ball, sr., of Alexandria county, Va., died yesterday at his residence.⁵⁰

Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground (1863-1879)

Provided in Orphan's Court by Richard Southern and Wesley Carlin on December 7, 1863, Robert Ball Sr.'s will stipulated that Ann Ball, his wife, receive one-third of his real and personal property, and the remainder divided among his children and grandchildren.⁵¹ Ann (nee Thrift) Ball, however, died on October 4, 1864.⁵² The Ball family buried their mother with Robert Ball Sr. (her husband) and Alice Ball (his granddaughter) at the subject burial ground. Her obituary stated the following:

October 9th, the 83rd year of her age, Mrs. ANN BALL widow of the late Robert Ball, Sr. The funeral will take place at 2 o'clock, on the 11th instant, from her late residence, near Ball's X Roads, Alexandria county, Va.⁵³

The descendants of Robert Sr. and Ann Ball divided the family property near Ball's Cross Road into eight lots. The partition records the first formal plat for the subject burial ground at the center of the Lot No. 4:

And also the graveyard containing 20 square poles as shown on the map in Lot No. 4, is alike reserved for use of the whole family.⁵⁴

Nicholas and Amanda (nee Ball) Febrey received Lot No 4.⁵⁵ The couple then conveyed the 11-acre parcel to Robert Ball Jr. on March 21, 1866.⁵⁶ The Ball family continued to utilize the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground for another 15 years. On March 8, 1867, relatives buried James T. Ball, the son of Robert Ball Sr. and Ann Ball, at the graveyard. His obituary stated the following:

DIED At his residence, near Ball's Cross Roads, Virginia, on the morning of the 6th instant, of typhoid pneumonia, JAMES T. BALL, in the 61st year of his age. The funeral will take place on Friday afternoon, 8th instant, at 1 o'clock, from his late residence, to which the friends of the family are invited.⁵⁷

⁵⁰ "Died," *Evening Star*, May 17, 1861, Newsbank.

⁵¹ Arlington County Probate Records, "Robert Ball," December 7, 1863.

⁵² "Died," *Evening Star*, October 10, 1864, Chronicling America.

⁵³ "Died," *Evening Star*, October 10, 1864, Chronicling America.

⁵⁴ Arlington County Land Records, "Robert Ball's Executors vs. Robert Ball's Devises," December 5, 1865, Liber W3, Folio 439-443.

⁵⁵ Arlington County Land Records, "Robert Ball's Executors vs. Robert Ball's Devises," December 5, 1865, Liber W3, Folio 439-443.

⁵⁶ Robert Ball Jr. also had acquired 17-acre Lot No. 5 from the partition of his father's estate. Arlington County Land Records, "Nicholas and Amanda Febrey to Robert Ball," March 21, 1866, Liber X3, Folio 65-75.

⁵⁷ "Died," *Alexandria Gazette*, March 7, 1867, Newsbank.

Three years later, on October 4, 1870, James T. Ball's wife Mary (nee Sewell) Ball died. The family also interred her at the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground.⁵⁸

Robert Ball Jr. and the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground (1880-1905)

On June 24, 1880, Commissioners of Sale Albert Stuart and H. O. Claughton sold at public auction the 27-acre property (including the one-quarter-acre family burial ground) belonging to Robert Ball Jr.⁵⁹ The commissioners sold the land to settle a claim by Dixon and Bros against Robert Ball Jr. Nathan Ward Fitzgerald and Julia Fitzgerald purchased the property for \$945 and finalized the conveyance on October 7, 1881.⁶⁰ Burials by the Ball family, however, continued during this period of ownership. Frances E. Dyer, the grandson of Robert Sr. and Ann Ball, died on December 4, 1881. He is the last known interment at the graveyard.

On November 2, 1881, the Fitzgeralds then sold the 27-acre property except for the one-quarter-acre burial ground to John T. Birch for \$1,000 (App. 2, Fig. 3). The following year, on March 10, 1882, the Fitzgeralds conveyed the burial parcel back to Robert Ball Jr.⁶¹

Birch retained the 27-acre property for almost a decade before selling the land to James E. Clements for \$3,000 on January 6, 1890.⁶² Along with other contiguous property, James E. Clements created the Centre Ballston subdivision (App. 2, Fig. 4-6) in 1897.⁶³ The subdivision featured the one-quarter-acre Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground near its center. The burial ground fronted the Washington, Arlington, and Falls Church Railway (present location of Fairfax Drive) and split Clements Avenue (present-day North Stafford Street).⁶⁴ The name of the community as Ballston predated the creation of the Centre Ballston subdivision. Newspaper articles utilized the name "Balston" or "Ballston" in reference to the village as early as 1875.⁶⁵

Robert Ball Sr. Burial Ground and Methodist Episcopal Church South (1906-1919)

The heirs of Robert Ball Jr., particularly Mary (nee Ball) Hyatt, wanted to establish a Methodist Episcopal church in Ballston.⁶⁶ On November 12, 1906, Charles A. Ball, Mary E. (nee Ball) Hyatt, Clara E. Ball, and Florence Ball, the children of Robert Ball Jr. (who had acquired Lot No. 4 after Robert Ball Sr.'s death), conveyed the one-quarter-acre burial ground to E. W. R.

⁵⁸ The date for Mary Ball's death is taken from the headstone.

⁵⁹ "Advertisement," *Alexandria Gazette*, June 22, 1880, Chronicling America.

⁶⁰ Arlington County Land Records, "Claughton and Stuart Commissioners to Nathan Ward Fitzgerald," October 7, 1881, Liber F4, Folio 54-55.

⁶¹ Arlington County Land Records, "Nathan W. and Julia L. Fitzgerald to Robert Ball," March 10, 1882, Liber F4, Folio 40-41.

⁶² Arlington County Land Records, "Nathan W. and Julia L. Fitzgerald to John Birch," November 2, 1881, Liber E4, Folio 572-573.

⁶³ Arlington County Land Records, "John T. and Susannah Birch to James Clements," January 6, 1890, Liber K4, Folio 558-560.

⁶⁴ Arlington County Land Records, "Central Ballston," August 26, 1897, Liber U4, Folio 71-75.

⁶⁵ "Virginia News," *National Republican*, May 10, 1876, Newspapers.com; "Democratic Gatherings," September 4, 1880, *Washington Post*, Proquest; "The Severe Hall Storm in Virginia," *Evening Star*, May 13, 1880, Newspapers.com.

⁶⁶ "History of Central Methodist Church," (1959) in *History of Methodism in Northern Virginia*, Vol. 2. Special Collections, McGraw-Page Library, Randolph-Macon College.

Ewing, Creed M. Fulton, and C.C. Money, trustees.⁶⁷ The conveyance stipulated that the property be utilized as a divine place of worship for the Methodist Episcopal Church South (present-day Central United Methodist Church). The deed stated the following regarding the graveyard:

...with the obligation upon the part of the said Trustees and those for whose benefit this conveyance is made that the graves on this ground shall remain and the stones thereto shall be kept intact and the graves kept in a condition demanded by the surroundings.⁶⁸

Three years later, the Methodist Episcopal Church established a Sunday school at the home of H.L. Croson (near the intersection of North Pollard Street and Wilson Boulevard) and started construction of the chapel on the one-quarter-acre burial ground parcel. The *Evening Star* reported the following:

The Methodist Episcopal Church South of Ballston, Va. will shortly begin the erection of a chapel on the lot formerly known as the Ball cemetery, which has been donated to it for that purpose.⁶⁹

Ground is being cleared up this week on the old Ball cemetery lot at Ballston, which has been donated to the Methodist Church South, and plans are ready for a Sunday school house, which will soon be built.⁷⁰

The congregation built a partly circular shaped yellow brick church drawn by Frank Follansbee in 1911 (App. 4, Fig. 1).⁷¹ The precise location of the first church within the one-quarter-acre burial ground parcel is unknown, but photographic evidence suggests that the congregation built the church to the north of the present-day grave markers and orientated the building towards Clements Avenue. A photograph of the church from the early-twentieth century shows two potential grave markers (App. 4, Fig. 2-4). The clearly visible marker fails to correspond to any of the existing headstones, thereby suggesting additional unknown burials (App. 4, Fig. 3). The partially visible second marker, however, matches the profile of the obelisk marker for Francis E. Dyer (App. 4, Fig. 4).

Reverend D. C. Beall officially organized the congregation on May 14, 1911, with 11 charter members: H.L. Croson, Mrs. M.E. Croson, Mrs. J.P. Divine, Mrs. M. E. G. Ewing, Miss Mary Ewing, Mrs. J. Garrison, Mrs. Ernest Myers, J.W. Myers, Mrs. Margaret Myers, Miss Bettie Nevitt, and Mrs. Lillian Smith.⁷²

⁶⁷ Arlington County Land Records, "Charles Ball et al. to E. W. R. Ewing et al trs," November 12, 1906, Liber 115, Folio 186.

⁶⁸ Arlington County Land Records, "Charles Ball et al. to E. W. R. Ewing et al trs," November 12, 1906, Liber 115, Folio 186.

⁶⁹ "To Build Chapel," *Evening Star*, July 17, 1909, Newsbank.

⁷⁰ "[Untitled]" *Evening Star*, August 22, 1909, Newsbank.

⁷¹ "History of Central Methodist Church," (1959) in *History of Methodism in Northern Virginia*, Vol. 2. Special Collections, McGraw-Page Library, Randolph-Macon College.

⁷² "History of Central Methodist Church," (1959) in *History of Methodism in Northern Virginia*, Vol. 2. Special

Robert Ball Sr. Burial Ground and Methodist Episcopal Church South (1920-1925)

On January 6, 1920, Mary (nee Ball) Hyatt and Clara E. Ball re-conveyed the property to H. L. Croson, C. O. Beane, and E. W. H. Ewing since parties claimed that the original deed did not contain a suitable trust clause. The 1920 deed assigned the property to the Methodist Episcopal Church South “free from all restrictions and requirements or obligations of whatsoever kind.”⁷³ This conveyance coincided with a campaign to build a larger church to hold the growing congregation. The Ladies Aid Methodist Episcopal Church purchased seven lots contiguous to the west of the burial ground parcel in order to facilitate building plans.

