

# Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory

ID: 38

Name: Hickman Family Cemetery

Alternate name: see Edward's Ferry Cemetery

Address: Confidential

Town: Edward's Ferry

ADC Map Page 24 Grid D1

## Type

Religious \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family \_\_\_\_\_  
 Private \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Association

Free black \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enslaved \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ethnic \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prehistoric \_\_\_\_\_

Setting  Rural  Urban  Suburban  Forested  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Condition  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

Negative Impacts (vandalism, dumping, neglect, encroachment, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate no. of burials 13+ Date range of burials \_\_\_\_\_

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

Surveyor(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Survey date \_\_\_\_\_  
Photographer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

Current owner \_\_\_\_\_  
Address/Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Status  Locational Atlas ID \_\_\_\_\_  National Register  
 Master Plan ID \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_

UTM \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional sources of information:

NPS Study archaeol. ID and Evaluation Study  
Vol. I pp. 84-86. (seen @ Sugarloaf Regional Trails 2015)

38  
HICKMAN FAMILY CEMETERY  
RIVER ROAD / C&D CANAL PARK  
EDWARDS FERRY



**ED'S FERRY CEMETERY, HICKMAN FAMILY BURYING  
GROUND**

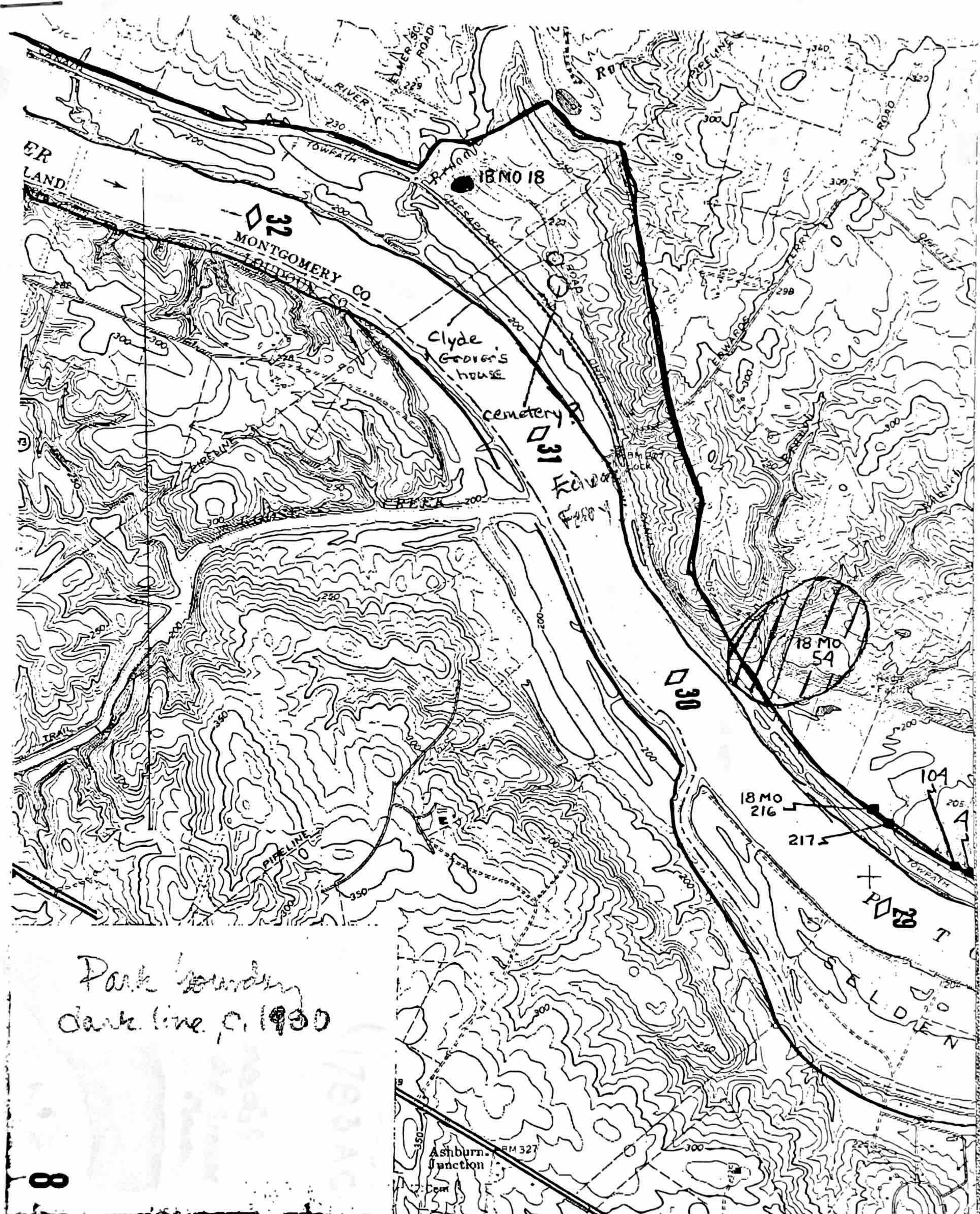
**Directions: Exact location kept confidential to protect it. [A.D.C. Map:  
Montgomery, page 19, grid coordinates: B-10.] Condition of cemetery:**

