



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

Name: Higgins Family Cemetery	Inventory ID: 037
Alternate name:	Master Plan for Historic Preservation: M: 30-25
Address: 5720 Arundel Avenue, Rockville	
Website:	
GPS coordinates: Latitude: 39.059750	Longitude: -77.116230
FindaGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2137353	

BURIAL SITE TYPE

Category: ☐ Religious ☐ Community ☒ **Family** ☐ African American ☐ Other:

BURIAL SITE EVALUATION

Setting/location description: ☐ Rural ☒ Urban ☐ Suburban ☐ Wooded ☐ Other:		
General condition (See conditions sheet): ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ None		
Is there a formal entrance? ☐ Yes ☒ No	Accessibility: ☐ Inaccessible ☐ By foot ☒ By car	
Is cemetery active (recent burials)? ☐ Yes ☒ No	Is there a cemetery sign: ☒ Yes ☐ No	
Is cemetery being maintained? ☐ Yes ☒ Minimal ☐ No (If yes, note caretaker's name below)		
Are there visible markers? ☒ Yes ☐ No	Approximate number of burials/visible markers: ~30	Date ranges: 1816-1891

Description: (markers, materials, arrangement, landscaping/vegetation, fence, paths and roads, etc.)

- **.37-acre private family cemetery, surrounded by commercial buildings**
- **Historic grave stones, including Revolutionary War Patriot James Higgins (1732-1816) and George Knowles, founder of Kensington (1805-1881)**
- **Vegetation such as day lilies, burning bushes, and boxwoods**
- **Installation of DAR marker (2002) and interpretive sign (2018)**
- **3 restored and reset grave markers**

BURIAL SITE CONTACT

Name: Higgins Cemetery Historic Preservation Association, Inc		
Relationship to burial site: Owner	Advocacy contact: Knowles Little, Board Member	
Address:		Phone:
City:	State:	ZIP Code:

BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

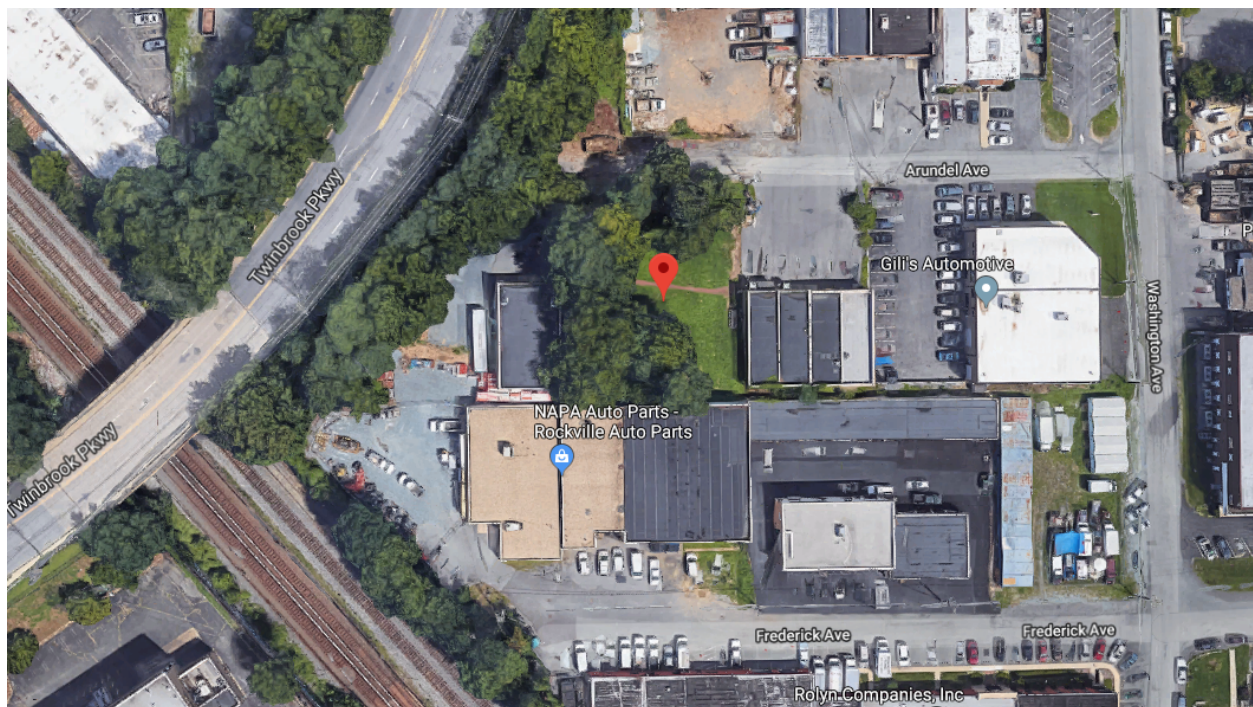
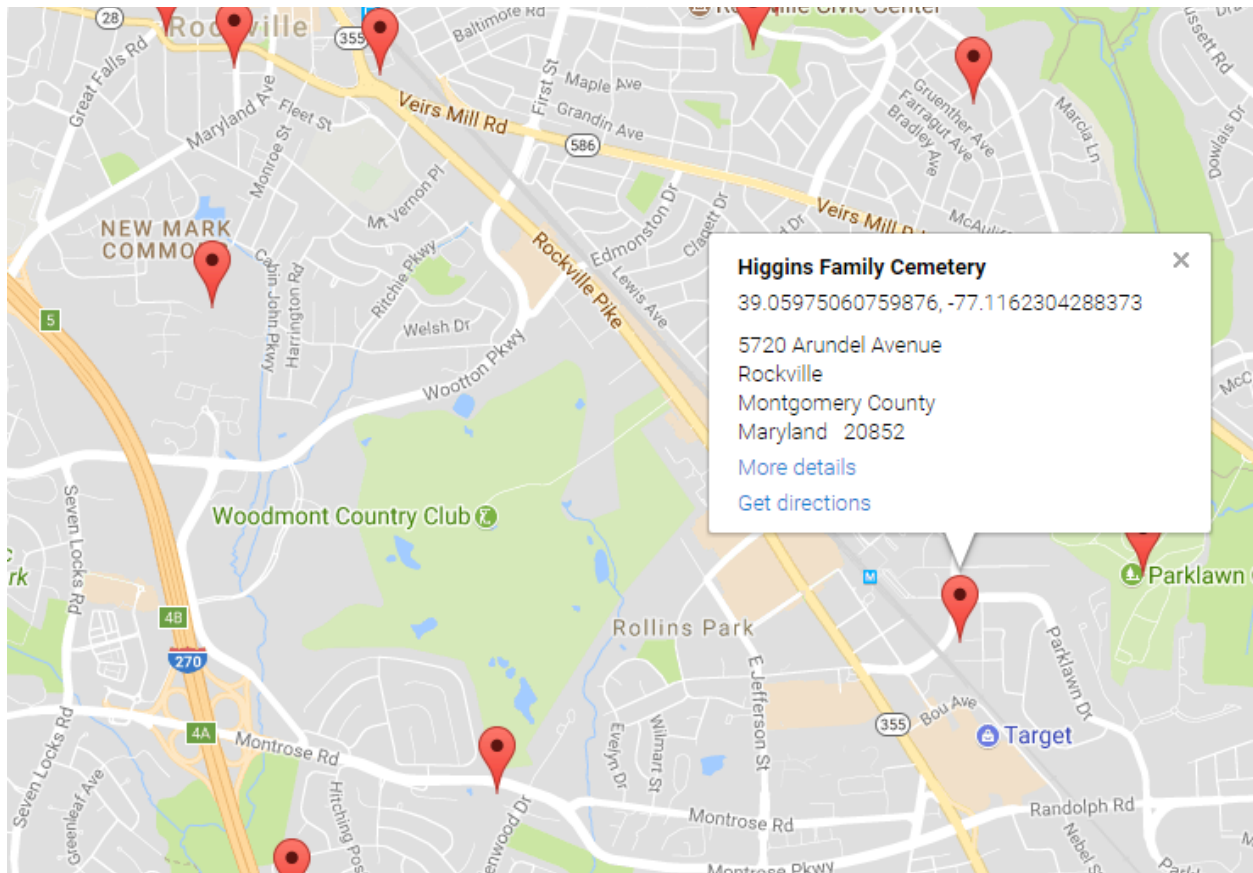
Name: Michael Gnatiko	Survey Date: 3/31/2018	Time spent: 5 min
Address:		Phone:
Email:		
Photographer: Michael Gnatiko		

