



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

Name: Brooke Grove United Methodist Church Cemetery	Inventory ID: 070
Alternate name: Agape AME Church	
Address: 7700 Brink Road, Laytonsville	
Website: https://www.goshenunited.org/	
GPS coordinates: Latitude: 39.209633	Longitude: -77.157998
FindaGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2360713	

BURIAL SITE TYPE

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

BURIAL SITE EVALUATION

Setting/location description: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Wooded <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
General condition (See conditions sheet): <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> None		
Is there a formal entrance? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Accessibility: <input type="checkbox"/> Inaccessible <input type="checkbox"/> By foot <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By car	
Is cemetery active (recent burials)? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Is there a cemetery sign: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is cemetery being maintained? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal <input type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, note caretaker's name below)		
Are there visible markers? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Approximate number of burials/visible markers: 500	Date ranges: 1883–2018

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

- **Historic cemetery located west of church, laid out in two sections**
- **No clear pathway but an implied access dividing the sections**
- **Mature cedar trees on northern side. No trees on southern side**
- **Predominantly granite and limestone markers, a few concrete markers**

BURIAL SITE CONTACT

Name: Goshen United Methodist Church		
Relationship to burial site:	Advocacy contact: goshen_umc@comcast.net	
Address: 19615 Goshen Road	Phone: 240-683-5530	
City: Gaithersburg	State: MD	ZIP Code: 20879

BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

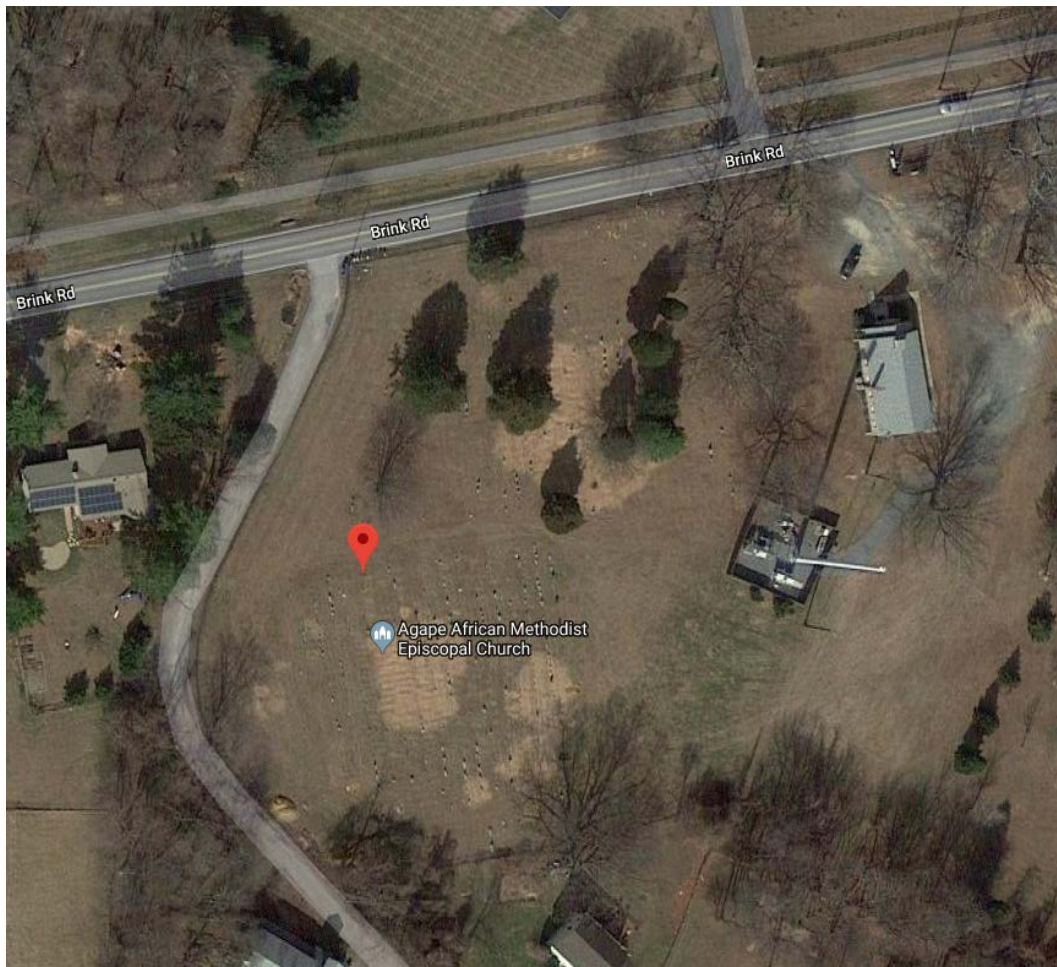
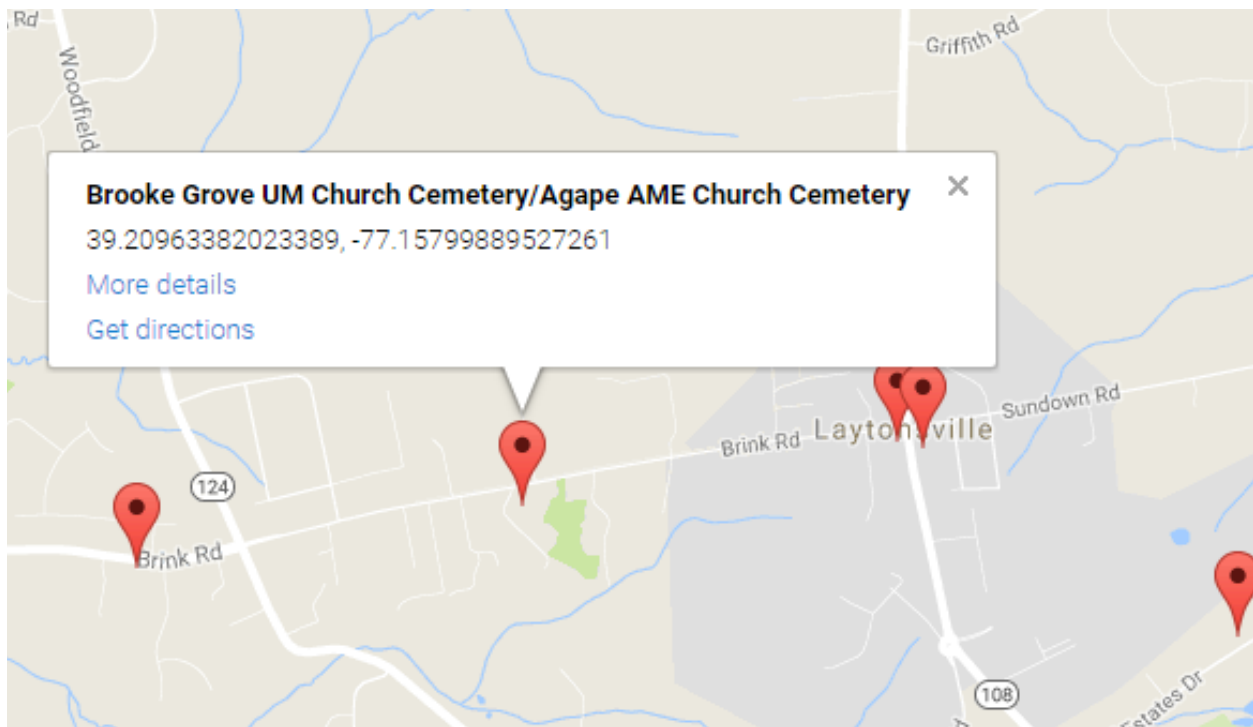
Name: Glenn Wallace	Survey Date: 6/16/2018	Time spent: 10 min
Address:		Phone:
Email: mococems@gmail.com		
Photographer: Glenn Wallace		

COMMENTS

Suggestions for follow-up:
N/A
Safety issues, invasive vegetation removal, fence removal/restoration, signage, trash, erosion, vandalism:
N/A
Anything of significance about this cemetery?
N/A