**Unknown. Inactive cemetery. Earliest known death: 1766. Location of  
transcribed records: Montgomery County Historical Society Library, 42  
West Middle Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Comments: Oldest existing  
cemetery in Montgomery County, data from Historic sites study and  
Evening Star article, 4 marked graves.**

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HICKMAN FAMILY CEMETERY  
RIVER ROAD / C&D CANAL PARK  
EDWARDS FERRY





Park boundary  
dark line c. 1930

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HICKMAN FAMILY CEMETERY  
RIVER ROAD / C&D CANAL PARK  
EDWARDS FERRY

6 SITES  
1 1 2 2



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 HICKMAN FAMILY CEMETERY  
 RIVER ROAD / C&O CANAL FALL  
 EDWARDS FERRY

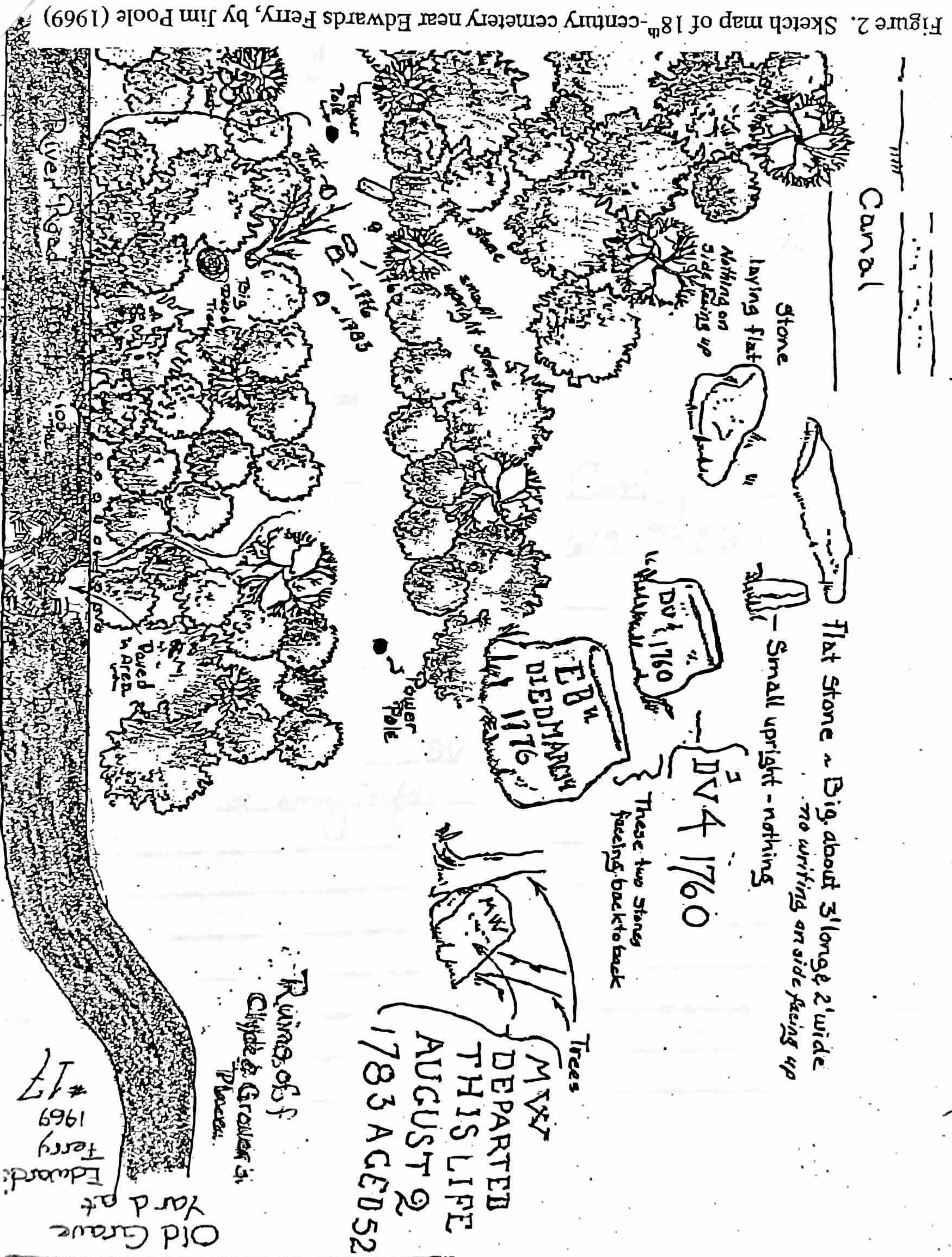
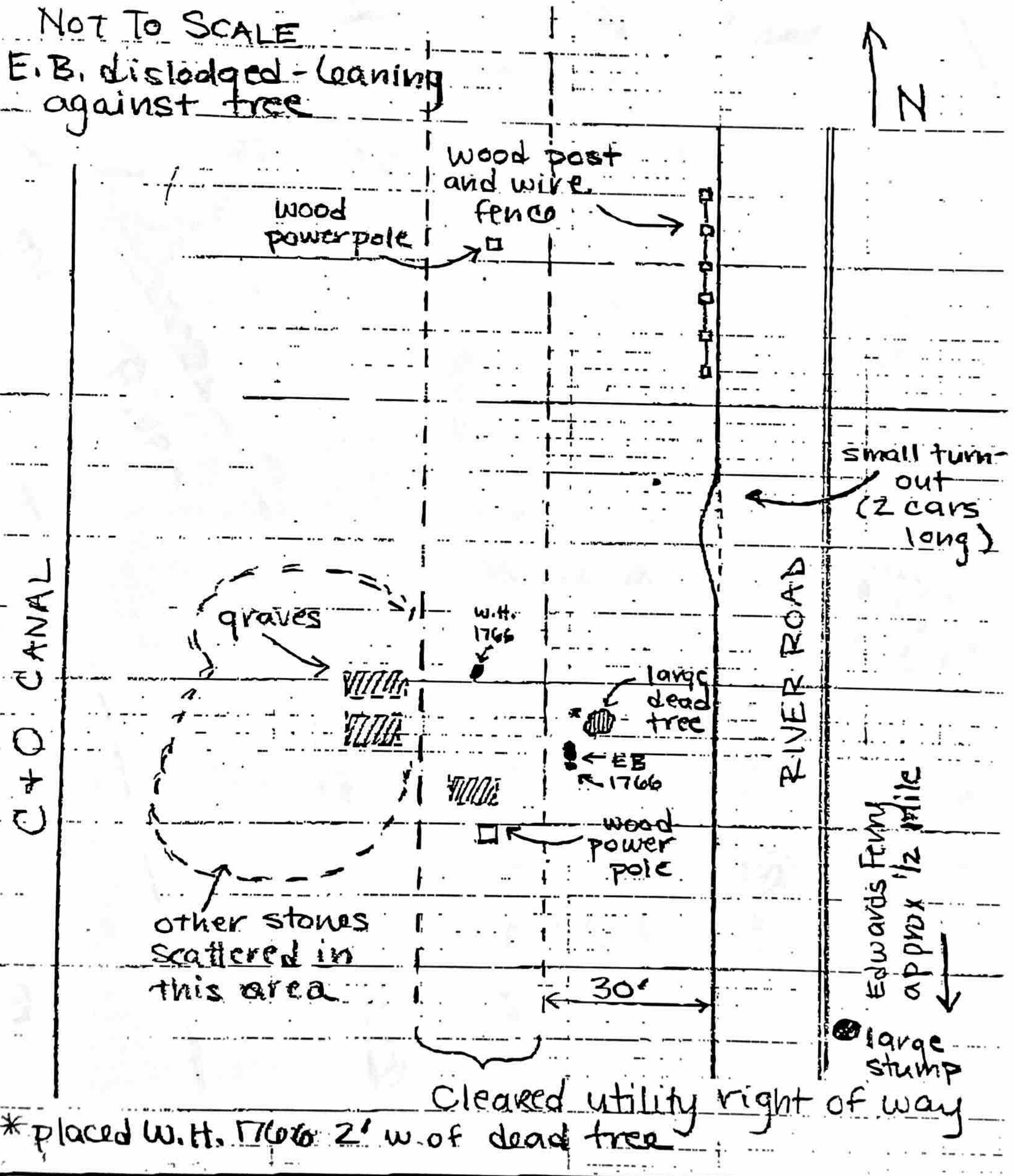


