



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

Name: Tobytown Cemetery	Inventory ID: 178
Alternate name:	
Address: North of 12649 and 12661 Tobytown Drive, Potomac, MD 20854	
Website:	
GPS coordinates: Latitude: 39.062710	Longitude: -77.285938
FindaGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2577640	

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wooded <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
General condition (See conditions sheet): <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> By foot <input type="checkbox"/> By car	
Is cemetery active (recent burials)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Is there a cemetery sign: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Is cemetery being maintained? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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: 20	Date ranges: 1870s–1955

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

• **65'x165' cemetery within the HOC fenced area along River Road.**

• **The 24+ scattered, unmarked sandstone and fieldstone markers visible in 1993 are now fewer, flagged with stakes and yellow ribbons.**

• **Multiple burial depressions are visible within the enclosure. Informant knows of more burials outside enclosure.**

• **One mature oak, several smaller trees, 15 stumps, 3 yucca plants, and perimeter periwinkle.**

BURIAL SITE CONTACT

Name: **Housing Opportunities Commission; Stacy Spann, Executive Director; Jackie Simon, Chair of Commissioners**

Relationship to burial site: Owner	Advocacy contact:
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Address:	Phone:
City:	ZIP Code:

BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

Name: Eileen McGuckian	Survey Date: 9/30/2018	Time spent: 60 min
Address:	Phone:	
Email:	Photographer: Brian Crane brian.crane@montgomeryplanning.org	

COMMENTS

Suggestions for follow-up:

- **Respectful, gentle maintenance inside fenced area, GPR and archaeology outside fenced area.**
- **HOC education and research, interviews regarding specific burials, community families. Resolve HOC issues.**

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

- **Entire cemetery is in danger of disappearing. Uneven ground inside and outside fence.**
- **Condition of burial sites and markers within and beyond the fence is fragile.**

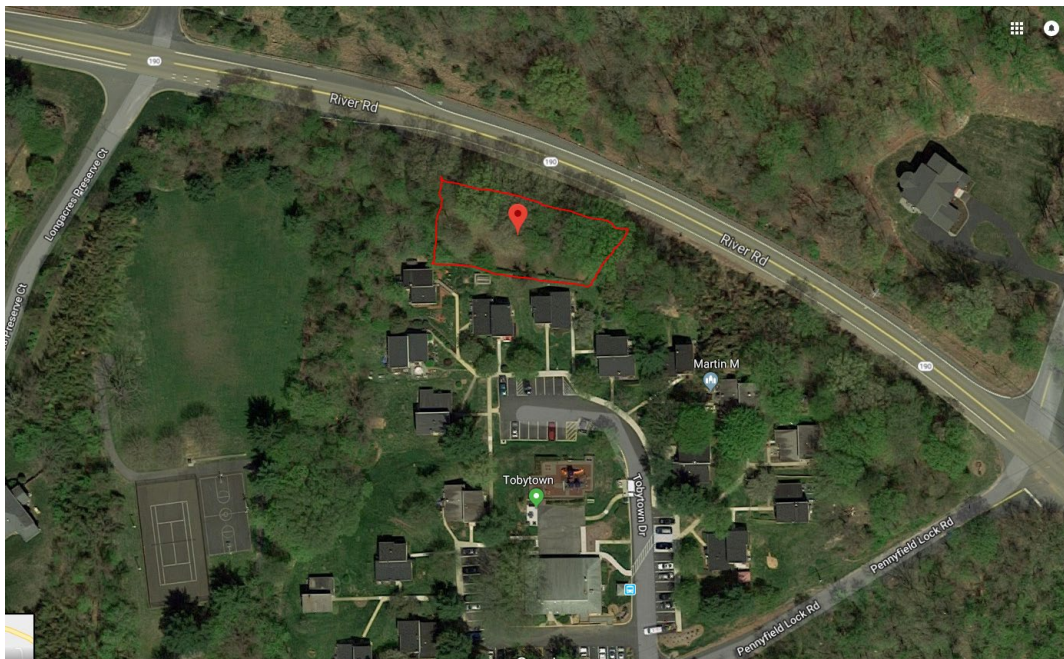
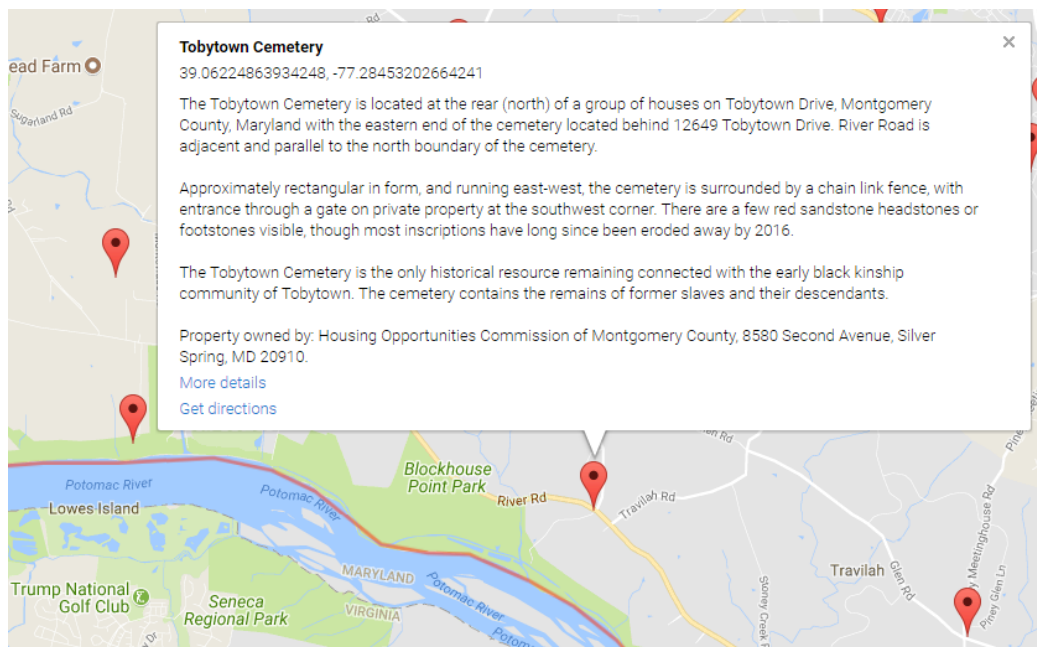
Anything of significance about this cemetery?

