



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Name: Aspin Hill Memorial Park | Inventory ID: 162 |
| Alternate name: Aspin Hill Cemetery for Pet Animals, Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery | |
| Address: 13630 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring | |
| Website: https://www.mchumane.org/about/aspin-hill-memorial-park/ | |
| GPS coordinates: Latitude: 39.079895 | Longitude: -77.076290 |
| FindaGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/640868 | |

BURIAL SITE TYPE

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

BURIAL SITE EVALUATION

| | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Setting/location description: <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Wooded <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | |
| General condition (See conditions sheet): <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> None | | |
| Is there a formal entrance? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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: 50,000 | Date ranges: 1918-2018 |

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

• **8-acre cemetery with dogs, cats, birds, horses, monkeys, other species, and humans surrounded by chain link fence.**

• **Large oak, cedar, and sycamore trees, as well as boxwoods and arborvitae throughout property.**

• **~50 toppled stone grave markers.**

• **~ 50 inaccessible graves due to overgrowth and fallen trees.**

BURIAL SITE CONTACT

| | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| Name: Montgomery County Humane Society | | |
| Relationship to burial site: Owner | Advocacy contact: Brian Glover , bglover@mchumane.org | |
| Address: 601 S. Stonestreet Avenue | | Phone: 240-252-2555 |
| City: Rockville | State: MD | ZIP Code: 20850 |

BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Name: Julianne Mangin | Survey Date: 3/25/2018 | Time spent: 20 min* |
| Address: | | Phone: |
| Email: | | |
| Photographer: Julianne Mangin | *Countless hours of site visits and research | |

COMMENTS

Suggestions for follow-up:

• **Hire a tree service to clear out all the dying trees and shrubs.**

• **Extensive cleanup effort beyond the mowing and chipping of fallen limbs.**

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

• **Boxwoods need to be heavily pruned.**

• **Fallen trees and limbs need to be removed.**

• **Deep sinkholes indicating collapsed graves need to be filled.**

Anything of significance about this cemetery?

• **Second oldest pet cemetery in the USA, reflecting the life and times of the region from 1920 to the present.**

SOURCES

Cite sources used and resources available:

• **Master Plan for Historic Preservation (M:27-17)** <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M:27-17.pdf>

• **"Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery" file at the Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, Maryland.**



Humans Buried at Aspin Hill Memorial Park

(Updated by Julianne Mangin on August 12, 2018)

Altman, Dorothy M. (1904–1979)*
Brockman, Draga H. Olga (1914–1966)*
Colling, Helen C. (1906–1978)*
Congemi, Agnes D. (1902–1990)*
Garrett, H. Richard (1907–1989)*
Garrett, Virginia Wright (1910–1989)*
Gitlin, Roxana Sofia (1954–2014)*
Gonsorchik, Anna M. (May 30, 1926–July 13, 2002)*
Hall, Caroline B. (1891–?)
Hodges, Ted (?–2007) found obit in Wash Post
Kedda, Helena M. (1929–2004)*
Kingston, Dorothy M. (December 2, 1913–March 6, 1977)*
Kingston, Thomas E. (?–?) *
Marshall, Anita Marie (12 Sep 1920–30 Jul 2007)*
Marshall, George Jr. (27 Aug 1918–16 Jan 2001)*
Mattox, A. Willson (12 Nov 1876–25 May 1950)*
Miller, Jesie E. (1917–1994)*
Murphy, Daniel Phillips (1910–1976)*
Nash, Samuel Alfred (1909–1974)*
Rich, Edward Hurlbut (?–Jan 10, 1986) burial in the Aspin Hill mentioned in: "Plot Owners Oppose Pet Cemetery Plan," by Valca Valentine Washington Post, Jul 24, 1986, pg. DC7.
Schwarz, Frederick J. (1908–1993)*
Schwarz, Kathryn M. (20 Aug 1910–20 Feb 1980)*
Slaton, Betty A. (23 Nov 1928–9 Mar 1999)*
Thor, Dorothy (28 April 1936–14 June 1992)*
Wilson, Betty (1923–1990)*
Young, George J. (1889–1967)*
Young, Gertrude (1893–1968)*

(* denotes that the stone was seen and photographed in 2018. All markers are posted on FindaGrave.com.)