Figure 2. Sketch map of 18<sup>th</sup>-century cemetery near Edwards Ferry, by Jim Poole (1969)



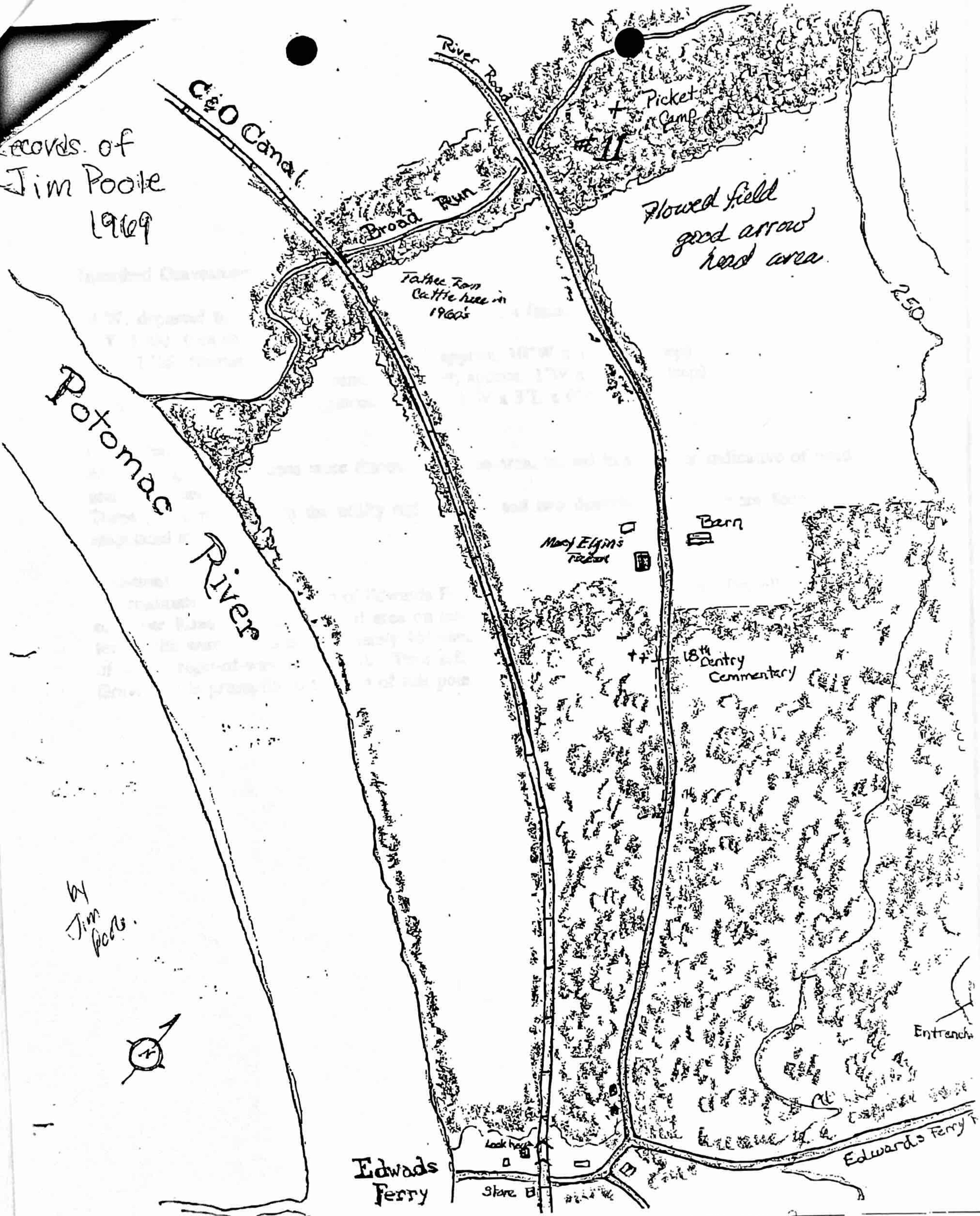
Park	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION CULTURAL RESOURCE SERVICES DIVISION		Sheet
Area			of
Project	Hickman Cemetery	By C. Madrid	Checked
Feature		Date 3-13-96	Date
			Pkg.
			Account



