

EMORY GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BURIAL AREA
(EMORY GROVE MEMORIAL CHURCH)

Directions: Route 124 North, Laytonsville Road, left on Emory Grove Road, church on left. [A.D.C. Map: Montgomery, page 23, grid coordinates G-2.] Condition of cemetery: Well kept. Inactive cemetery. Earliest known death: 1906. Most recent death: 1923. Famous person interred: Rev. A.B. Dorsey. Date transcribed: 1990. Location of transcribed records: Montgomery County Historical Society Library, 42 West Middle Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Comments: One grave marker for minister and wife in backyard, African-American congregation, church organized 1878.

Cemetery Inventory

ID: 81

Burial

Name: Emory Grove United Methodist Church ~~Burial Area~~

Alternate name:

Address: ¹⁷⁸²⁰ ~~Emory Grove~~ & Washington Grove Lane

*Church used -
8200 Emory Grove Rd.

Town: Emory Grove

ADC Map Page 19 Grid K-8

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) new paved over

Approximate no. of burials 2+ Date range of burials 1906-1923

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

One marker
Built 1874 - Earlier burial than 1906 under parking lot.
Some ^{were likely} ~~were~~ moved to Emory Grove (which
is owned by church ~~they own~~) and is located behind ^{cemetery} Johnson's Park.

Surveyor(s) J. Manuel Survey date 5/1/2004

Photographer Anna B. Date 5/1/2004 Photo no. _____

Current owner _____

Address/Phone No. 21963-3434 - Pastor's study

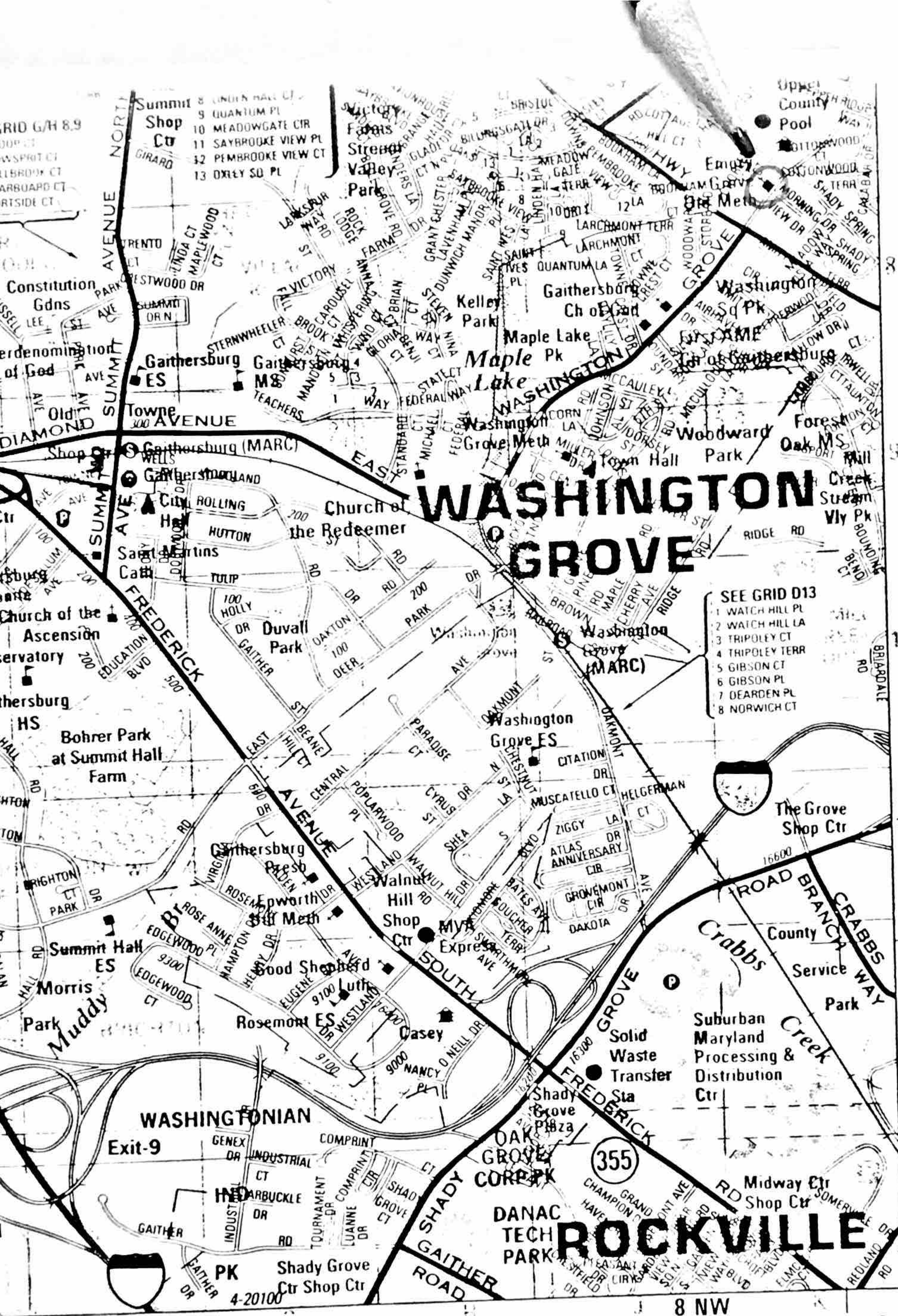
Historic Status Locational Atlas ID _____ National Register
 Master Plan ID _____ Other _____