Deed references:

- Maryland Land Records, <https://mdlandrec.net/>
- Liber 294 folio 492 (1920) Ernest and Nelle Wiggins to Richard C. and Bertha T. Birney
- Liber 1033 folio 159 (1946) Birney Estate to Aspin Hill, Inc. (Edgar Ruebush)
- Liber 8280 folio 178 (1988) Edgar Ruebush to Dorothy Shapiro, who deeded the property to PETA, with operating covenants.
- Liber 13952 folio 246 (1996) Deed with covenants transferred by Dorothy Shapiro from PETA to Chesapeake Wildlife Refuge
- Liber 34247 folio 703 (2007) Deed with covenants transferred by Dorothy Shapiro from Chesapeake Wildlife Refuge to Montgomery County Humane Society

Articles of incorporation:

- State of Maryland. Aspin Hill, Inc., Rockville, Maryland. Principal agent, E. E. Ruebush. June 28, 1946. Liber 216, folio 63.
- C.R.A. August 18, 1961. Liber 261, folio 384.

Selected newspaper articles:

"Aspin Hill: Final Gesture of Love to a Pet," *Montgomery Journal*, April 11, 1979. page B6.

"Touching Epitaphs in Pets' Cemetery; Funeral for Dogs, Cats, and Other Domestic Animals Often Elaborate," *The Evening Star*, March 23, 1925. pg. 4.

"Pet Cemetery Holds Body of Dog Hero," *The Baltimore Sun*, February 9, 1930, p. MR4.

Ahlers, Mike. "Fuzzy Companions Rest in Peace at Aspin Hill," *Montgomery Journal*, December 28, 1979.

Burdick, Ray. "Owner of Animal Cemetery: He Finds Pet Mourners More Sincere," *The Sentinel*, September 2, 1965.

Goldstein, Lee. "Where Pets Are Buried Like People," *Montgomery Journal*, September 20, 1973. page B1.

Liu, Mimi. "Humane Society hopes to revitalize pet cemetery in Aspen Hill," *The Gazette* (Gaithersburg, Maryland), June 1, 2011.

McDonald, Brooke. "Animal Cemeteries: The Cost of Burial Is Insignificant for a Prized 'Member of the Family'," *The Sentinel*, 1981.

Mullin, Sue. "A Different Kind of Cemetery," *Washington Star*, November 2, 1977.

Pressley, Sue Anne. "Animal Rights Group Buys Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery," *Washington Post*, June 13, 1988.

