



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

Name: **Rockville Cemetery** Inventory ID: **127**

Alternate name: Rockville Protestant Episcopal Cemetery, Rockville Union Cemetery

Address: **1350 Baltimore Road, Rockville, MD 20850 (entrance at Avery Road)**

Website: www.rockvillecemeterymd.org

GPS coordinates: Latitude: **39.084376** Longitude: **-77.125481**

FindaGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/81716>

BURIAL SITE TYPE

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

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: **5,300** Date ranges: **1752–2018**

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

- **Historic cemetery separated into Upper and Lower sections**
- **Grave markers, mausoleums, and columbariums**
- **Variety of native plants, shrubs, and mature trees**
- **About to undergo modifications along Baltimore Road involving landscaping and creek restoration**

BURIAL SITE CONTACT

Name: **Rockville Cemetery Association – Board of Directors**

Relationship to burial site: **Owner** Advocacy contact: rockvillecemeterymd@gmail.com

Address: **1350 Baltimore Road, (P.O. Box 4318)** Phone: **301-309-0191**

City: **Rockville** State: **MD** ZIP Code: **20851**

BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

Name: **Hannelore Quigley** Survey Date: **4/25/2018** Time spent: **30 min**

Address: Phone:

Email:

Photographer: **Hannelore Quigley**

COMMENTS

Suggestions for follow-up:

N/A

Safety issues, invasive vegetation removal, fence removal/restoration, signage, trash, erosion, vandalism:

N/A

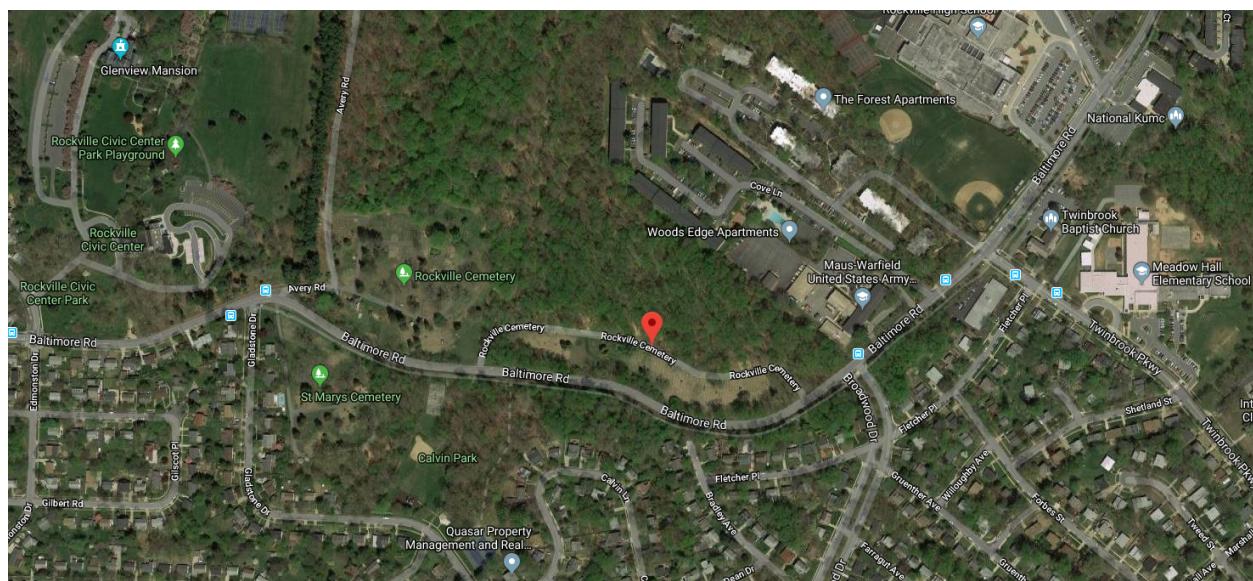
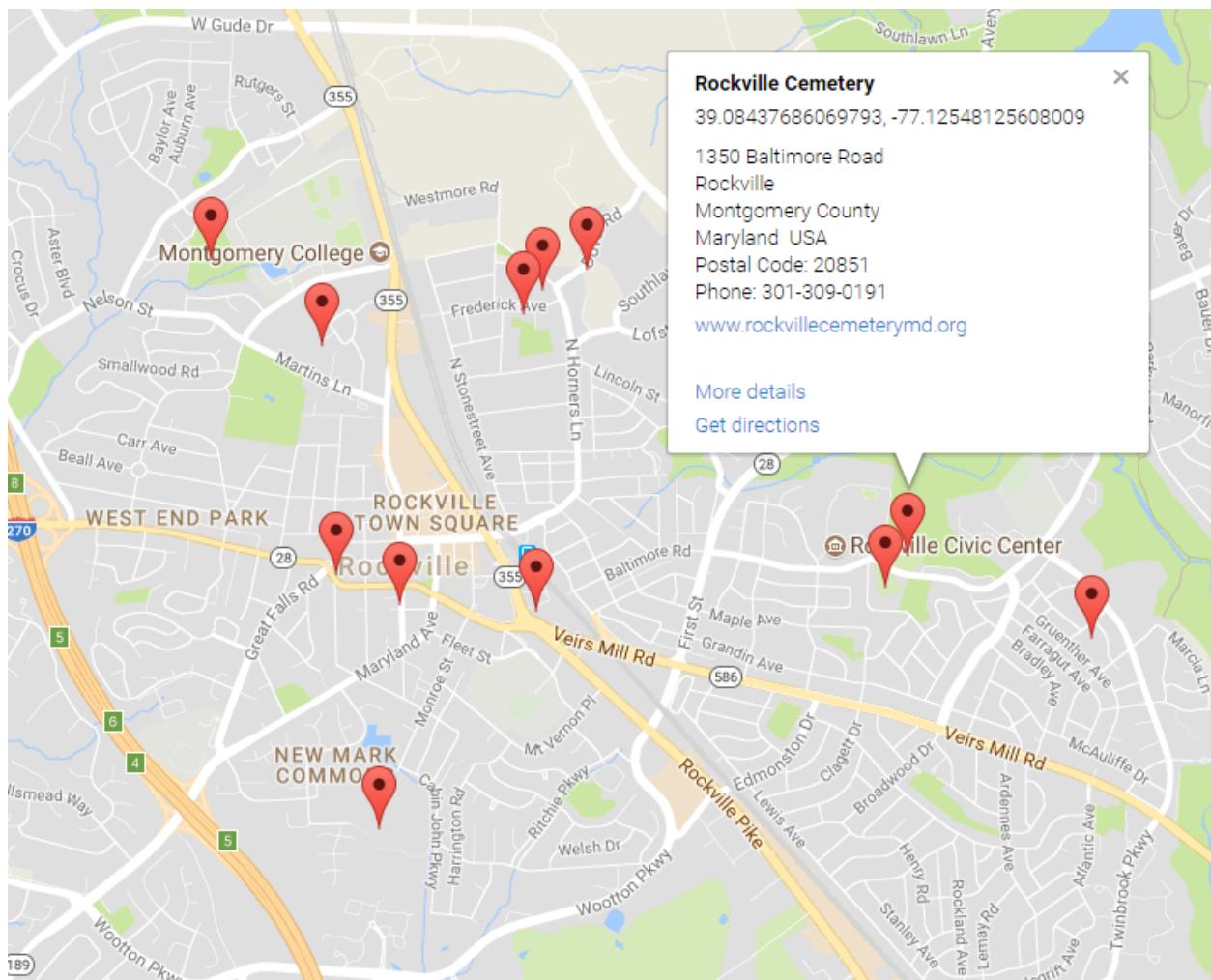
Anything of significance about this cemetery?