UTM _____

Additional sources of information:

Marker is for Rev. A.B. Dorsey b. 1859, d. 1906 & wife
Bettie b. 1860, d. 1923. Marker was probably
moved closer to church & cem. was paved for parking.

81
EMORY GROVE UMC
17820 WASHINGTON GROVE LANE
EMORY GROVE



224 NW JOHNS
 223 NW
 10
 222 NW
 39°07'30"
 221 NW
 13
 23

- SEE GRID D13
- 1 WATCH HILL PL
 - 2 WATCH HILL LA
 - 3 TRIPOLEY CT
 - 4 TRIPOLEY TERR
 - 5 GIBSON CT
 - 6 GIBSON PL
 - 7 DEARDEN PL
 - 8 NORWICH CT

MD GRID 750.000 FT
 © ALEXANDRIA DRAFTING CO.
 77°10'00"

ins Map 28

9 NW

81
 ENDRY GROVE DMC
 17020 WASHINGTON GROVE LANE
 ENDRY GROVE

19

Em. Gr. Nat.

p23 42

MARYLAND CEMETERY DIRECTORY HEADINGS.

County: *Mont.*

Type of Cemetery: *Church*

Name of Cemetery: *Emory Grove ^{United} Methodist Church*

Location of Cemetery: *Emory Grove and Washington Grove Lane,
Emory Grove (Daytonville mailing address)*

Contact: *963-3434 (church)*

Condition/Description of Cemetery:

Number of Graves: *- 1 marker*

Oldest Grave Marker:

Span of Usage:

Inscriptions Transcribed:

Date Transcribed: *March 14, 1990 - Janet D. Manuel*

Transcribed Records Located:

Transcribed Records Published:

Comments: *This is not a cemetery, but there
is one grave site (2 names) behind
the church near the rear entrance.*

81
EMORY GROVE DMC
17820 WASHINGTON GROVE LANE
EMORY GROVE

Congregation Keeps Emory Grove spirit alive

(Continued from page B-1)

which featured legendary greats such as Little Richard, Fats Domino and Ray Charles.

Those carefree days in Emory Grove vanished as a result of urban renewal almost 20 years ago. But despite the upheaval and destruction of their homes and businesses, the small black community that established itself in the 1870s is still alive through its church, which has remained on the same site for 115 years.

Ancestors of some of the founders of the first church, the Duvalls and the Tylers for example, are still a part of the congregation today. While today's church members are engineers, secretaries, computer programmers and the like, their ancestors were slaves and after slavery was abolished, relatives worked as domestic workers in the predominantly white community of Washington Grove.

Today property values of homes in Washington Grove continue to increase, yet few of the original houses of Emory Grove even exist.

In Emory Grove, under the original renewal plan to install septic systems, 24 of the 105 houses in the community would remain, according to Duvall. However, only three of the original houses still stand today.

After houses were pulled apart, and bulldozers pushed through

potatoes, cabbage and fried chicken waited through the woods and the crowd. Prayer was held three times a day in addition to singing, eating and playing baseball.

"Those were good times," sisters Thelma, 46, and Carolyn say, each absorbed in her own private memory.

But camp meetings eventually stopped in the '60s. Times had changed. There were too many cars and transient people to handle and unhealthful sanitary conditions were erupting. The congregation decided to end the camp meetings. But the park is still there and so

still starts up the juke that people used to listen to while discussing the latest happenings in the community.

Duvall and former resident Ruzie Tyler have both served on various community committees over the years to ensure the needs of Emory Grove were met. Tyler was one of the first to serve on the rehabilitation and redevelopment commission in 1962. Duvall serves on the board of directors for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Montgomery County, and among other committees serves as a

raised money for the elderly.

"The power of Emory Grove is that people have always been organized," the Taylor sisters say, "and that power reached out to people."

And so through the traditions and efforts of the men and women the community has survived. Emory Grove was physically abolished but it lives on through the church and various activities of the congregation.

Thelma is president of the United Methodist Women, and Carolyn Taylor is the president of the senior choir. Both belong to the Gospels along with two other sisters and 11 other members. The group recently celebrated its 23rd anniversary and sang to a standing-room only crowd.

