



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

Name: Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery [RELOCATED]	Inventory ID: 200
Alternate name: Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Cemetery	
Address: Formerly located at north-west corner of Georgia Avenue and Seminary Road, Silver Spring	
Website:	
GPS coordinates: Latitude: 39.009933	Longitude: -77.041207
FindaGrave: https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2611811	

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 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 type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> None		
Is there a formal entrance? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Accessibility: <input type="checkbox"/> Inaccessible <input type="checkbox"/> By foot <input type="checkbox"/> By car	
Is cemetery active (recent burials)? <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal <input type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, note caretaker's name below)		
Are there visible markers? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Approximate number of burials/visible markers:	Date ranges:

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

- **All burials from this cemetery have been relocated to Maryland National Park in Laurel.**
- **Church congregation has moved to Van Buren Street in DC; now known as Van Buren United Methodist Church.**
- **This is only partially completed as the actual cemetery is no longer at this location.**
- **Photos document the storefronts and businesses that currently sit at this location.**

BURIAL SITE CONTACT

Name: N/A		
Relationship to burial site:		Advocacy contact:
Address:		Phone:
City:	State:	ZIP Code:

BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

Name: Myra Coffield, Marcie Stickle, George French	Survey Date: 6/15/2018
Address: 2308 Michigan Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910	Phone: 240-281-8633
Email: myra.coffield@gmail.com , marciepro@aol.com	
Photographer: Myra Coffield	