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HICKMAN FAMILY CEMETERY  
RIVER ROAD / C&O CANAL PARK  
EDWARDS FERRY



Records of  
Jim Poole  
1969



Potomac  
River

C&O Canal

Father Tom  
Cattle here in  
1960's

Flowed field  
good arrow  
head area

Mary Elgin's  
Tomb

Barn

18<sup>th</sup>  
Century  
Cemetery

Entrench

Edwards  
Ferry

Store B

Edwards Ferry

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HICKMAN FAMILY CEMETERY  
RIVER ROAD / C&O CANAL PARK  
EDWARDS FERRY

by  
Jim Poole





HICKMAN CEMETERY  
C&O CANAL/EDWARDS FERRY

Inscribed Gravestones:

M.W. departed this life August 9, 1788, age 37 (not found)

D.Y. 1760 (not found)

W.H. 1766 (found, broken and displaced; approx. 10"W x 1'L x 5"deep)

E.B. Died March 13 1766 (found, displaced; approx. 1'W x 3'L x 3"deep)

1766 (found, broken and displaced; approx. 1'W x 3'L x 6"deep)

Other Features:

At least eight other stones were discovered in the area, buried in a manner indicative of head and footstones.

Three grave pits, one in the utility right-of-way and two directly adjacent, were found, no associated stones.

Location:

Approximately 1/2 mile North of Edwards Ferry and River Road intersection. Travelling north on River Road, informal pull-off area on left of road long enough for two cars. Wood post fence with wire begins approximately 15' ahead. Walk directly towards canal until open area of utility right-of-way is reached. Turn left (south) and walk towards wooden utility pole. Graveyard is primarily to the east of this pole.

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HICKMAN FAMILY CEMETERY  
RIVER ROAD / C&O CANAL FERRY  
EDWARDS FERRY



MEMORANDUM

To: Rebecca Stevens

From: Chris Madrid

Stephen Potter and I have been successful in locating the pre-revolutionary cemetery on C&O Canal property near Edwards Ferry. We met with Claire Cavicche (sp?) from the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission on the morning of the 13th at the lockhouse. After an unsuccessful search through almost impenetrable bramble and thorn bushes, we spoke to some utility workers who mentioned that Poole's Store might be able to provide some information. Ms. Poole called her son, Jim, who is a local historian and amateur archeologist and worked at NIH nearby. He had last seen the site in 1969 but was able to lead us directly to the location.

The cemetery is in poor condition. The utility company has a right-of-way (probably granted by the canal) which runs directly over at least one gravesite. The inscribed stones which were located were displaced from their original sites and one was broken. There is a good amount of undergrowth at the site, but it is manageable. The stones which remain may be in danger of "walking away" and I consider it our good fortune that they have not already been taken. The largest stone (E.B. 1776) is leaning against a tree and is completely disassociated with its original grave. Two men would be able to remove the stone with no problems.

Jim Poole has lived in Poolesville/Seneca/Edwards Ferry his entire life and has collected an amazing amount of information regarding historic sites on canal property. His wealth of knowledge and accurate documentation skills should be made accessible to those at the canal who wish to continue with the recordation of this area.

I have mentioned to Claire, Stephen and Jim that I will be primarily unavailable to complete extensive documentation on this site as other priorities have arisen. At least we found it! I have prepared small packets of info for Susan, Gary and John Parsons. Let's talk to discuss a more formal memo of discovery and possible options for the recording of the site.