The congregation pursued court orders to close sections of Clements Avenue to consolidate their properties and remove questions regarding ownership of the original burial ground parcel. On October 28, 1922, the Arlington County Circuit Court authorized the Methodist Episcopal Church South to close the sections of Clements Avenue to the west, southwest, and north of the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground. These grounds were vested to the benefit of the church with the stipulation that Clements Avenue be expanded, thereby resulting in the current street configuration. The Circuit Court further decreed the following:

...that should graves be found in that part of said lot so to be added to Clements Avenue, said trustees be and hereby are authorized to remove the remains or ashes in said graves; provided, however, said removal shall be in a decent and proper manner and each shall be reinterred in a grave along and located among the other graves shown to be on said lot and not far from the part of the street to be widened...

...that any and all burial rights and privileges heretofore outstanding in the heirs or descendants of the said Robert Ball, Sr., deceased, be and the same are hereby declared null and void, and the cloud upon the title to said property incident to said rights, privileges, or claims be and the same is hereby removed...⁷⁴

This Circuit Court decree is the first document that confirmed that the marked graves were located in close proximity to Clements Avenue (present-day North Stafford Street). The decree also stated that no burials had occurred at the graveyard since the interment of Frances E. Dyer in 1881.⁷⁵

After the Circuit Court issued its decree, the congregation proceeded to move forward with the construction of the church. On November 18, 1923, the church laid the cornerstone for the new building. The program for the event included the following regarding the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground:

Collections, McGraw-Page Library, Randolph-Macon College.

⁷³ Arlington County Land Records, “Mary E. Hyatt et al. to H. L. Croson, et als.,” January 6, 1920, Liber 168, Folio 560-561.

⁷⁴ Circuit Court Records, “E. W. R. Ewing, et als., trustees, vs. Heirs of Robert Ball, Sr., deceased, et als.” October 30, 1922, Liber 8, Folio 76-77

⁷⁵ Circuit Court Records, “E. W. R. Ewing, et als., trustees, vs. Heirs of Robert Ball, Sr., deceased, et als.” October 30, 1922, Liber 8, Folio 76-77

The modern and ample Methodist Episcopal Church, South, now well under construction at Ballston, is emphasis of the upward and outward swing of greater Washington.... So that along with that expansion westward brings Washington into Ballston, and which in two decades has replaced a swamp by this happy suburb of one of America's greatest cities.... One of the latest exhibits in this evidence is this modern commodious and beautiful structure which the Methodists and their friends are building on the former Ball cemetery location, Clements Avenue and Railroad Street. Ample grounds have been added, the few ancient graves will be segregated by appropriate fence, and the entire community is the happier for the conversion of this spot.⁷⁶

On March 30, 1924, the congregation held its first service in the basement of the unfinished building.⁷⁷ Shortly thereafter, the church demolished the first building.⁷⁸ The congregation celebrated its first service in the sanctuary of the new church in November 1925 (App. 4, Fig. 5)⁷⁹

Robert Ball Sr. Burial Ground and Methodist Episcopal Church South (1926-Present)

From 1927 to the present, aerial photographs show the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground in its current location (App. 3, Fig. 1-5). This photograph, and later aerial photographs, show a potential fence around the burial ground consistent with the description as described in the cornerstone dedication program. A later photograph of the church (taken before 1947) depicted a row of hedges and potentially a fence on the south side of the burial ground fronting present-day Fairfax Drive (App. 4, Fig. 6).

In 1934, the "Plan and Profile, North Stafford Street, Ballston District Sewers" noted an existing private 15-inch sanitary sewer on the west side of North Stafford Street (historically Clements Avenue) that curves along parallel to, and outside the limits of, the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground. The plan also shows an existing 2" gas line and a 6" water main that curve in a concentric manner around the graveyard adjacent to the roadway built around it (App. 2, Fig. 7).⁸⁰

In 1947, the church commemorated the construction of an Education Building to the west of the sanctuary (App. 4, Fig. 7). Expansion continued in 1955 with the construction of a new Youth

⁷⁶ Central United Methodist Church, "75th Anniversary, 1911-1986, Central United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, History and Pictorial Remembrances," Vertical Files, Center for Local History, Arlington County Library.

⁷⁷ Central United Methodist Church, "75th Anniversary, 1911-1986, Central United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, History and Pictorial Remembrances," Vertical Files, Center for Local History, Arlington County Library.

⁷⁸ "History of Central Methodist Church," (1959) in *History of Methodism in Northern Virginia*, Vol. 2. Special Collections, McGraw-Page Library, Randolph-Macon College.

⁷⁹ "History of Central Methodist Church," (1959) in *History of Methodism in Northern Virginia*, Vol. 2. Special Collections, McGraw-Page Library, Randolph-Macon College.

⁸⁰ Luis Araya, Transportation Bureau Chief, Arlington County Department of Environmental Services (DES), reviewed all available DES materials to determine the location of the sanitary sewer. Arlington County, "Plan and Profile, North Stafford Street, Ballston District Sewers," Department of Environmental Services Archive.

Building addition at the southwest corner of the Education Building (App. 4, Fig. 8).⁸¹ This addition resulted in the church's current U-shaped building footprint.

An Arlington County field survey of the property completed on June 27, 1958, noted six headstones in the location of the present-day grave markers (App. 2, Fig. 8). Another feature noted on the survey is a 12-inch-high concrete retaining wall.⁸²

Documentation from ca. 1959 notes that the graves were still present and preserved on the site. In "History of Central Methodist Church", a church historian stated the following:

An heir of Robert Ball, Sr. (d.1865) wanted a Southern Methodist Church built in this area.... So, this heir...deeded land at the present corner of Stafford Street and Fairfax Drive for a Methodist Church. This plot contained the Ball family cemetery; the graves of which are still preserved. This was near what had been called Ball's Cross Roads since Pre-Civil War days; therefore, this territory had been named Ballston.⁸³

Other alterations to the church included the addition of the new steeple in 1962 (App. 4, Fig. 7), the installation of a County historical marker in 1969, and the removal of front steps necessitated by the widening of Fairfax Drive and Metro (App. 2, Fig. 9).⁸⁴ These improvements had no impact to the location of the present-day cluster of gravestones as their location is noted consistently on street and right-of-way plans and correspond to aerial records from this period.

Photographs of the streetscape fail to show the presence of headstones at certain points in the mid-to-late-twentieth century; however, the grave markers may have simply fallen, been laid flat, or temporarily removed.⁸⁵ Aerial photographs and other records consistently document the current location of the grave markers as a burial ground since the early-twentieth century. Two photographs from 1980 show the headstones for Robert Ball Sr. and Ann Ball, and Mary Ball (App. 4, Fig. 10-11). In 1985, the Arlington Genealogy Club recorded all grave markers for all six known interments at the burial ground.

Archeological Investigations

In June 2016, Thunderbird Archeology, a division of Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., conducted an archeological investigation that included the hand-excavation of two test units in advance of geotechnical soil borings. Test Unit 2, placed on the east side of the church, approximately 26 feet north of the six grave markers, exhibited a soil profile that consisted of 1-

⁸¹ Central United Methodist Church, "75th Anniversary, 1911-1986, Central United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, History and Pictorial Remembrances," Vertical Files, Center for Local History, Arlington County Library.

⁸² The surveyor listed the dimensions of the six "headstones": four 1'x3' stone markers and two 1'x1' stone markers. Arlington County, "N. Stafford Street from N. Fairfax Dr," Survey Field Book 955, 40-41.

⁸³ "History of Central Methodist Church," (1959) in *History of Methodism in Northern Virginia*, Vol. 2. Special Collections, McGraw-Page Library, Randolph-Macon College.

⁸⁴ Central United Methodist Church, "75th Anniversary, 1911-1986, Central United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, History and Pictorial Remembrances," Vertical Files, Center for Local History, Arlington County Library.

⁸⁵ Historic Preservation Program staff did not have access to these photographs; therefore, they are not included in this report.

foot-thick top soil (Ap horizon) overlying sterile subsoil (B horizon). The investigation resulted in the recovery of 46 artifacts including ceramics, glass, metal and brick fragments dating from the early-nineteenth century.⁸⁶

In August 2016, Thunderbird Archeology and GeoModel conducted a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of the subject graveyard. The report stated the following regarding the potential for graves within the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground:

The purpose of the survey was to detect potential graves on the church property. The area surveyed included the parking lot located north and northwest of the church building, the apparent cemetery and lawn to the east of the church, and the playground to the west of the church. Eight GPR anomalies were assessed as potential graves.... Four of these GPR anomalies were detected in the apparent cemetery area; these were assessed with moderate to high probability of representing graves.⁸⁷

I. Significant Features

The significant features of the site include the gravestones, lawn, and stone boundary wall that encompass the burial ground near the corner of Fairfax Drive and North Stafford Street.

J. Areas Exempt from Designation

The original parcel for the burial ground measured approximately one-quarter-acre. The extant grave markers are located roughly in the center of that original parcel.⁸⁸ The most significant portion of the site is the 502-square-foot area that includes the gravestones, lawn, and stone boundary wall (App. 1, Fig. 1). All other areas of the one-quarter-acre burial ground are exempt.

K. Designation Criteria

The Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground meets Criteria B, D, H, J, and K, as listed in Section 11.3.4.A.4 of the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance.

Criterion B: The property has character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the county, state, or nation:

⁸⁶ Daniel Baicy, "Central United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, Specialized Archeological Investigation Survey," (June 2016): 11.

⁸⁷ Boyd Sipe, "Central United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, GPR Survey," (August 2016): i.

⁸⁸ Any proposed work within the existing footprint of the church or the street right-of-way should be aware of the potential for human remains.

The Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground represents the character and development of the Ballston neighborhood in the early- to mid-nineteenth century. The burial ground, established by Robert Ball Sr., represents the antebellum rural nature of the community and contains the interred remains of some of the County's earliest settlers. Family graveyards illustrate the self-sufficiency of these rural landowners and the early American tradition of such burial plots.

The Ball family's ownership of a tavern and property at the intersection of Wilson Boulevard and Glebe Road, and their general prominence in the civic affairs of the County, resulted in the naming of the intersection as Ball's Cross Roads and the eventual naming of the community as Ballston.

Criterion D: The property is associated with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the county, state, or nation.

The burial ground serves as an accessible location to reflect upon the Ball family's contributions to Arlington County. The immediate area at the intersection of Wilson Boulevard and North Glebe Road became known as Ball's Cross Roads, later Ballston. The Ball family were some of the earliest settlers in Colonial-era Arlington County. The Balls and their many descendants settled first in the Glencarlyn area in the 18th century, and then bought property further north near the intersection of the Old Glebe Road and Wilson Boulevard. Members of the family served in nearly every armed national conflict, beginning with the Revolutionary War. Other family members held important positions in local government. The extended Ball family remained in Alexandria County (present-day Arlington County) after the Civil War, and held prominent positions in local government, politics, and civic life into the twentieth century.