- **With more than 275 years of continuous use, is one of Montgomery County's oldest burial grounds.**

SOURCES

Cite sources used and resources available:

- <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M;%202026-18-1.pdf>





History & Facts

The Anglican churchyard gave way to the Episcopal burial ground in the 19th century and then to a community cemetery in the 20th. Today Rockville Cemetery is a beloved landmark where residents, visitors, and tourists "meet" notable individuals, learn about local history, and enjoy a stunning natural environment.

In this colonial, rural, and lawn cemetery are buried generations of famous and lesser-known notables, and here can be found lessons about remembrance, grave markers, sculpture, landscaping, and burial practices. Rockville Cemetery is a landmark, a tangible reminder of the individuals and generations of families who settled in wilderness and transformed a frontier village into a vibrant small city.

The rolling hillside of the original cemetery outgrew its boundaries in the 1930s, when additional acreage was purchased, designed by a Philadelphia architect, and opened as a lawn cemetery. Within a few years, a rough bridge over and culvert through Little Falls Branch stream were built to connect the two sections, now known as the upper (west) and lower (east) cemeteries.

Rockville Cemetery is the final resting place of veterans of all major American wars, of mayors and craftsmen, of civic activists and baseball players. Its significance was recognized in 2002 when the property was designated a local Historic District by the Mayor and Council of Rockville and a decade later when Rockville was included in the Montgomery County Heritage Area. The Rockville Historic District Commission reviews any planned alterations and utilizes Design Guidelines adopted by the Mayor and Council in 2004 to identify significant features here.

Rockville Cemetery Association, Inc. (RCA) owns and manages the property, selling lots, maintaining the premises, and overseeing burials and development. RCA incorporated in May 2001 and received 501(c)(13) IRS tax-exempt status in July 2003. RCA replaced the former Rockville Cemetery Association of Montgomery County, Inc. that was created in 1880 and operated poorly under an expired charter for decades. In 2002, its sole surviving director transferred the cemetery's assets of acreage and accumulated funds to the new RCA for operation and maintenance. Over the past 15 years, the all-volunteer RCA has digitized records, repaired roads, managed tree care, rehabilitated the caretaker's cottage for rental, conserved close to 500 grave markers, and opened the cemetery for public tours and programs.