COMMENTS

Suggestions for follow-up:
• Ongoing community rescue since 1996 to maintain the grounds
Safety issues, invasive vegetation removal, fence removal/restoration, signage, trash, erosion, vandalism:
N/A
Anything of significance about this cemetery?
• Designated on Master Plan for Historic Preservation (MHT 30-25)

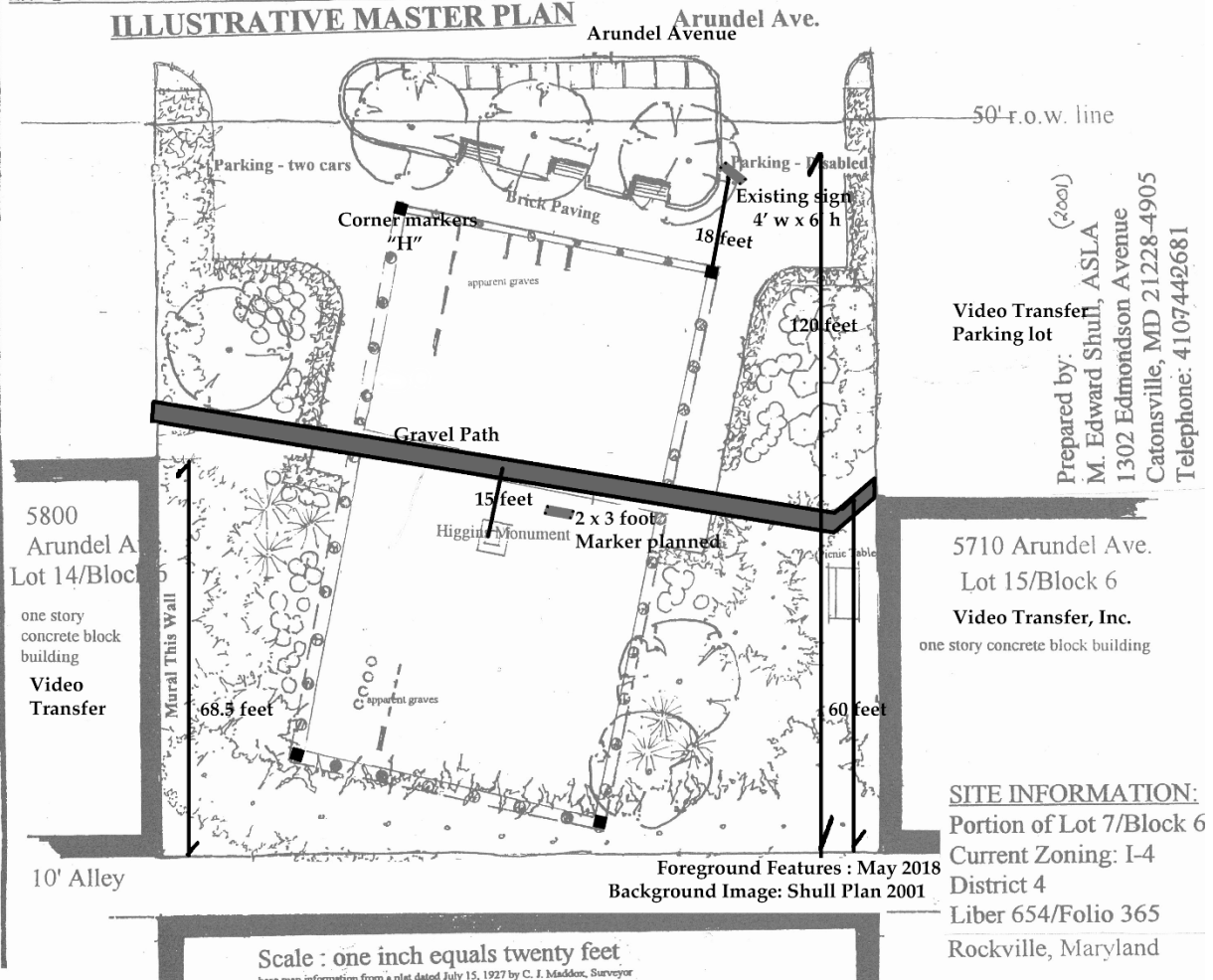
SOURCES

Cite sources used and resources available:
• http://montgomeryplanning.org/historic/documents/30-25HigginsCemMIHP7-31-09.pdf



RESEARCH

HIGGINS CEMETERY PRESERVATION PLAN ILLUSTRATIVE MASTER PLAN



Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Photograph Log

Cemetery Name: Higgins Family Cemetery		Inventory ID: 037
Photographer: Michael Gnatiko		Date: 3/31/2018
Time	Photo No.	Description and direction you are facing (Ex: detail of wall around Carr plot facing North)
	1	Approach to cemetery from Arundel Avenue, facing south
	2	Center of cemetery, facing west
	3	Panoramic from west to north to east
	4	Panoramic from east to south to west
	5	Recently installed interpretive sign



1. Approach to cemetery from Arundel Avenue, facing south



2. Center of cemetery, facing west



3. Panoramic from west to north to east



4. Panoramic from east to south to west

James Higgins, 1732 - 1816: Planter & Patriot

What is this place ?

This burial ground is a small remnant of a farm consisting of hundreds of acres, where James and Luraner Higgins once lived and grew tobacco and grain crops. You are standing on a portion of the Higgins land which was designated as a graveyard, as shown on the 1851 plat.



James and Luraner Higgins, as well as other family members, were buried here. This sacred ground is the final resting place for at least twelve known Higgins family members, buried from 1816 to 1891. Twelve unmarked stones have also been found.



This sign made possible by a generous gift from the Chevy Chase Chapter NSDAR

Placed 2018