Criterion H: The property has a distinctive location or singular physical characteristics that make it an established or familiar visual feature.

The Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground is located adjacent to the sidewalk at North Stafford Street and Fairfax Drive, directly across from the Ballston Metro Station. Established in 1854, the graveyard tangibly connects visitors to the origins and namesake family of the community. In 1897, James E. Clements utilized the one-quarter-acre graveyard parcel as the focal point of his Centre Ballston subdivision (App. 2, Fig. 4). When Clements Avenue (present-day Stafford Street) was constructed, extended, and rerouted, it was done so specifically to avoid and protect the burial ground. The unique location of the family graveyard in a densely urban setting represents the lost rural origins of Ballston.

Criterion J: The property has the potential to yield information important to the prehistory or history of the county, state, or nation.

The Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground is relatively undisturbed ground in the center of one of Arlington County's most densely built urban corridors. The site has the potential to augment our understanding of local agricultural, cultural, and social patterns from the eighteenth to the early-twentieth centuries. Recent archaeological investigation at the site unearthed historic artifacts dating from the 18th to the 20th century.

In addition to studying the carvings and designs of the gravestones, the graveyard itself contains the remains of some of the County's eighteenth-century settlers. The scientific study of human remains has the potential to yield information on a wide variety of subjects, including but not limited to health, mortality, socioeconomic status, interment customs, integration and segregation, and art.

Criterion K: The property is suitable for preservation or restoration.

While the graveyard remains in its original location, its historic setting in a rural landscape has been removed due to the demolition of the Ball family dwelling associated with the burial ground and the overall urban development of Ballston. Physical features (such as a fence or shrubbery) that once delineated the boundaries of the burial ground were removed in the mid-twentieth century.

The burial ground retains integrity of workmanship and materials. The grave markers are in fair to good condition with legible inscriptions, ornate detailing, and iconography typical of the period. The damaged stones can be repaired and restored. The graveyard's integrity of design has been impacted by the loss of a significant portion of its original one-quarter-acre parcel and the potential displacement of existing grave markers or headstones. Historic cartographic, photographic, and other records, however, continuously document grave markers in the southeast corner of the site.

The Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground, however, retains sufficient integrity of feeling and association to convey its historic period of significance. Located in the center of Ballston, the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground conveys the importance of the Ball family to the development of the community. The graveyard continues to be associated with the Central United Methodist Church (formerly Methodist Episcopal Church South), who received the property from the descendants of Robert Ball Sr.

The Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground is one of three known Ball Family burial grounds located in Arlington County. The other two, the Ball-Carlin Cemetery and the Ball Family Burial Grounds, were both designated as Arlington County local historic districts in October 1978. These two cemeteries are larger in extant open ground, but are in poorer condition; stones have been largely removed and the few remaining are not in original locations, or in the case of the Ball Family Burial Grounds, have been stacked in the rear corner of the property. Neither have been maintained consistently over the years and both have suffered from intermittent neglect. In comparison, the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground has been consistently cared for, first by the Ball Family, and then by the Methodist Church. The grounds have been mown, the gravestones kept in or close

to the same locations since the early-twentieth century, and the cemetery has been fenced or marked consistently.

The Travers Family Cemetery was locally designated by Arlington County in February 1990. This graveyard contains Travers, Ball, Dyer, and Whitehead family members and consists of 17 marked graves dating from the 1830s. The Travers cemetery has been fenced and maintained by the family and community. These three cemeteries already designated as local historic districts (Ball-Carlin, Ball Family, and Travers Family) have integrity of setting, feeling, and association equal to the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground.

L. Conclusion

The Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground retains sufficient historical integrity to be considered for local historic district designation by Arlington County. Limited disturbances occurred at the borders of the extant burial ground. Historic records indicate that the burial ground has consistently been in its present-day location since at least the early-twentieth century and Ball family members were interred at this site beginning in 1854.

While the urban center of Ballston has been densely constructed around this site, the burial ground maintains its historical associations with the early rural and agricultural history of one of Arlington's first important crossroads. Sufficient character-defining features, including the headstones, footstones, grounds, and graves, remain intact for the graveyard to be interpreted as a family cemetery.

7. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 502 square feet

RPC Number: 14024017

Verbal Boundary Description⁸⁹

COMMENCING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE DIVISION LINE BETWEEN THE LANDS OF TRUSTEES OF CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (DEED BOOK 115 PAGE 186, DEED BOOK 168 PAGE 560, DEED BOOK 184 PAGE 48 AND DEED BOOK 8 PAGE 76) ON THE NORTH, AND THE LANDS OF WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY (DEED BOOK 1940 PAGE 723) ON THE SOUTH, WITH THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LIMITS OF N. STAFFORD STREET (50' WIDE RIGHT-OF-WAY), THENCE WITH SAID WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LIMITS;

A. NORTH 09° 52' 11" EAST, 5.28 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREIN DESCRIBED HISTORICAL DISTRICT AREA, THENCE DEPARTING SAID WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LIMITS AND WITH A

⁸⁹ Bohler Engineering, Metes and Bounds Survey, February 20, 2017.

LINE THROUGH THE SAID LANDS OF TRUSTEES OF CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, THE FOLLOWING SEVEN COURSES AND DISTANCES;

1. NORTH 79° 48' 37" WEST, 6.88 FEET, THENCE;
2. CONTINUING, NORTH 09° 52' 11" EAST, 3.43 FEET, THENCE;
3. CONTINUING, NORTH 81° 08' 50" WEST, 13.69 FEET, THENCE;
4. CONTINUING, NORTH 07° 14' 52" EAST, 17.68 FEET, THENCE;
5. CONTINUING, SOUTH 87° 35' 30" EAST, 13.80 FEET, THENCE;
6. CONTINUING, NORTH 02° 24' 30" EAST, 3.83 FEET, THENCE;
7. CONTINUING, SOUTH 86° 45' 32" EAST, 7.00 FEET TO THE SAID WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LIMITS OF N. STAFFORD STREET, THENCE WITH A LINE THROUGH SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, THE FOLLOWING FOUR COURSES AND DISTANCES;
8. SOUTH 86° 45' 32" EAST, 2.15 FEET, THENCE;
9. CONTINUING, 20.76 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE TO THE RIGHT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 171.29 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 06° 56' 38", AND A CHORD BEARING AND DISTANCE OF SOUTH 06° 23' 52" WEST, 20.75 FEET, THENCE;
10. CONTINUING, SOUTH 09° 52' 11" WEST, 6.83 FEET, THENCE;
11. CONTINUING, NORTH 79° 48' 37" WEST, 2.17 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, BEING THE SAID WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LIMITS OF N. STAFFORD STREET.

CONTAINING 502 SQUARE FEET

Boundary Justification

The original parcel for the burial ground platted in 1865 measured approximately one-quarter-acre. The extant grave markers are located roughly near the center of that original parcel. The most significant portion of the site is the area that includes the gravestones, the open lawn, and the stone boundary wall. Historical records and aerial photographs indicate that this section has contained marked graves since the early-twentieth century.

8. PROPERTY OWNER

Name Ladies Aid Methodist Episcopal Church
Address 4201 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22201

9. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/title John Liebertz, Arlington County Historic Preservation Planner
Rebecca Ballo, Arlington County Historic Preservation Planner
Date October 2016; updated February 2017
Address 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22201
Telephone 703.228.3830

10. MAJOR SOURCES CONSULTED

Alexandria Gazette [numerous].

Ancestry.com [numerous].

Arlington County Circuit Court Records, Arlington County Courthouse, Virginia.

Arlington County Land Records, Arlington County Courthouse, Virginia.

Arlington County Probate Records, Arlington County Courthouse, Virginia.

Baicy, Daniel. "Central United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, Specialized Archeological Investigation Survey." (June 2016).

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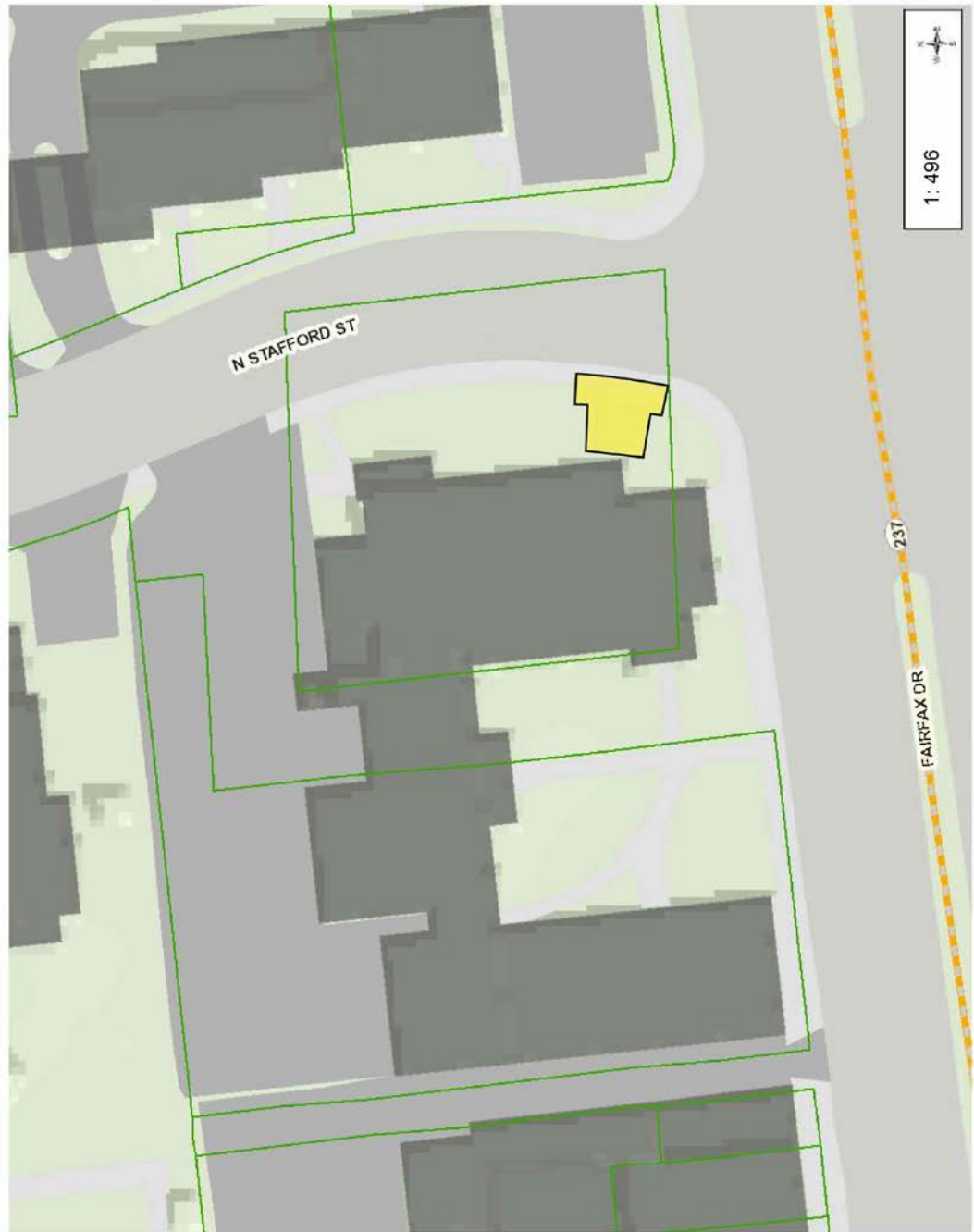
Potter, Elisabeth Walton. *National Register Bulletin 41: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1992.