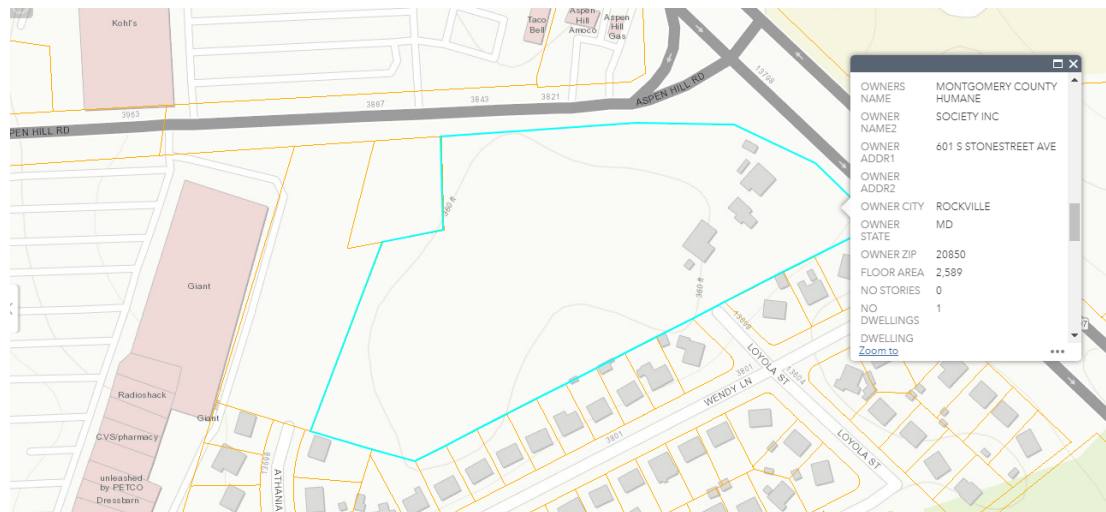
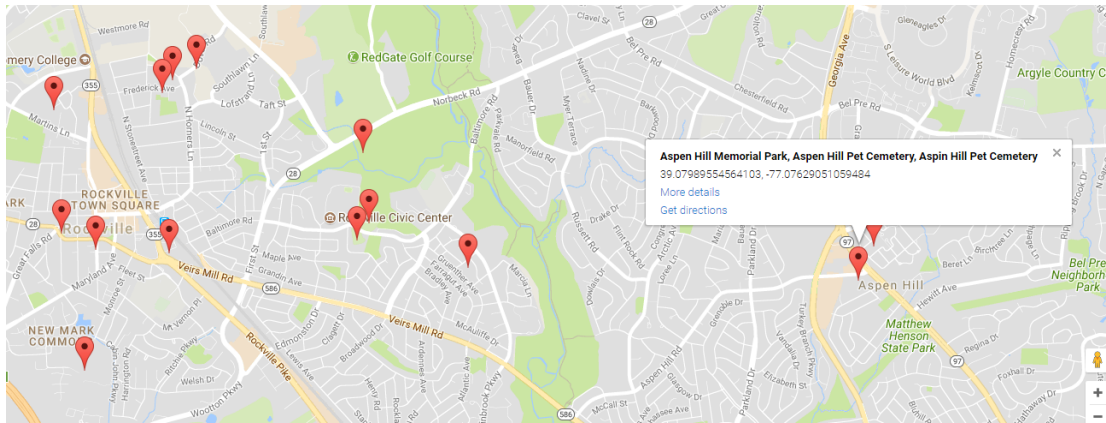
Stern, Aaron. "MCHS Interim Head Wades In: Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery may be part of the Montgomery County Society's financial troubles," *Potomac Almanac*, August 27, 2008. p. 4, 17. <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2008archives.html>

Tucci, Frank. "S. A. Nash Says He Can Bury an Elephant," *The Washington Post, Times Herald*, May 4, 1969. page 312.

Valentine, Valca. "Plot Owners Oppose Pet Cemetery Plan," *Washington Post*, July 24, 1986, p. DC7.

Blog:

Pet Cemetery Stories (website). Contains articles on the history of Aspin Hill Memorial Park. <https://juliannemangin.com/>



Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Photograph Log

| Cemetery Name: Aspin Hill Memorial Park | | Inventory ID: 162 |
|--|------------------|---|
| Photographer: Julianne Mangin | | Date: 3/25/2018 |
| Time | Photo No. | Description and direction you are facing (Ex: detail of wall around Carr plot facing North) |
| 10:40 am | 1 | Entrance from across street, facing south. |
| | 2 | Inside entrance sign, facing south. |
| | 3 | Panoramic from west to north to east |
| | 4 | Panoramic from east to south to west |
| 11:00 am | 5 | Possibly the most recent human burial, facing west |



1. Entrance from across street, facing south.



2. Inside entrance sign, facing south.



3. Panoramic from west to north to east.



4. Panoramic from east to south to west.



5. Possibly the most recent human burial, facing west.

Supplement to Survey

The following photos are used with kind permission from Julianne Mangin, independent researcher, photographer and author of the online blog: "**Pet Cemetery Stories: The stories behind the stones.**"

Aspin Hill Cemetery for Pet Animals, the Early Years (part one)

(<https://petcemeterystories.net/2018/05/31/aspin-hill-cemetery-for-pet-animals-the-early-years/>).

31 May, 2018.

Aspin Hill Cemetery for Pet Animals, 1930-1960 (part two)

(<https://petcemeterystories.net/2018/07/09/aspin-hill-cemetery-for-pet-animals-1930-1960/>).

9 July, 2018.

Aspin Hill Cemetery for Pet Animals, The Nash Years (part three)

(<https://petcemeterystories.net/2018/07/22/aspin-hill-cemetery-for-pet-animals-the-nash-years/>)

22 July, 2018.

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Without obligation, I would like to know more about your pet cemetery.

Name

Address

Phone