Who was James Higgins ?

James Higgins was an American farmer and Revolutionary Soldier. He was born in Prince George's County, Maryland on November 17, 1732.

In 1760 James married Luraner Becraft. At the time they were married, James was 28 years old and Luraner was 16. They had a long marriage and twelve children. In 1769 he purchased this tract of land.

In the spring of 1776, Gen. George Washington recommended and Congress established "Flying Camps" of militiamen from the middle colonies of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware. These mobile, additional troops were needed to defend New Jersey while the main army focused on protecting New York. James Higgins enlisted in a Flying Camp in July 1776. Records also show that he was a Private in the 5th Company, Lower Battalion of the Montgomery County Militia in August 1777.

On January 10, 1778, James Higgins took the Oath of Fidelity, renouncing the King of England and pledging allegiance to the revolutionary government of Maryland.

James lived to the age of 84, dying in 1816. Luraner died three years later, at age 75. The land was divided among their three sons.



What is this monument ?

In 1866, descendants of James and Luraner Higgins erected this sandstone monument to the first two generations who resided here. The original monument, with text inscribed on four sides of the large vertical stone, was topped by an obelisk.

Monument Inscription

Side 1

Sacred to the Memory of
James Higgins Born 1732 Died 1816 Aged 84
His Wife Luraner Born 1744 Died 1819 Aged 75
James Becraft Higgins Born 1773 Died 1848 Aged 76
His Wife Mary Eleanor Born 1783 Died 1845 Aged 62
And to their children and childrens children

Side 2

I know that my redeemer liveth
He that believeth in me though he were dead,
yet shall he live



Higgins Cemetery Historic Preservation Association

www.higginscemeterymaryland.org

5. Recently installed interpretive sign