Sipe, Boyd. "Central United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, GPR Survey." (August 2016).

APPENDIX ONE

PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP

Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground Historic District Boundary Map



Legend

- Local Historic District
- Boundary



Notes

Map drawn on February 21, 2017.

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.
THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION



NAD_1983_StatePlane_Virginia_North_FIPS_4501_Feet
© Arlington County, VA, GIS Mapping Center

1: 496



APPENDIX TWO
CARTOGRAPHIC RECORDS

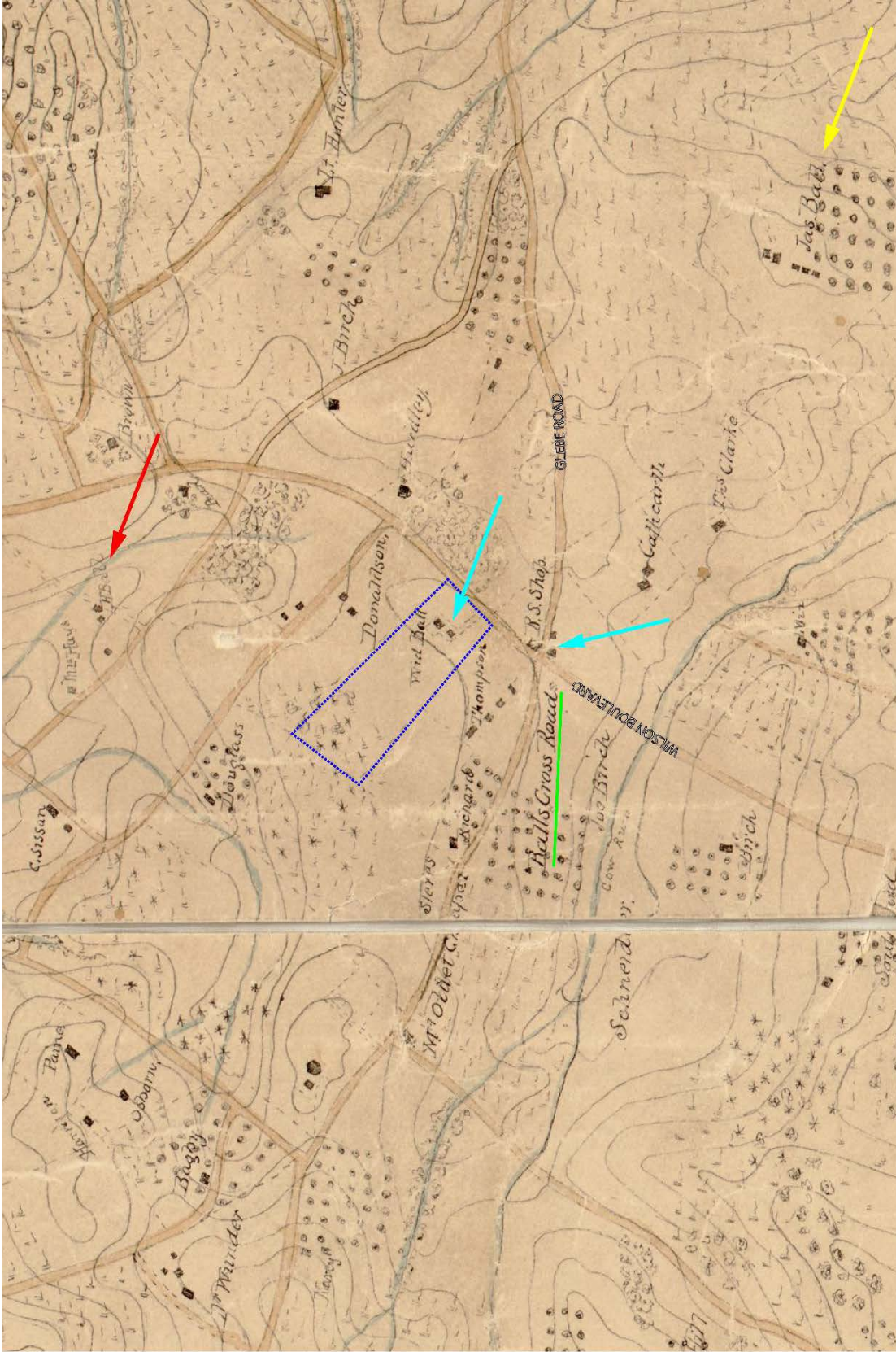


Figure 1: Map of the Environs of Washington: Compiled from Boshkes' Map of the District of Columbia and from Surveys of the U.S. Coast Survey showing the Line of Defences of Washington as Constructed during the War from 1861 to 1865 Inclusive. The green underline highlights the location of Balls Cross Roads; the blue box consists of Lots 3, 4, and 5 of the Robert Ball Sr. Estate; the light blue arrows point to the location of the dwelling (in close proximity to the subject burial ground parcel) and Ball's Tavern located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Wilson Boulevard and Glebe Road; the red arrow points to the dwelling of Horatio Ball; and the yellow arrow points to the dwelling and plantation of James T. Ball.

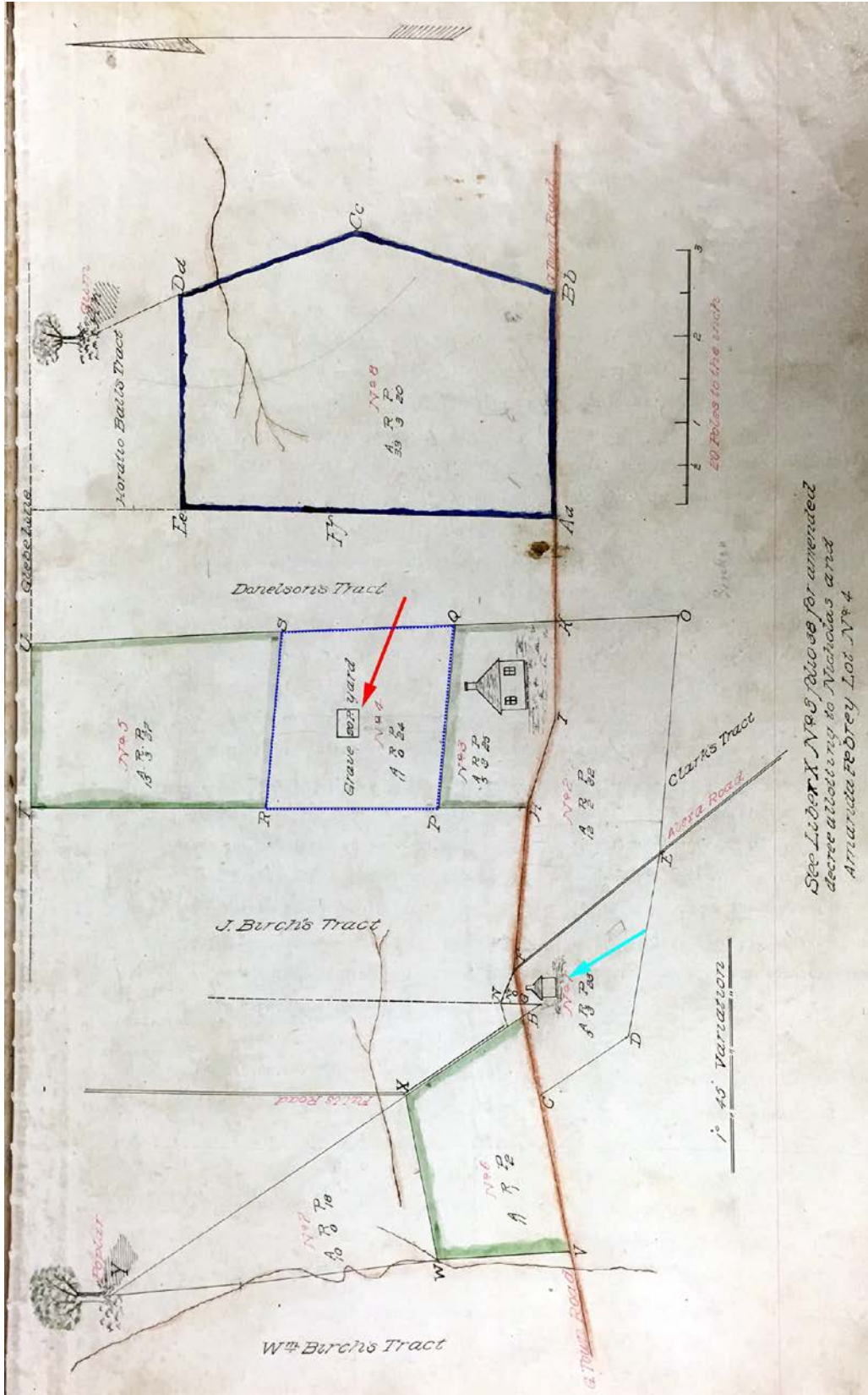


Figure 2: 1865 Survey of Robert Ball Estate. The red arrow points to the location of the one-quarter-acre burial ground parcel located within Lot No. 4 indicated by the dashed blue outline. The light blue arrow points to the tavern at the southwest corner of the intersection of Glebe Road and Wilson Boulevard.