SOURCES

Cite sources used and resources available:
• https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M:%2014-39.pdf
• http://www.reclaimingkin.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Prather-Family_MGS2018.pdf





Prior to the 1860s, the Black people were allowed to worship with White members of Goshen Methodist Church (currently the Goshen Mennonite Church) on Brink Road. Blacks were required to sit in the upstairs gallery. The majority of the Blacks who attended were unhappy with this situation and decided to form a separate congregation. The following men united to establish the first Board of Trustees; Wesley Randolph, Wesley Prather, James Hall, James Ross, Charles Brooks, Hezekiah Washington, Sr., William Washington, Reason Prather, Sr. and Basil R. Frazier. In 1870, two acres of land were purchased from Mr. Vachel Duffie, a local farmer, in the amount of \$150.00. One acre was designated for the church and the other acre was designated for a cemetery. In late 1871, the first sanctuary was erected. The original edifice was destroyed by fire several years later. Undaunted by its misfortune, faithful members held services in private homes until a new structure was ready. The second church was constructed on the original site in June of 1879.

Brooke Grove Methodist Episcopal Church was part of the "Rockville Circuit of Negro Churches", including Rockville, Emory Grove, Fairview, Mt. Zion, Howard Chapel, Quince Orchard, Brown's and Seneca. Preachers traveled by horseback ministering to different communities about the Glory of God.

In July 1990, a church conference of Brooke Grove Methodist Episcopal Church and Stewartown Methodist Church voted to bring the two congregations together, built at 19615 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg.

Another church conference was held in October 1990 to determine where the Sunday worship services were held until the new sanctuary was erected as well as to determine the name of the new congregation. By majority vote, the newly formed church would be called Goshen United Methodist Church. Worship services would be held at the Brooke Grove site until the new building in Stewartown was completed.

On January 1, 1991, Goshen United Methodist Church officially came into existence. The original Brooke Grove Methodist Episcopal Church building was sold to Agape African Methodist Episcopal Church who occupies the building today.

Source: <https://www.goshenunited.org/history.html>

The property includes a small cemetery adjoining the church with family names important to the history of the area and the founding of the church building, such as Dorsey, Prather, Williams and Riggs.

Source: <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M;%2014-39.pdf>

African Americans put great effort and sacrifice into building churches, schools, and social and benevolent societies. They constructed numerous churches in the county; most were Methodist. African Americans were finally given access to public education in 1872, rudimentary and insufficient though it was. According to The History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, 1872– 1961, "the colored church at Laytonsville" was used as a schoolhouse in 1879 and "the trustees had paid \$25 for its use." That church was Brooke Grove, which the Prather family helped found.

Levi, Tobias, and Wesley Prather died before the turn of the century. Levi died on 12 April 1894 at about age 55; Tobias died on 28 July 1873 at about age 53; and Wesley died sometime between 7 December 1899 and 1900, having lived the longest, and dying at roughly age 85. None had a death certificate. Only Levi and his wife Martha have a surviving headstone at Brooke Grove Cemetery, but Tobias, Wesley, and Rezin are all likely buried there, at the church their family helped found. Many of their descendants are also buried there, along with others in the community—bound together by marriage, family, social life, worship, and slavery.

Source: http://www.reclaimingkin.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Prather-Family_MGS2018.pdf



Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Photograph Log

Cemetery Name: Brooke Grove UM/Agape AME Church Cemetery		Inventory ID: 070
Photographer: Glenn Wallace		Date: 6/16/2018
Time	Photo No.	Description and direction you are facing (Ex: detail of wall around Carr plot facing North)
4:30 pm	1	Approach to cemetery at church driveway, facing south-west
	2	Church sign from Brink Road, facing east
	3	View toward cemetery, facing south-west
	4	Panoramic from west to north to east
4:45 pm	5	Panoramic from east to south to west



1. Approach to cemetery at church driveway, facing south-west



2. Church sign from Brink Road, facing east



3. View toward cemetery, facing south-west



4. Panoramic from west to north to east



5. Panoramic from east to south to west