COMMENTS

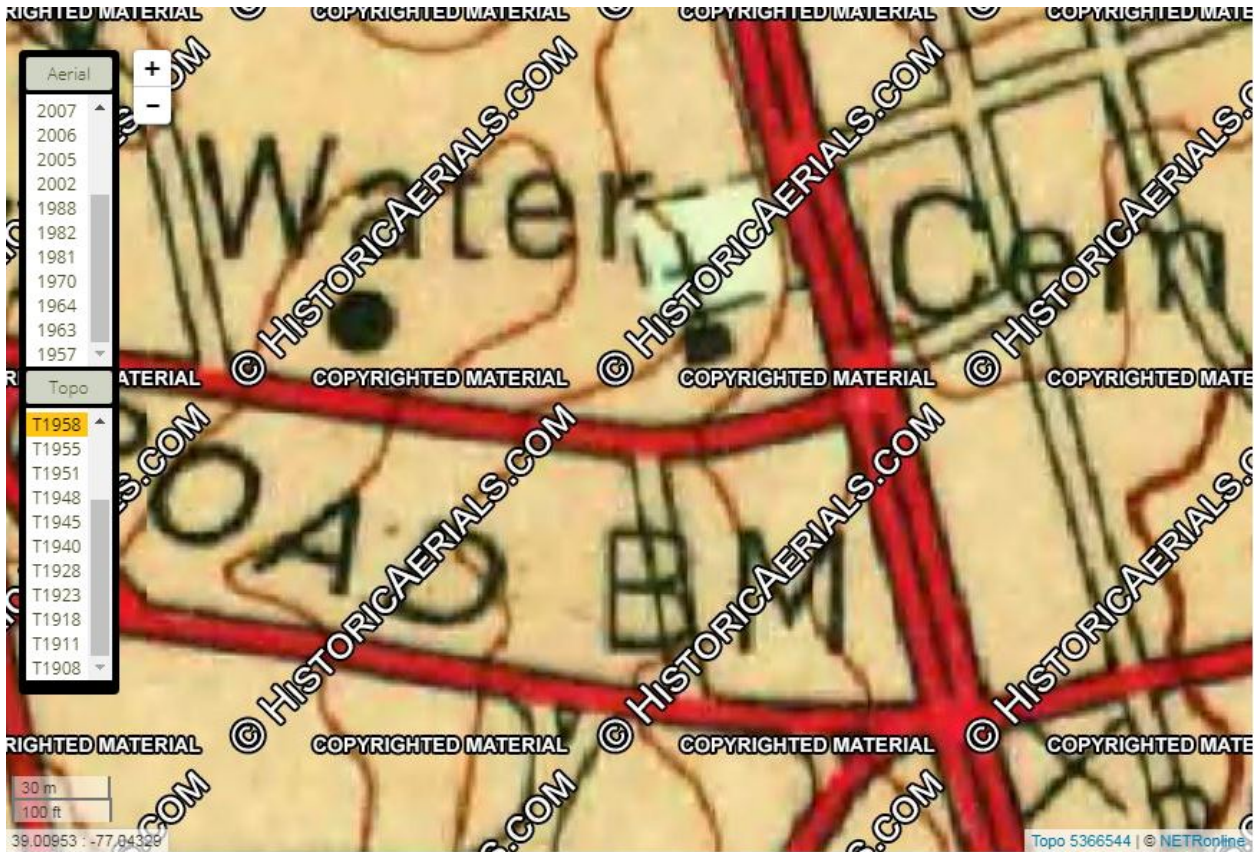
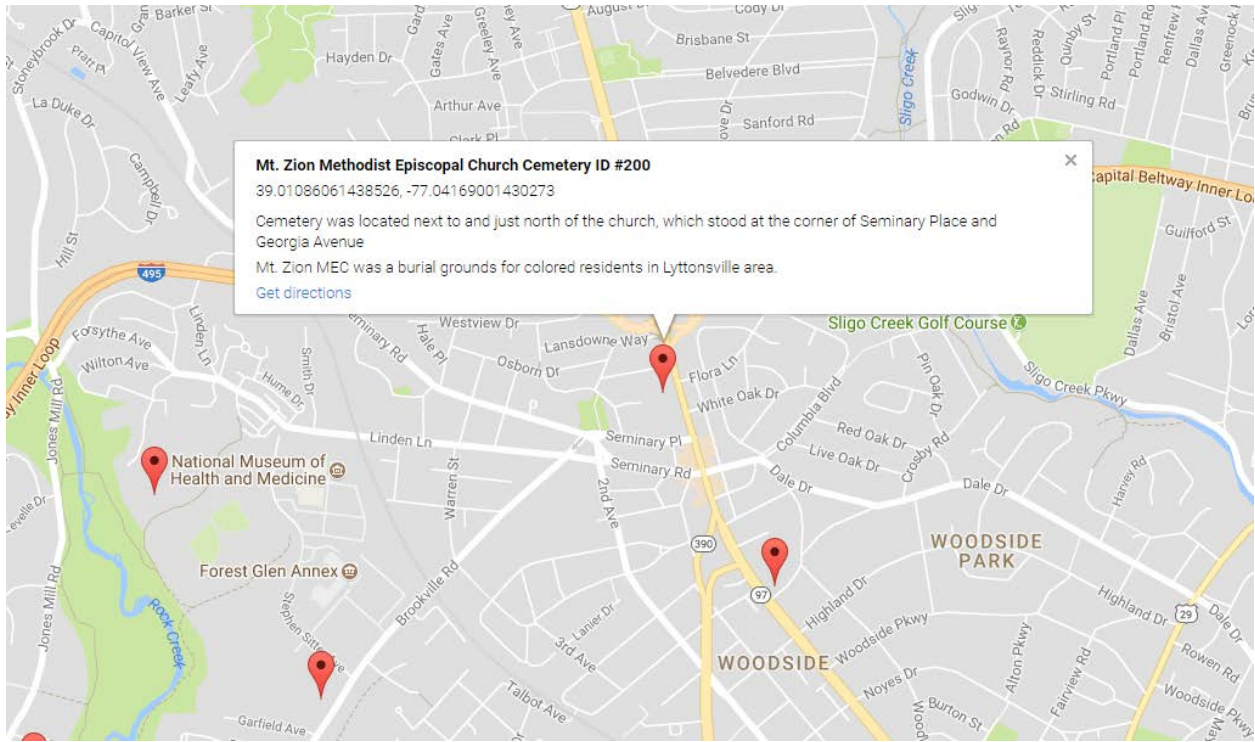
Suggestions for follow-up:

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

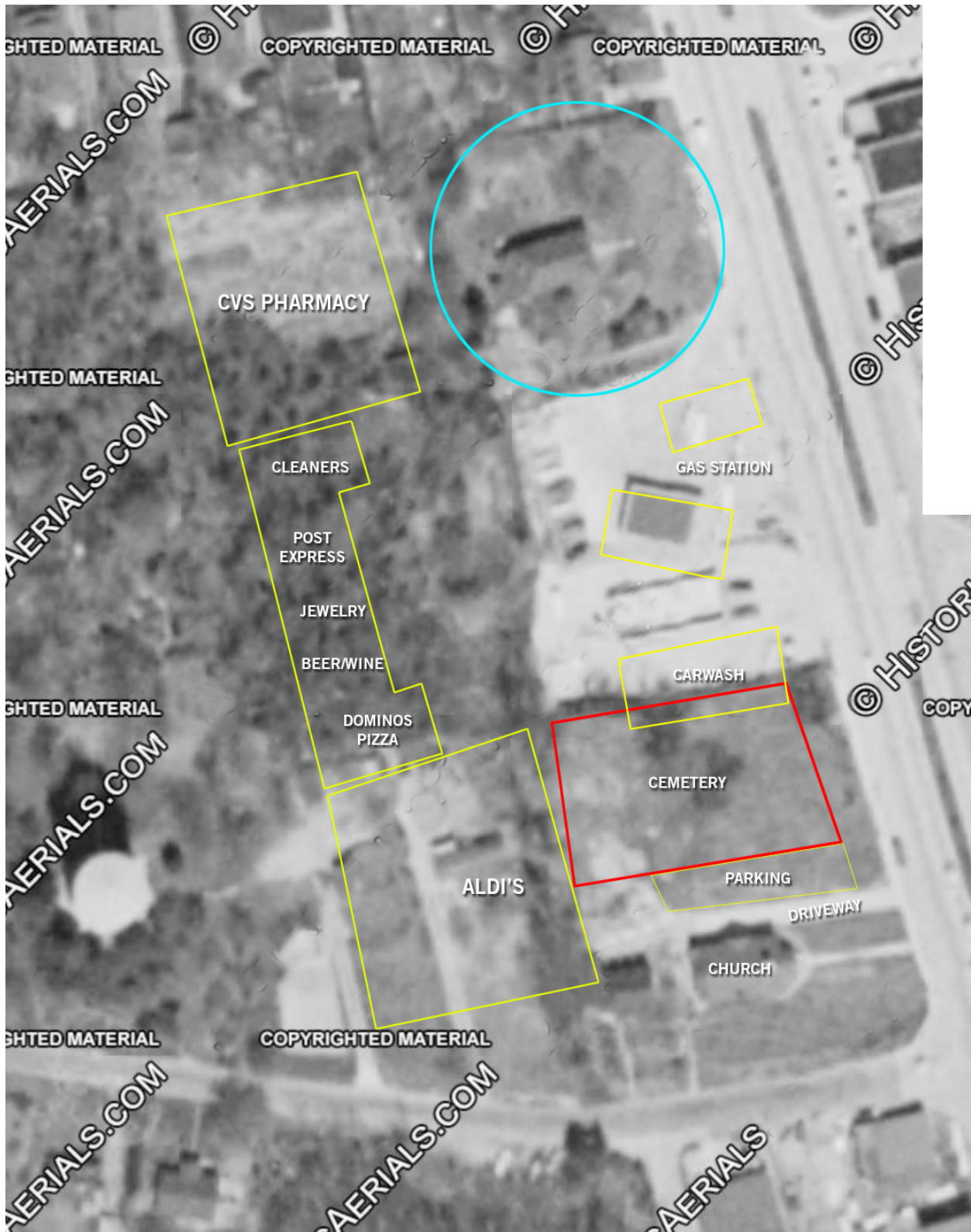
Anything of significance about this cemetery?

SOURCES

Cite sources used and resources available:



1958 map



1957 aerial overlay



Historic photo of the church , parking lot, and cemetery behind

Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Photograph Log

Cemetery Name: Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery [RELOCATED]		Inventory ID: 200
Photographer: Myra Coffield		Date: 6/15/2018
Time	Photo No.	Description and direction you are facing (Ex: detail of wall around Carr plot facing North)
1:15 pm	1	Panoramic from east to south to west
	2	Panoramic from west to north to east
1:20 pm	3	Location sign for shopping center with management contact info



1. Panoramic from east to south to west



2. Panoramic from west to north to east



3. Location sign for shopping center with management info



Oral History

From Patricia Tyson 2017:

The Mt. Zion M.E. Church was located at the corner of Seminary Place and Georgia Avenue, where Staples and Domino's Pizza are located. Then, there was next to it a wide driveway. Next to the driveway was a parking area and next to that piece of land was the cemetery. The cemetery was located where the cleaners and CVS stand. Parking for Staples now covers the area where the cemetery was located.

There was a parsonage on Seminary Place next door to the church; the driveway skirt may still be there. The water tower was there, but only about a third the size that it is now.

This land of the church and the cemetery stood on higher ground; when the church was razed, everything was graded level, and Snowden Funeral Home moved the graves to Maryland National Cemetery on Baltimore Avenue in Laurel, MD.

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church's location at Maryland National is clearly marked and the head stones were bought for each family's plot. The area of the cemetery is identified as Van Buren—not Mt. Zion. Those graves moved from the old cemetery were Civil War graves, etc.—probably Caucasians—unknown to the colored members. Most of the members, who were colored, were buried in their home neighborhood cemeteries. I don't believe any of them were buried in the old Mt. Zion cemetery.

The people buried at Maryland National died after the property in Montgomery Hills was sold. My grandmother died after the property was sold, but is buried in Barnesville where she was born. The cemetery sat behind the parking area--taken care of by the church, but not really efficiently identified. When the church moved, it changed its name from Mt. Zion to Van Buren Street because of its location on that street. Later, it dropped the "Street" and became Van Buren UMC.