Source: Robert Ball's Executors, vs. Robert Ball's, Devises. Arlington County Land Records, Liber W3, Folio 439-443.

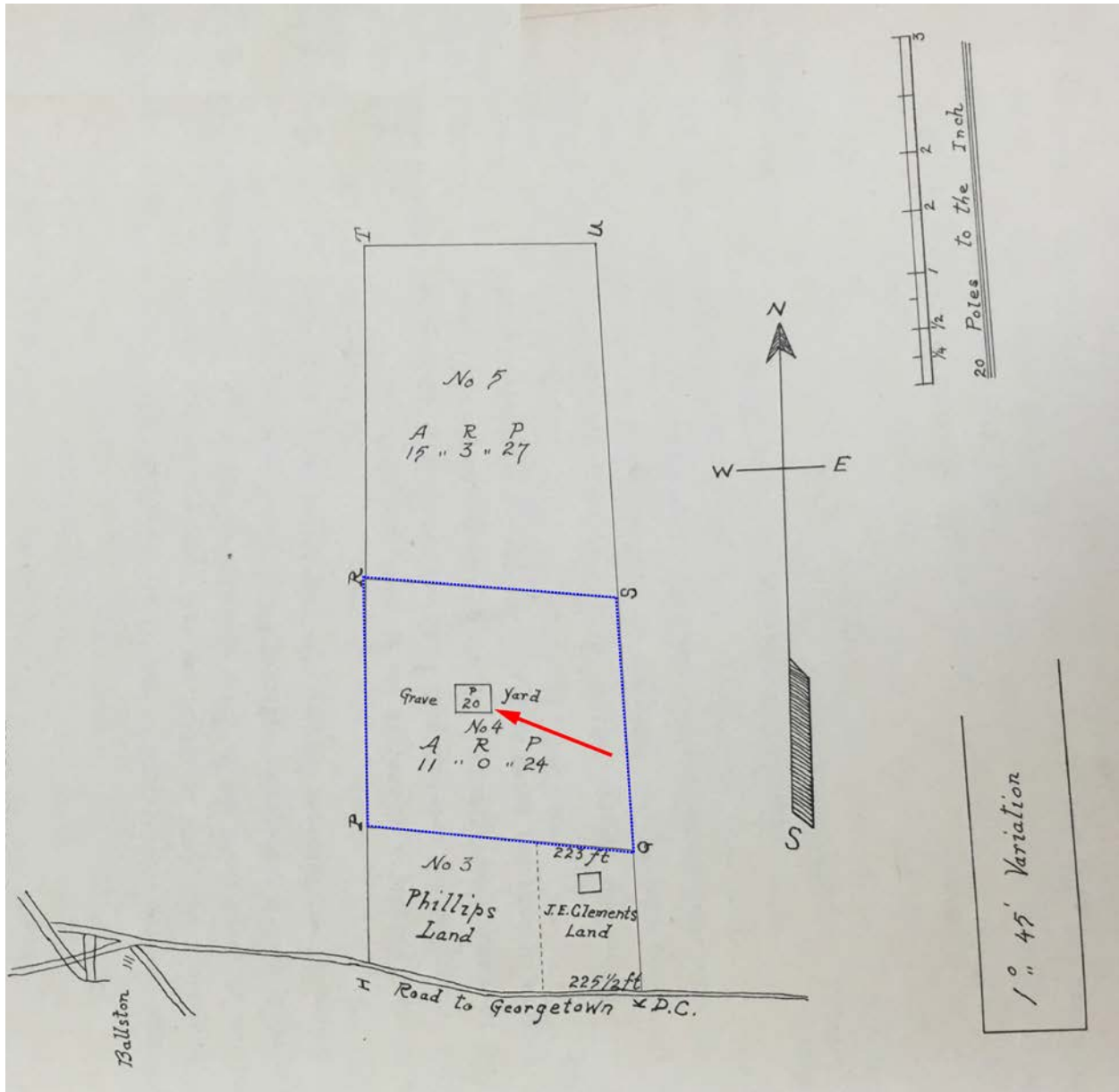


Figure 3: Survey attached to 1890 conveyance of property. The blue outline indicates Lot No. 4 of the Robert Ball Sr. Estate. The red arrow points to the location of the one-quarter-acre burial ground parcel.

Source: James T. Birch to James E. Clements, Arlington County Land Records, Liber K4, Folio 558-560.

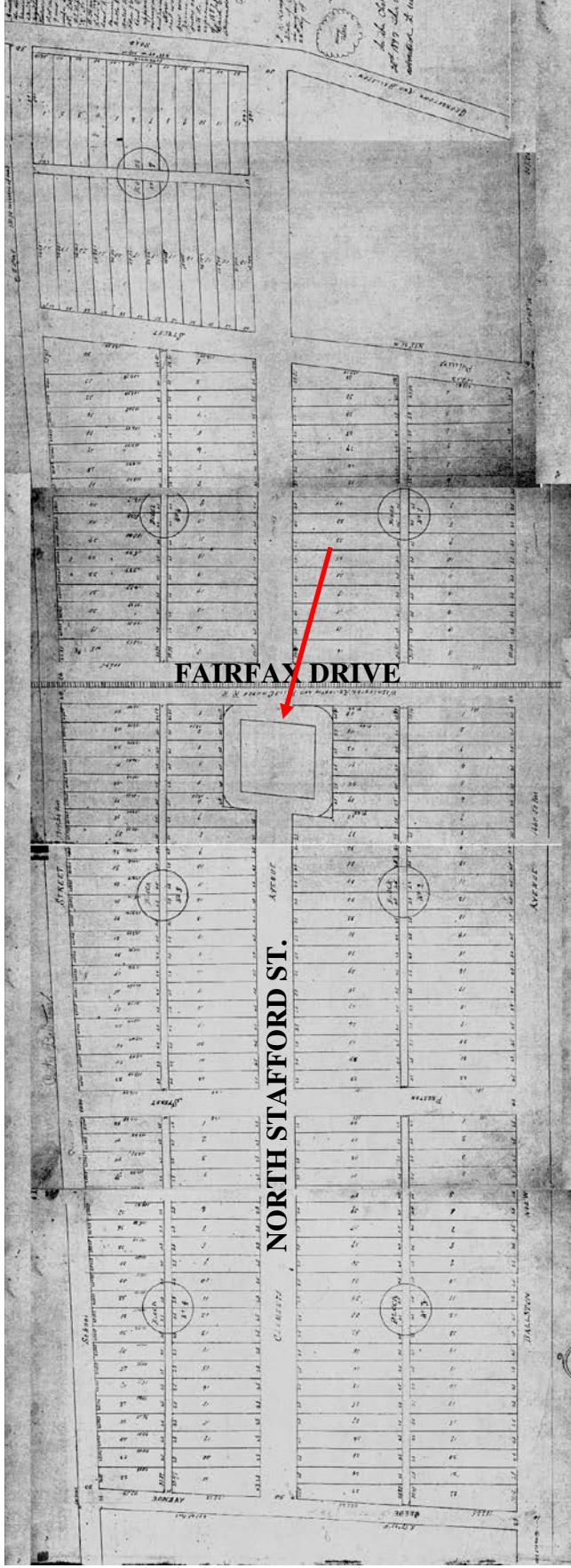


Figure 4: 1897 Subdivision of Centre Ballston. The red arrow points to the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground located at the center of the subdivision. The graveyard split Clements Avenue (present-day North Stafford Street) and faced the Washington, Arlington, and Falls Church Railway.

Source: Arlington County Land Records, Liber U4, Page 71-75.



Figure 5: Howell & Taylor's Map of Alexandria County, Virginia, for the Virginia Title Co, 1900. The red arrow points to the location of the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground. The cartographer marked the one-quarter-acre burial ground parcel with "GY" for graveyard.

Source: Geography and Maps Division, Library of Congress.

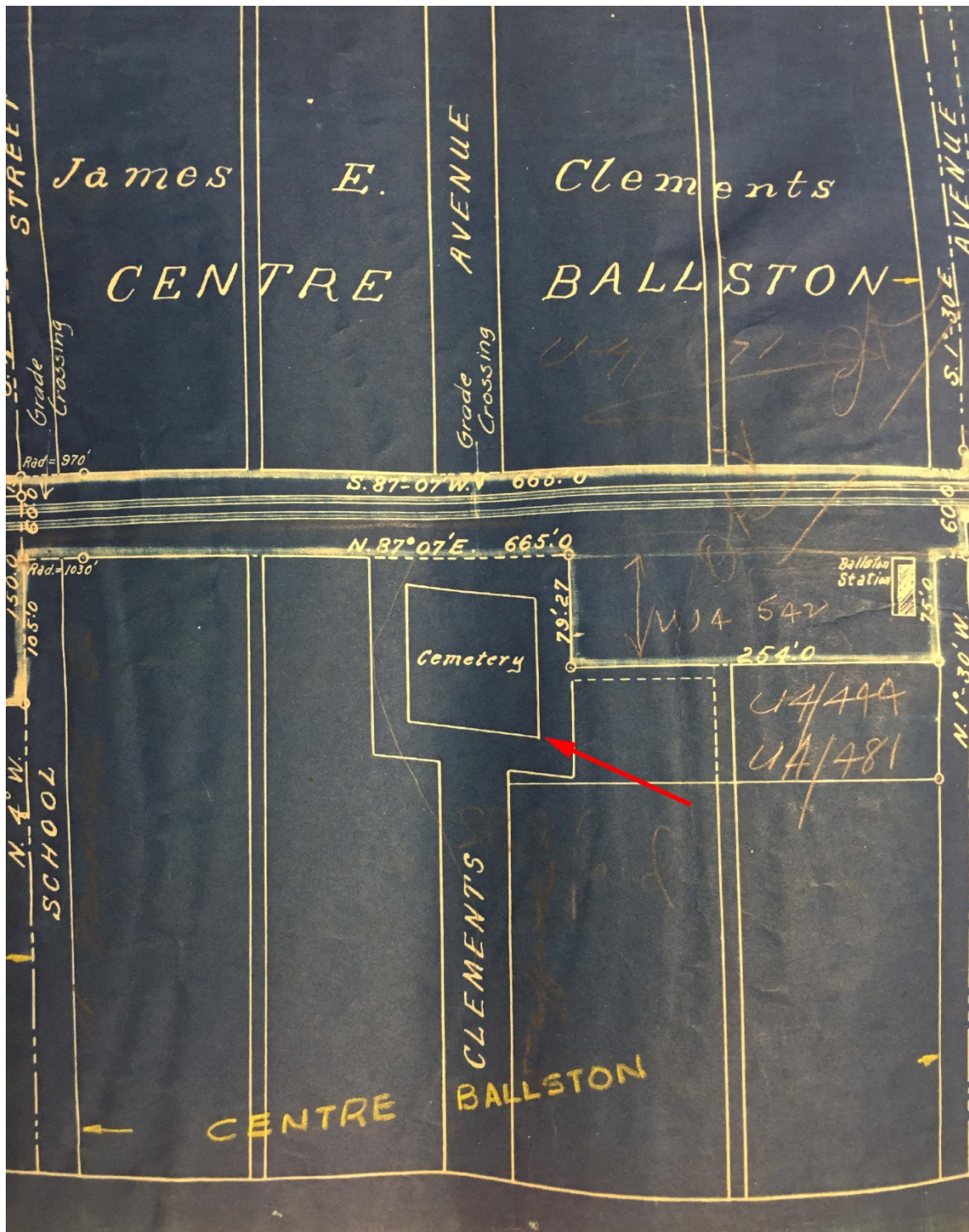


Figure 6: Washington, Arlington, and Falls Church Railroad Plat Maps, ca. 1900. The railway notes the one-quarter-acre parcel as a cemetery.
 Source: Department of Environmental Services Archives, Arlington County Government.