*Chris.*

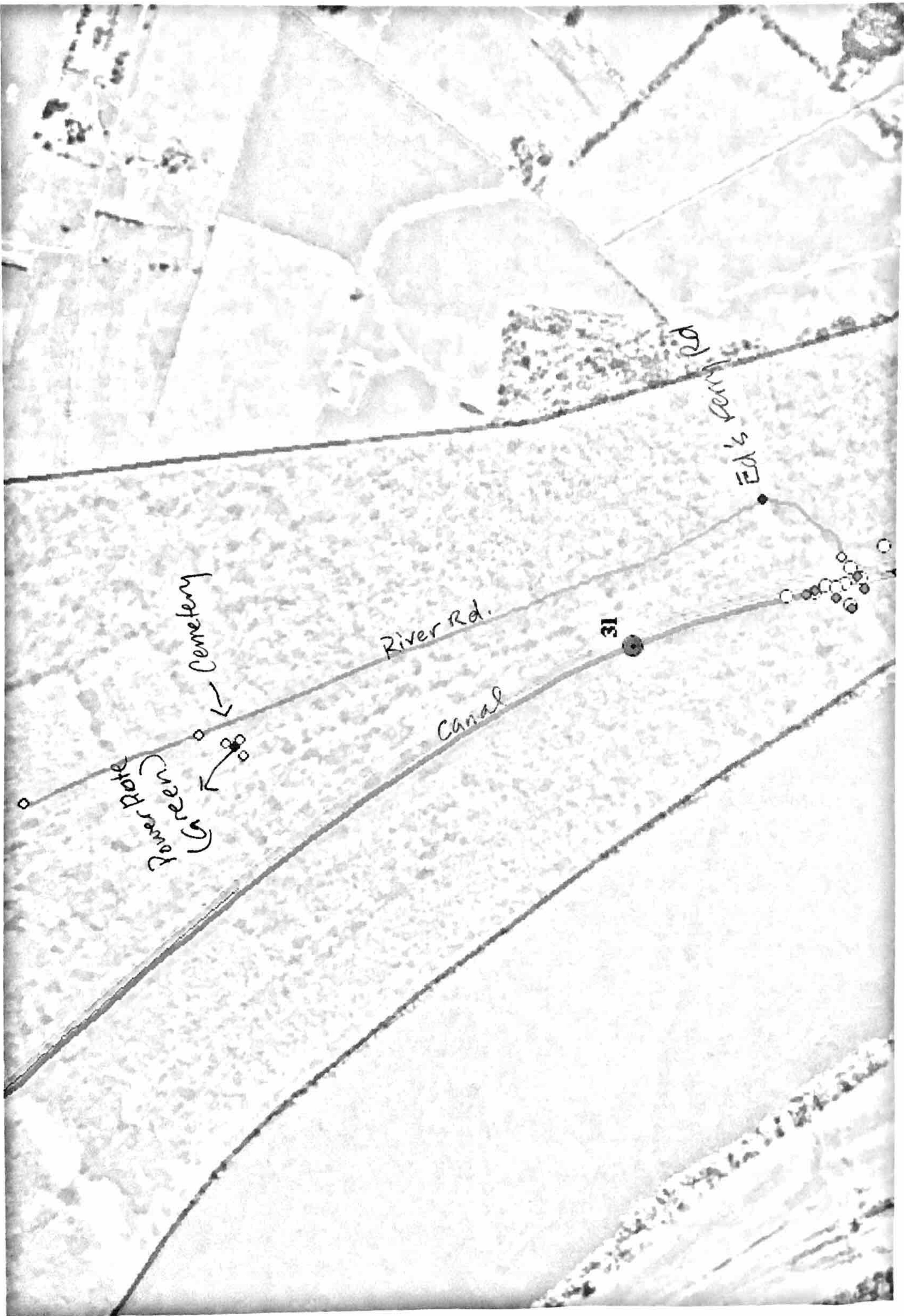
*P.S. Claire mentioned that this find is one of the oldest (or oldest) cemeteries in Montgomery County.*

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HICKMAN FAMILY CEMETERY  
RIVER ROAD / C&O CANAL PARK  
EDWARDS FERRY



Northing: 526149.784457  
UTM Easting: 1177595.639457

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HICKMAN FAMILY CEMETERY  
RIVER ROAD / C&O CANAL FARM  
EDWARDS FERRY



Hickman  
Family

~~Colosville Cem. - Hist. site 33/3~~

Edward's Ferry Cem. (on C & O Canal - exact location confidential to protect. - select prop. Cem.)