But it doesn't take an anniversary to fill the church. By 9:30 a.m. every Sunday, at least 50 cars have filled up the parking lot in back of the church. Just outside the back door stands one gravestone, that of John Dorsey, founder of the church. There are actually 75 to 80 more graves there, but grass has long since overgrown the stones and epitaphs. But inside the church, things are very much alive. One recent Sunday the Rev. Lavene Clipper-Thomas spoke about the honor and hopes and

fears of the town of Bethlehem.

"Oh, little town of Bethlehem, she started, "how still I see thee lie... the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."

"We all want honor. We all search for a place of ultimate worth," she shouted to the group who responded "amen" and thought their own silent prayers. She spoke of each person's battle against the forces in the world, which can invade one's sense of power and said people must confront those forces and believe. "I have come to face the giant, the giant of death and destruction."

The community of Emory Grove also lies still in all its hopes and fears, but the members of this community have indeed faced the giant... and they have survived.

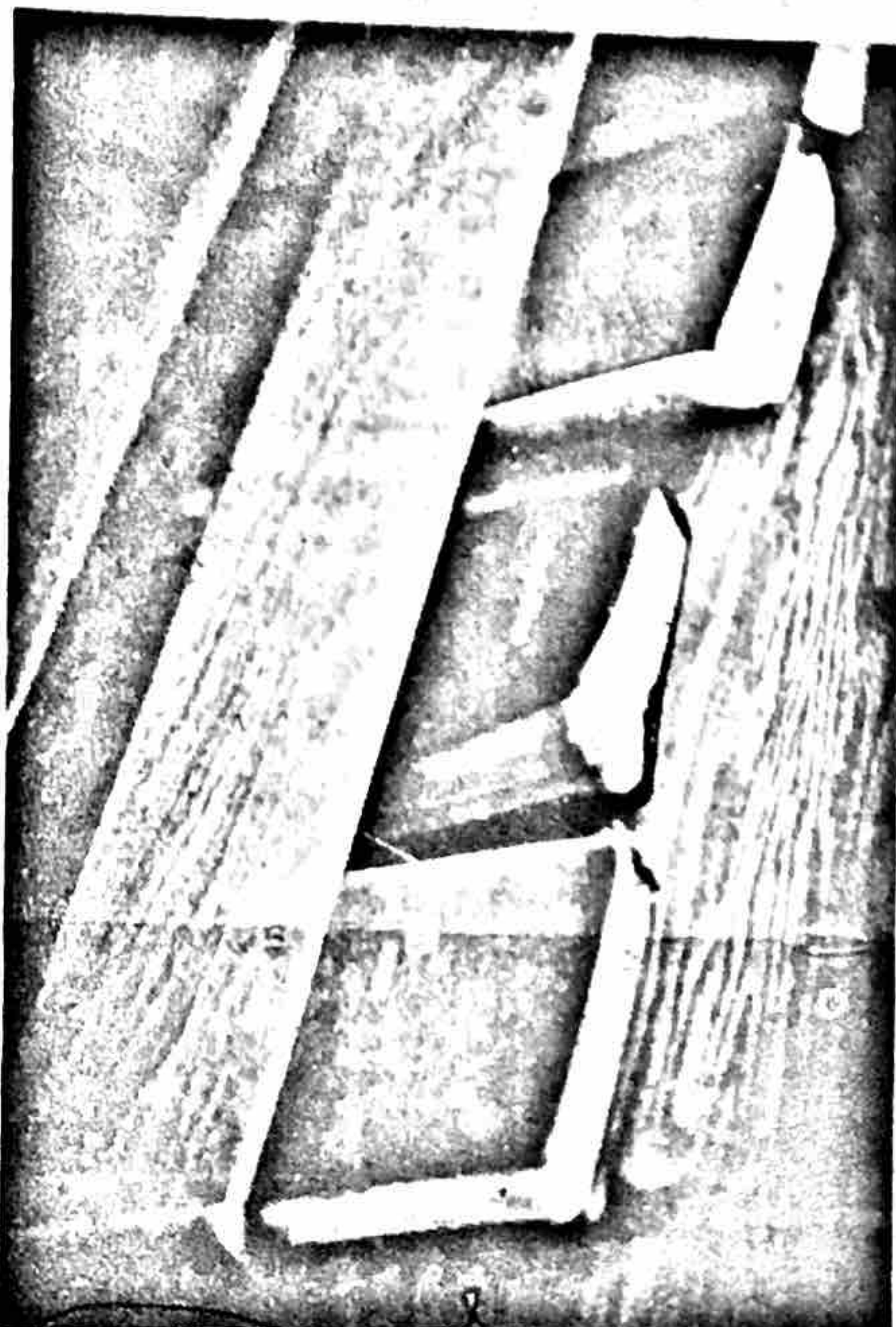


Photo by Chris Spivey

are the woods that overlook it; the member of the community action

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