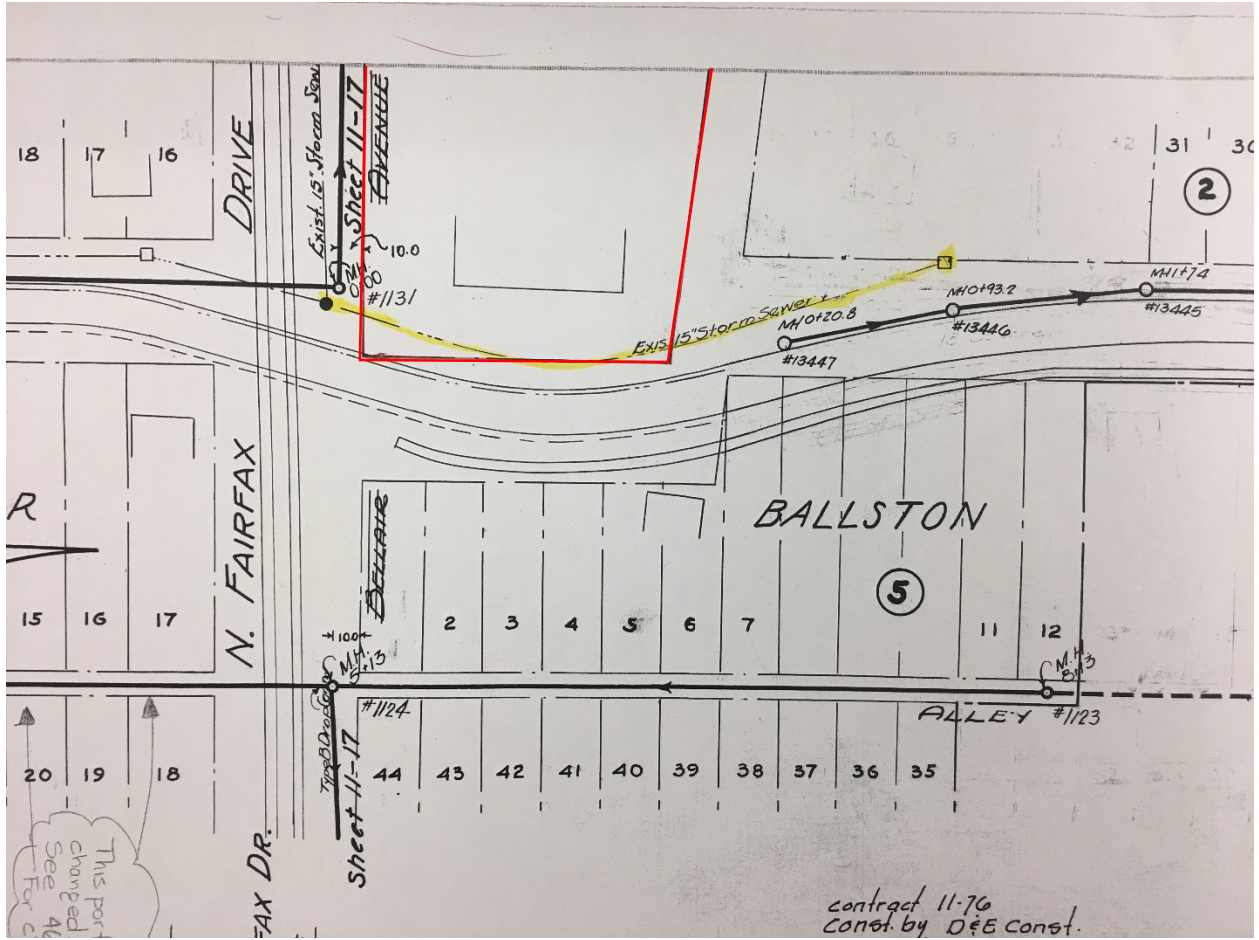


Figure 7: Plan and Profile, North Stafford Street, Ballston District Sewer, 1934. Washington, Arlington, and Falls Church Railroad Plat Maps, ca. 1900. The yellow line indicates the location of the 15-inch storm sewer and the red outline indicates the location of the subject graveyard parcel.

Source: Department of Environmental Services Archives, Arlington County Government.

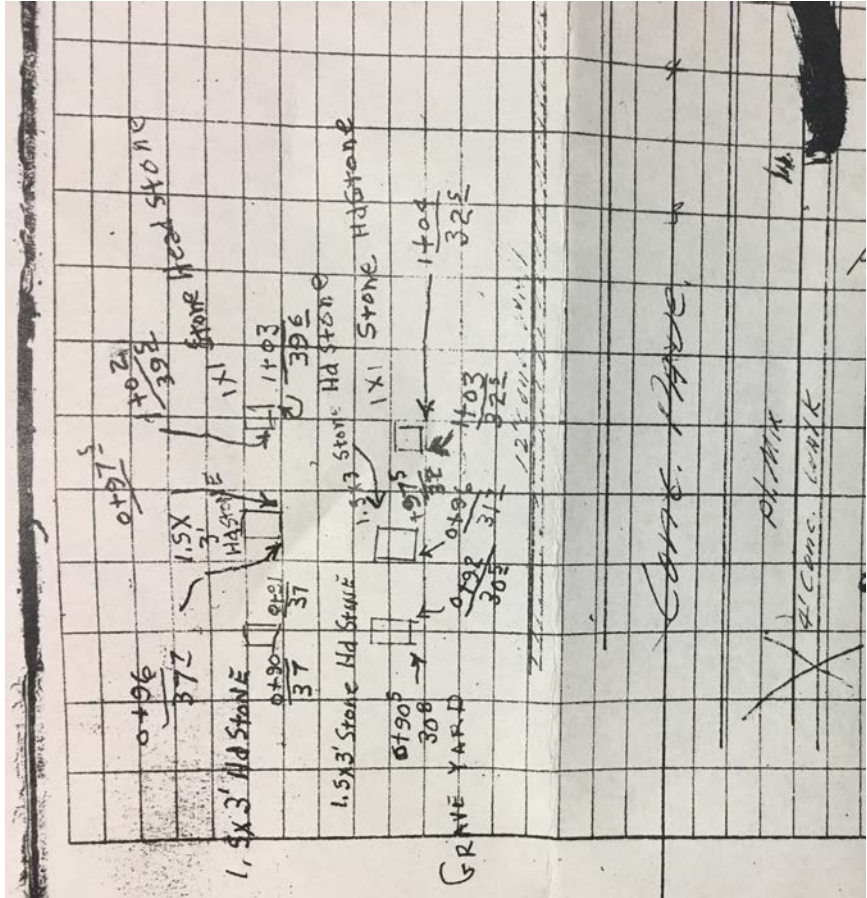
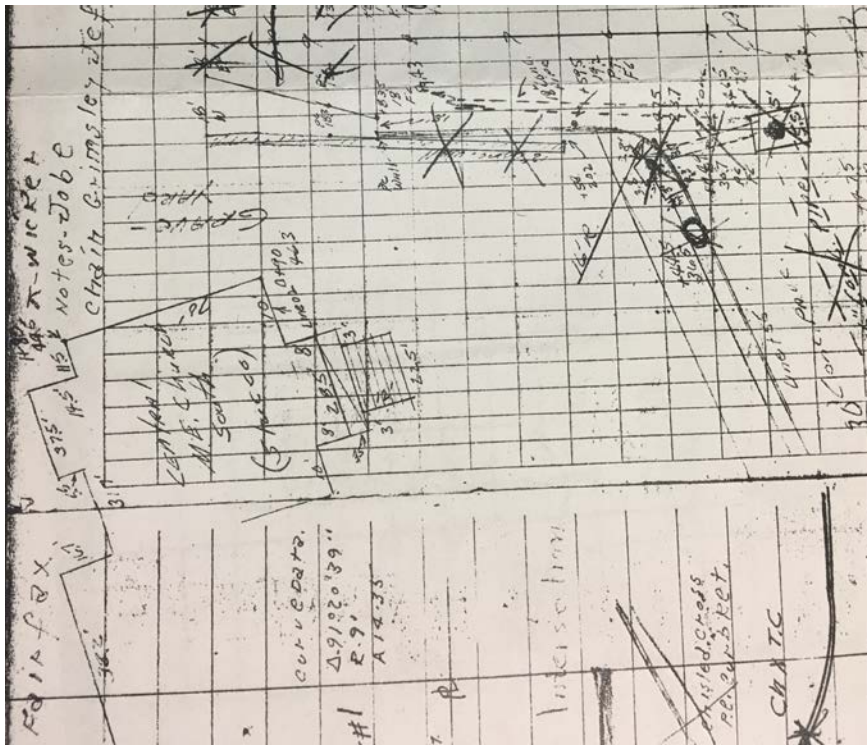


Figure 8: Department of Environmental Services, Survey Book 955, June 27, 1958. The survey book illustrates the location of the present-day graveyard and details the size and configuration of the six headstones.
 Source: Department of Environmental Services Archives, Arlington County Government.