11 stones - only 3 have initials & dates

W.H. (Dec) Dy 4 1766 - (Wm Hickman - date of will Dec 1766)

E.B. March 1776 (Elij. Burns?) d/o Wm Hickman

m.w. Aug 9 1788 age 39 (Mary Walker?) d/o Wm " 1744

(Original owner of prop. Wm Hickman)

above from Hist Sites ACHS research

did not see

D.Y. d. 1760 (from Washington Star Jan 12, 1975)

E.B. d. Mar 1776

m.w. d. Aug 9, 1788 age 37

W.H. d. 1766

see above?  
in file?



From Louis Berger archaeology  
report for NPS.

O. EDWARDS FERRY (MM 30.84), SITE 18MO476

The first archival reference we have found to Edwards Ferry is in the 1792 Virginia act authorizing ferries and setting their rates: "From Benjamin Edwards's, Goose Creek, over Patowmac, opposite (6 cents for a man, 6 cents for a horse)." Benjamin Edwards evidently resided on the Virginia side of the river. Hahn (1997:63) reports that the ferry operated from 1791 to 1836, and that a post office was located at Edwards Ferry in 1835. No buildings are depicted here on the 1827 map, so it seems that the small community developed quickly after the canal was built in 1831. Several historic nineteenth-century structures are extant at Edwards Ferry, including Lock 25 (reconstructed), the lockhouse, Jarboe's store, several stone foundations, and the Goose Creek River Lock. These structures were GPS-mapped, and artifacts observed on nearby surfaces were collected. In addition, six shovel tests were excavated in and near structures (Figures 19 and 20). The greatest quantity of historic material came from Shovel Test A-6, furthest away from Potomac. This material has been designated as Site 18MO476. With the exception of one handwrought roseheaded spike that dates to 1830 or earlier, the rest of the artifacts from the shovel tests are dated post-1830, as would be anticipated based upon the known history of this community.

Based upon Poole's photograph (Plate 13), the position of the 1861-1862 Union camp near Edwards Ferry was identified and this area was surveyed in Year 2, using a metal detector. No artifacts of the Civil War period, or other historic metal artifacts, were recovered. We surmise that this area must have been extensively collected by relic-hunters.

P. HICKMAN CEMETERY (MM 31.3), SITE 18MO627

Just west of Edwards Ferry, along the River Road, a small cemetery is hidden in the brush within the transmission line corridor. This cemetery was mapped in 1969 by local historian Jim Poole, who also sketched the carved stones (Figure 21). It was also recorded by Anne Brockett in 2000 as part of a study of Montgomery County cemeteries (it seems to be the oldest one extant in the county). The cemetery was GPS-mapped at that time; it was not yet recorded in the park's list of classified structures as of March 2004 (Corri Jimenez, personal communication 2004). Nevertheless, the Berger crew had difficulty relocating the cemetery because of thick brush, the apparent repositioning of several stones, and the need for viewing under particular daylight conditions to render the inscriptions legible. It was finally found on the third attempt. The cemetery seems to include about two dozen graves, based on the number of depressions in the soil. Twenty-one stones of varying size, from a 5.5x1.5-foot quartzite slab to a 0.6x0.5-foot cobble, were mapped within a 150x150-foot area. They appear to be closely associated with the depressions; the smallest may mark children's or slaves' graves. The stones have been covered by accumulating sediments and/or sunk into the soil so that they are deeply embedded. Only a few are indubitable headstones that bear legible carvings. Poole recorded three as: *DV (or W) 1760*; *EBn (or W?) died March 1776*; and *MW departed this life August 2 1783 aged 52*. Brockett's readings were rather different (she may have seen different stones from those visible to Poole) and seem to provide a better fit with land ownership records for this area. She read one stone as *WH 1766* (Poole's *DV 1760?*). This WH seems to be William Hickman, a resident of these parts who died in that year. Brockett read the death date of MW as 1788, not 1783, and suggested that this was Hickman's daughter, Mary Wacker.