- **Master Plan for Historic Pres, individual site 25-14 (1993).**
- **Baptist church sited here 1888-c1917. Only remainder of this historic post-Emancipation small black community**

SOURCES

Cite sources used and resources available:

- <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M;%2025-14.pdf>
- <http://www.mymcmmedia.org/tobytown-cemetery-cleanup-uncovers-more-history-videos-photos/>
- **Interview Rev. Melvin Martin, John Kelly, more. Housing Authority of MoCo (HOC) annual reports and files**



Additional recommendations: Clean up areas outside fence, investigating marking graves and rescuing plants as located. Good SHA documentation project site! Better document Tobytown history with interviews, drawings and maps, SHA and County records. Obtain Snowden funeral records and archive/scan those of Melvin Martin. Enforce County laws for buildings and preservation. Assemble and create Tobytown exhibit for walls of community center. Interpretive sign with map at cemetery.

The actual condition of the grave markers (such as text) is not considered here because gravestones vary in type of material, weathering, and physical age.

NOTE: Original Tobytown houses of 21+ families were razed in urban renewal project in late 1960s, resulting in 1972 construction of 26 brick and frame townhouses on 16.34 acres of land in an isolated semi-rural enclave and chain link cemetery fence. HOC retains ownership of community center, cemetery, and land around townhouses and has plans to turn cemetery ownership over to a Tobytown HOA. When remains were found during 1970s construction, earlier burials were moved from back yards into this area near the Baptist church site, which stood from 1887-1917.

Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Photograph Log

Cemetery Name: Tobytown Cemetery		Inventory ID: 178
Photographer: Brian Crane		Date: 10/12/2018
Time	Photo No.	Description and direction you are facing
11:45 am	1	Entrance gate facing north into cemetery
	2	Path towards cemetery gate facing north
	3	From parking lot towards path to cemetery facing northwest
	4	Panoramic from west to north to east
	5	Panoramic from east to south to west
	6	Marker detail facing west (detail images taken from vicinity of gate, progressing clockwise through the cemetery)
	7	Depressions facing north
	8	Marker detail facing north
	9	Yucca facing north
	10	Marker detail facing northwest
	11	Marker detail facing north
	12	Marker detail facing north
	13	Marker detail facing northwest
	14	Marker detail facing north
	15	Marker detail facing north
	16	Marker detail facing west
12:00 pm	17	Marker detail facing west



1. From parking lot towards path to cemetery facing northwest



2. Path towards cemetery gate facing north



3. Entrance gate facing north into cemetery



4. Panoramic from west to north to east



5. Panoramic from east to south to west



6. Marker detail facing west (detail images taken from vicinity of gate, progressing clockwise through the cemetery)



7. Depressions facing north



8. Marker detail facing north



9. Yucca facing north



10. Marker detail facing northwest



11. Marker detail facing north



12. Marker detail facing north



13. Marker detail facing northwest



14. Marker detail facing north



15. Marker detail facing north



16. Marker detail facing west



17. Marker detail facing west