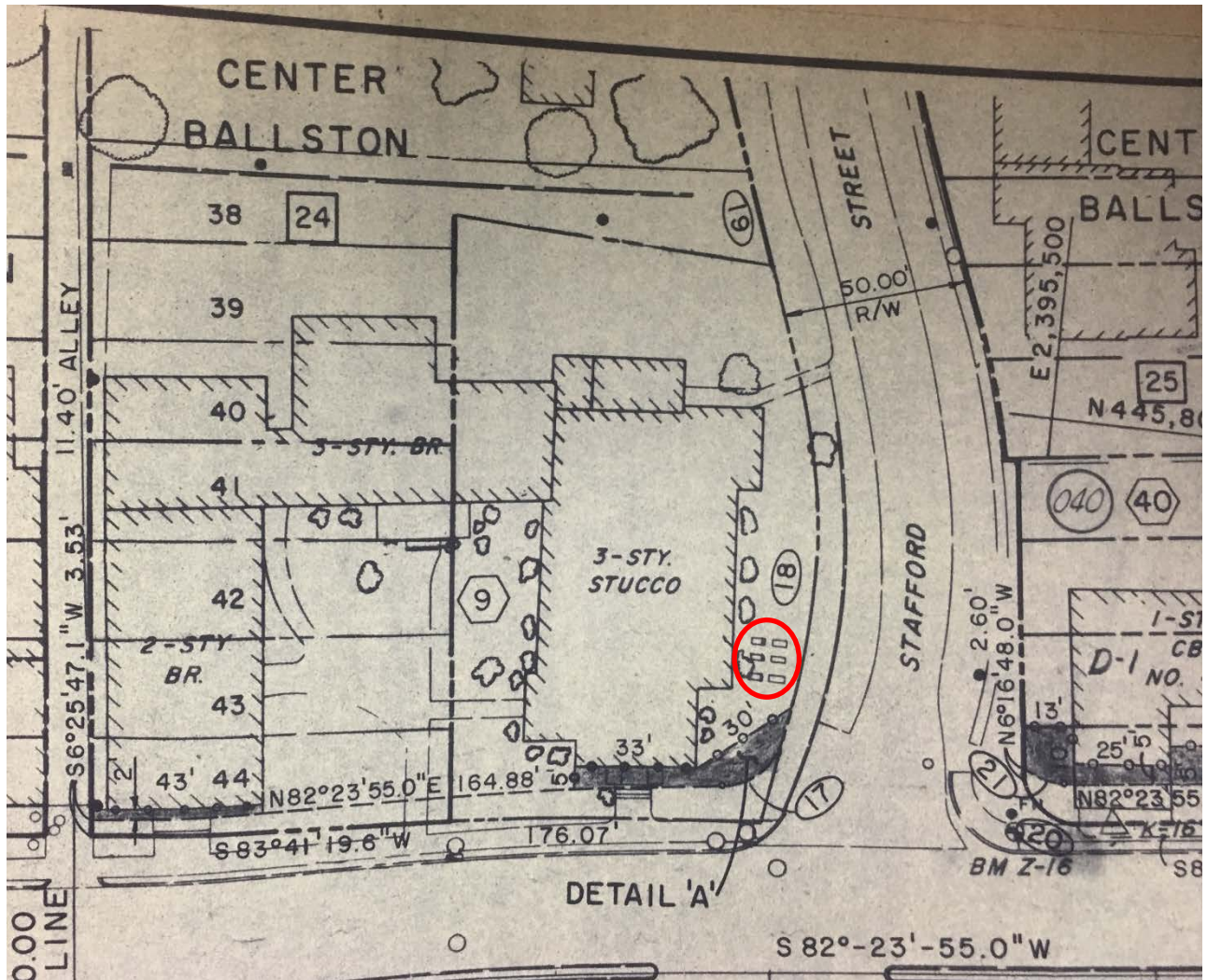


Figure 9: Vienna Route, Virginia Department of Highways, Right-of-Way for Relocation of North Fairfax Drive, 1974, Sheet 13. The red circle shows the location of the six grave markers noted on the map.

Source: Department of Environmental Services Archives, Arlington County Government.

APPENDIX THREE
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS



1927



2015

Figure 1: Comparison of 1927 and 2015 aerial photographs showing the location of the Robert Ball Sr. Burial Ground.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration; GIS Mapping Center, Arlington County Government



Figure 2: Detail view of the 1927 aerial of the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground. The red circle shows the location of the graveyard; there appears to be a potential fence or shrubbery delineating the burial ground as recorded in the church history. These elements are in the same location and clearer in the 1934 aerial photograph.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration.



Figure 3: Comparison of 1934 and 2015 aerial photographs showing the location of the Robert Ball Sr. Burial Ground.
Source: Historic Preservation Program, Arlington County Government.



Figure 4: Detail view of the 1934 aerial of the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground. The red circle shows the location of the graveyard; there appears to be a potential fence or shrubbery delineating the burial ground as recorded in the church history.
Source: GIS Mapping Center, Arlington County Government.



Figure 5: Detail view of the 1955 aerial of the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground. The red circle shows the location of the graveyard.
Source: GIS Mapping Center, Arlington County Government.

APPENDIX FOUR
HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

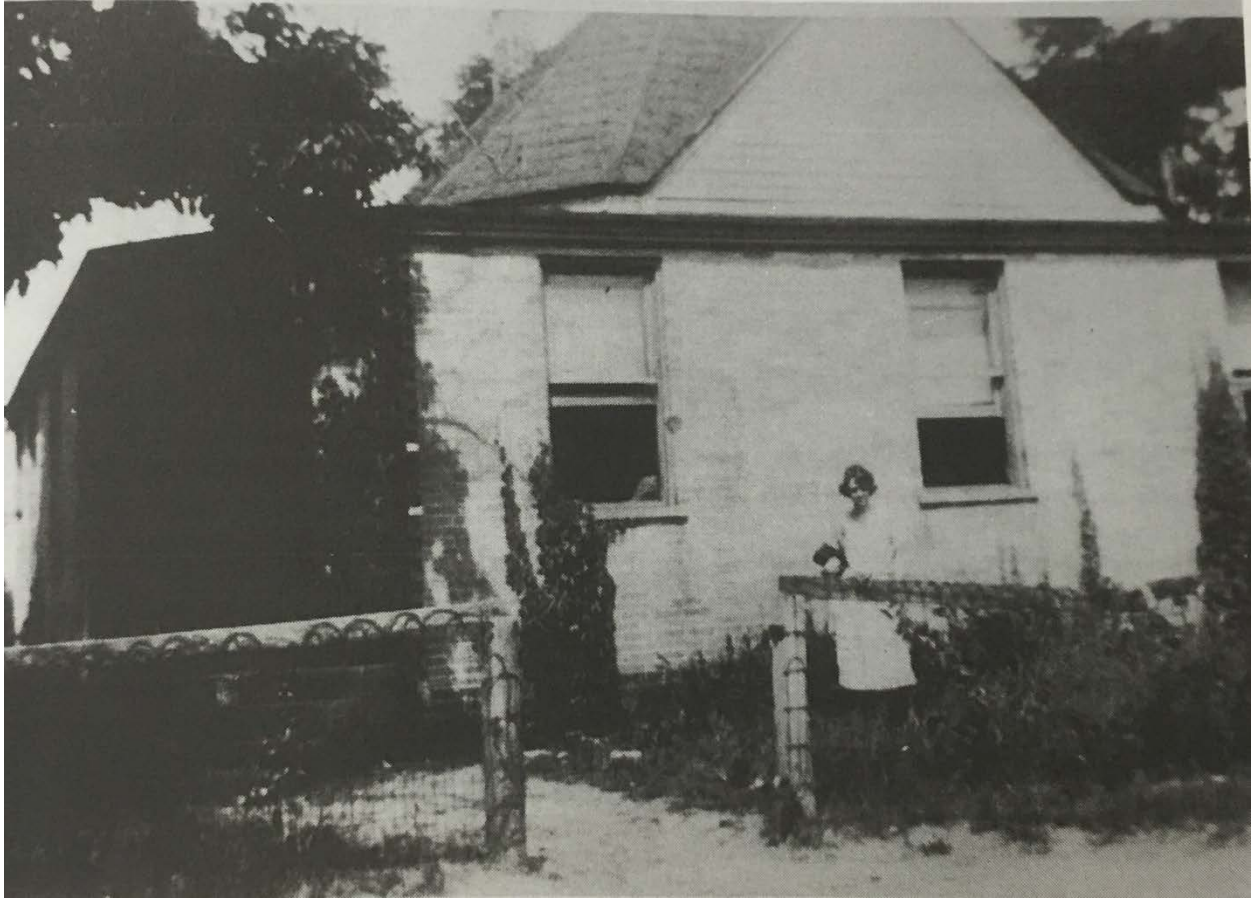


Figure 1: Methodist Episcopal Church South, 1923. The photograph shows the first yellow brick, partially curved church constructed on the site.

Source: Central United Methodist Church, *75th Anniversary: Central United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, History and Pictorial Remembrances* (Arlington, Virginia: 1985).



Figure 2: Ballston Methodist Episcopal Sunday School, Ball[s]ton, VA, 1911-1924. Sunday school students are standing near the first church building. The lower right corner of the photograph shows two grave markers.

Source: Center for Local History, Arlington County Public Library.



Figure 3: Detailed view of Ballston Methodist Episcopal Sunday School, Ball[s]ton, VA, 1911-1924. The red arrows point to potential grave markers.
Source: Center for Local History, Arlington County Public Library.



Figure 4: Detailed view of Ballston Methodist Episcopal Sunday School, Ball[s]ton, VA, 1911-1924, compared with present-day photograph of the Francis E. Dyer grave marker. The red arrows point to the matching profiles of the stones.



Figure 5: View of the second Methodist Episcopal Church South looking northeast, ca 1925. In the foreground are the railway tracks. The Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground would be located on the other side of the church.

Source: Central United Methodist Church, *75th Anniversary: Central United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, History and Pictorial Remembrances* (Arlington, Virginia: 1985).



Figure 6: View of the second (existing) church looking northwest near the corner of present-day Fairfax Drive and North Stafford Street, 1923-1947. The church delineated the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground with shrubbery and potentially fenced the area. The red arrow points to the location of the obscured burial ground.

Source: Central United Methodist Church, *75th Anniversary: Central United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, History and Pictorial Remembrances* (Arlington, Virginia: 1985).