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RIVER ROAD / C&D CANAL PARK  
EDWARDS FERRY



Hickman was living in the area by 1736. In that year he signed a 99-year lease for 87 acres of land, part of a tract called Preston March, that was already "in the tenure of the said William Hickman" (Prince George County Deed Book Y:319). Hickman paid 600 pounds of tobacco yearly to his landlords, Annapolis-based speculators William Cumming and James Edmonston, delivered at Seneca Landing. In his will Hickman referred to "the leased land whereon I now live," so he seems to have resided on the property for much of his life, and the presence of the rather large family cemetery confirms this. Hickman acquired several other tracts of land in the vicinity and mentions four, totaling about 300 acres, in his will, so he was not a poor man. Thus his home ought to have left something for archeologists to find, and based on the metes and bounds given in the lease, the entire property seemed to lie within the park. A search was therefore made of the ridgetops north and northwest of the cemetery, but nothing was found. The most likely spot for Hickman's residence seems therefore to be under the nineteenth- and twentieth-century farm located north of the cemetery, which is shown on Poole's map ("Ruins of Clyde & Grover's Place").

Q. SOUTH OF BROAD RUN (MM 31.7), SITES 18MO573 AND 18MO626

Site 18MO573 was identified in a plowed field on the south side of Broad Run and east of the previously recorded site, 18MO18 (see Figure 3). This site, measuring about 300x300 feet, corresponds to the area designated on Jim Poole's map as a good spot for "arrowheads." Here the crew collected quartzite biface fragments, including one base with a turkey-tail form (Plate 14). The bifaces appeared to be Savannah River preforms, indicating a Late Archaic date. Additional preforms and an unambiguous complete Savannah River point (see Plate 14) were found in Year 3, when recent plowing and rainfall presented two opportunities for surface inspection with optimal visibility. An untypable quartz stemmed point, with visible blade shoulders and a broken but seemingly contracting stem, was also collected, as well as a triangular rhyolite point (possibly a Brewerton-like Archaic triangle rather than a Late Woodland point). Whatever their precise typological affinities, these finds show that Site 18MO573 is a multi-component site.

The Fulton Turkey Tail is a Midwestern Late Archaic type, exogenous to the Middle Atlantic region; however, a similar point base fragment, also made of quartzite, has been reported from the Sassafra Springs Site (44PG36), on the James River in Prince George County, Virginia (Reinhart 1983). As at Site 18MO573, the Virginia specimen was loosely associated with Savannah River material.

During the April 2005 visit to Site 18MO573, the opportunity was afforded to extend the walkover survey coverage onto the plowed fields to the north and at higher elevation. This resulted in identification of Site 18MO626. This material was clearly separated from Site 18MO573 by a wide strip with no surface finds. Artifacts were very thinly scattered across a 1,600x650-foot area in the northern field. Noteworthy surface finds include several quartzite Savannah River preforms, a crude quartz endscraper, and a pitted stone.

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HICKMAN FAMILY CEMETERY  
RIVER ROAD / C&D CANAL PARK  
EDWARDS FERRY



1. Name of Landmark: Edwards Ferry Cemetery
2. Location: Near River Road and Edwards Ferry Road
3. Present use: Abandoned
4. Owner: U.S. National Park Service
5. Date or period built: Pre-Revolutionary cemetery
6. Architectural description:  
The cemetery covers an area approximately 50 feet by 50 feet. About 12 uncut field stones, apparently marking grave sites, are visible. Some appear overturned and others are partially buried. Some have carved initials and dates. The predominant initial is "W", and the earliest date found on a stone was 1760. The largest stone is about four feet by three feet, but some stones are only one foot square.
7. Builder: N.A.
8. Original owner: Unknown
9. Historic association:  
Very little is known about this site although it has been plagued by vandals. Joseph Fisher believes that the cemetery may have been adjacent to a small family trading post in an area frequented by hunters and trappers.
10. Bibliography:
  1. Interviews with Joseph Fisher, 121 Central Avenue, Gaithersburg, Md. 20760 and with Reuben Riggs, 14530 Seneca Road, Darnestown, Md.
  2. Interview with William Failor, Superintendent, C & O Canal National Historical Park, Sharpsburg, Md. 21782
  3. Interview with Jack Sanderson, Historian, C & O Canal National Historical Park, Sharpsburg, Md. 21782
11. Researcher: Robert Shewmaker and family  
19148 Roman Way  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20760 1975
12. M-NCPPC Atlas: "Cemetery" 11 16-25 F-6

Source: Inventory of Historical Sites in Western  
Montgomery, MD. Vols I and II Sugarloaf Regional  
Trails, 1975-1977

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