Today, the Rockville Cemetery Association owns parcels 318 and 216 on tax map GR62 and parcel 244 on map GR52 and totals 26.46 acres. The Historic District also includes the City- owned parcel 273 that divides the cemetery into the upper and lower sections for a total of 28.28 acres within the designated area. Zoned R-90-HD, Rockville Cemetery is an active burial ground, with regular burials, lot sales, and flags posted for Memorial Day weekend.

While the cemetery association manages the overall cemetery design and plot organization, individual monument designs do not require RCA oversight. The result is a pleasing array of forms, heights, and materials, depicting historic and artistic trends of the eras represented by the cemetery as well as the socio-economic position of families and individuals interred here. The grounds, including both natural growth and intentional plantings by lot owners, are maintained by a landscaping contractor. This rich natural and man-made variety is an essential element of the cemetery's overall character.

The names buried here are a Who's Who of Rockville, Maryland: Judge Richard Johns Bowie (1807-1881), baseball hall of famer Walter Perry Johnson (1887-1946), Congressman John McDonald (1837-1917), celebrated author F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) was buried here before moving to St. Mary's Cemetery to be reinterred in his parents' family lot.

Resources

- Allnutt, Anne. "Rockville Cemetery Brochure." Available on-site at Rockville Cemetery. 2018.
- Allnutt, Anne. "Rockville Cemetery Lot Maps." http://96.127.158.130/~rockvil5/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Rockville_Cemetery_Lot_Maps_041916.pdf 2018. Available online at <http://www.rockvillecemeterymd.org/>
- Allnutt, A.C. "Section 1." 14 Apr 2016.
- Allnutt, A.C. "Section 2." 14 Apr 2016.
- Allnutt, A.C. "Lower Cemetery." 14 Apr 2016.
- Allnutt, A.C. "Upper Cemetery." 14 Apr 2016.
- Jane C. Sween Library Archives. "Rockville Cemetery Folder"
- Peerless Rockville Archives. "Rockville Cemetery Folder"
- Montgomery Planning GIS Site at <http://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/historic/research-and-designation/gis-tool/>
- Rockville Cemetery MHT form M: 26/18/1 : <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M;%202026-18-1.pdf>



Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Photograph Log

Cemetery Name: Rockville Cemetery		Inventory ID: 127
Photographer: Hannelore Quigley, Glenn Wallace		Date: 4/25/2018, 9/3/2018
Time	Photo No.	Description and direction you are facing
7:30 pm	1	Approach to cemetery off Baltimore Road onto Avery Road, facing east
	2	Entrance to upper cemetery at Avery Road, facing east
	3	Panoramic of upper cemetery from west to north to east
	4	Panoramic of upper cemetery from east to south to west
	5	View from upper cemetery toward lower cemetery, facing east
8:00 pm	6	Middle cemetery between upper and lower areas, facing north
7:30 am	7	Middle cemetery entrance, facing north
	8	Lower cemetery entrance, facing west
	9	Lower cemetery, facing west
7:35 am	10	Columbarium in lower cemetery, facing south



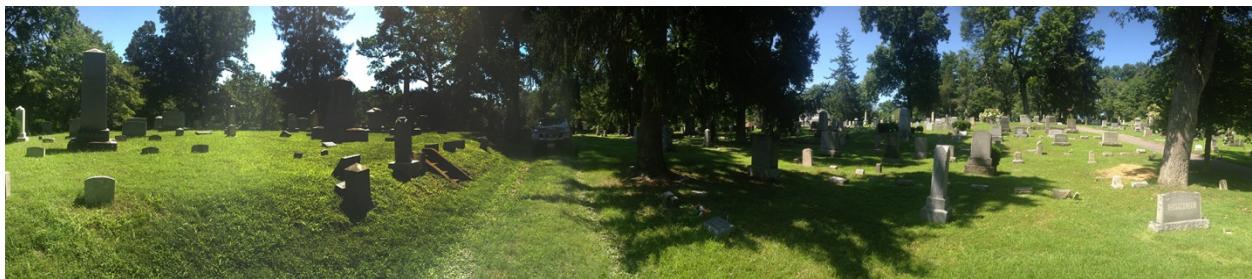
1. Approach to cemetery off Baltimore Road onto Avery Road, facing east



2. Entrance to upper cemetery at Avery Road, facing east



3. Panoramic of upper cemetery from west to north to east



4. Panoramic of upper cemetery from east to south to west



5. View from upper cemetery toward lower cemetery, facing east



6. Middle cemetery between upper and lower areas, facing north



7. Middle cemetery entrance, facing north



8. Lower cemetery entrance, facing west



9. Lower cemetery, facing west



10. Columbarium in lower cemetery, facing south