Figure 7: View of the Central United Methodist Church, ca 1946. The church constructed the education wing and added a steeple to the sanctuary. The Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground would be located on the other side of the church.

Source: Central United Methodist Church, *75th Anniversary: Central United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, History and Pictorial Remembrances* (Arlington, Virginia: 1985).



Figure 8: View of the Central United Methodist Church, ca 1955, showing the new youth center off the education wing.

Source: Central United Methodist Church, *75th Anniversary: Central United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, History and Pictorial Remembrances* (Arlington, Virginia: 1985).



Figure 9: View of the Central United Methodist Church, ca 1962. The church constructed the new steeple and altered the façade. The red arrow points to the location of the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground.

Source: Central United Methodist Church, *75th Anniversary: Central United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia, History and Pictorial Remembrances* (Arlington, Virginia: 1985).

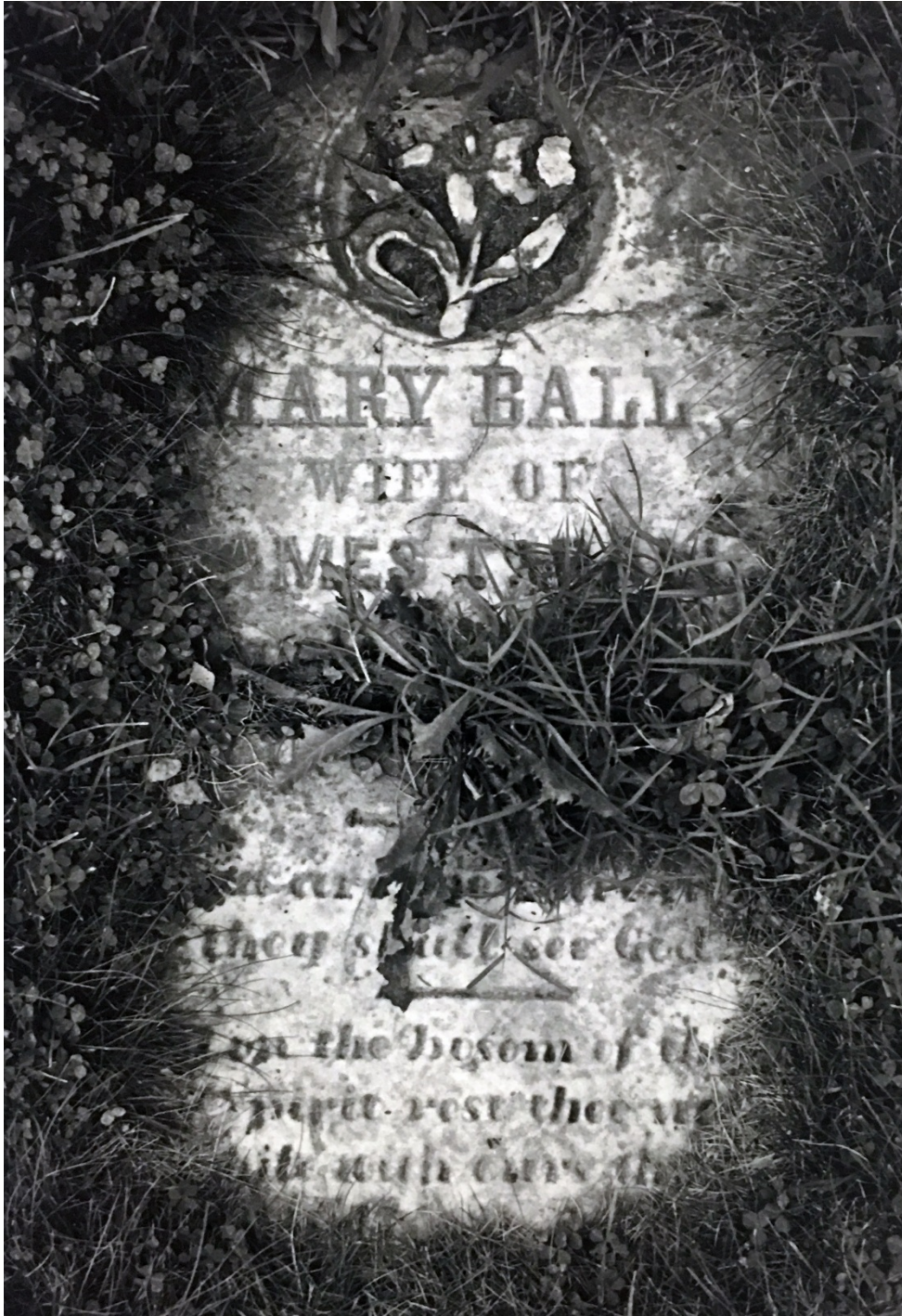


Figure 10: Mary Ball Headstone, Robert Ball Cemetery, 1980.
Source: Center for Local History, Arlington County Public Library.

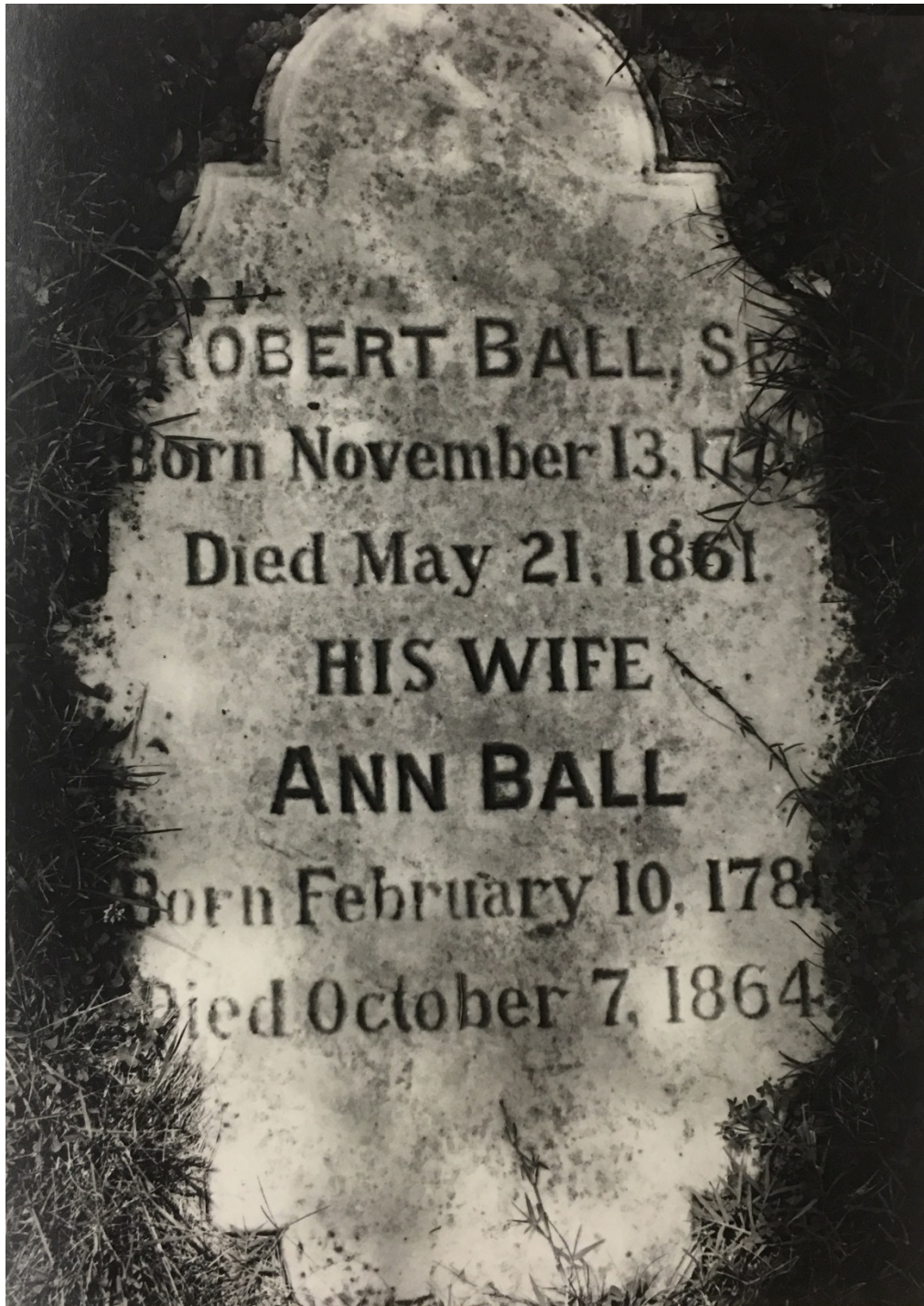


Figure 11: Robert Ball Sr. and Ann Ball Headstone, Robert Ball Cemetery, 1980.
Source: Center for Local History, Arlington County Public Library.

APPENDIX FIVE
CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: Grave Marker Identification Numbers and Photographic Views



- Legend**
- Grave Marker Identification Numbers
 - Photograph Views

1: 300

Notes

50.0 0 25.00 50.0 Feet
 NAD_1983_StatePlane_Virginia_North_FPFS_4501_Feet
 © Arlington County, VA, GIS Mapping Center

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 THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION



Figure 2: Robert Ball Sr. and Ann Ball's Headstone (Grave Marker Identification No. 1), 2016.
Source: Arlington County.



Figure 3: Mary Ball's Headstone (Grave Marker Identification No. 2), 2016.
Source: Arlington County.



Figure 4: James T. Ball's Headstone (Grave Marker Identification No. 3A), 2016.
Source: Arlington County.



Figure 5: James T. Ball's Footstone (Grave Marker Identification No. 3B), 2016.
Source: Arlington County.



Figure 6: Francis E. Dyer's Headstone (Grave Marker Identification No. 4.), 2016.
Source: Arlington County.



Figure 7: Francis E. Dyer's Headstone, 2016.
Source: Central United Methodist Church.



Figure 8: Alice Ball’s Headstone (Grave Marker Identification No. 5), 2016.

Source: Arlington County.



Figure 9: View of the grave markers at the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground, looking west from the abutting sidewalk on North Stafford Street (View A), 2016.
Source: Arlington County.



Figure 10: View of the grave markers at the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground, looking west from North Stafford Street (View B), 2016.
Source: Arlington County.



Figure 11: View of Central United Methodist Church and the Robert Ball Sr. Family Burial Ground, looking northwest from the southeast corner of the intersection of Fairfax Drive and North Stafford Street (View C), 2016.
Source Arlington County.²⁷