

220
WOOD FAMILY CEMETERY
N. OF 16039 PARTNERSHIP RD.
POOLESVILLE

Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory

ID: 220

Name: Wood Family Burying Ground

Alternate name:

Address: ~~White's Ferry Rd.~~

just N. of 16039
Partnership Rd.

Town: Poolesville

ADC Map Page 16 Grid H/13

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) All stones lying flat. Ground heave

Approximate no. of burials 4+ Date range of burials

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

In middle of cornfield. Access is from chained driveway on Partnership. Straight to grove of trees then left to another grove - Cem. is ^{South} West in cornfield about 500 ft. Nice, large seneca sandstone tablet & upright markers

Surveyor(s) is huge uncarved slab - part of vault? Survey date

Photographer Anne B/Janet M Date 12/10/06 Photo no.

Current owner Caszy Foundation
Address/Phone No. 800 S. Frederick Ave. #100. Gaithersburg 20877

Historic Status Locational Atlas ID National Register
 Master Plan ID Other

UTM

Additional sources of information:

17800 Spunkle Rd. - dead end. 1 Dickerson
Lee Y. Peak - owners. 301-972-7227
pays does not know of a cem.

220

WOOD FAMILY BURYING GROUND NEAR POOLESVILLE
Directions: Route. 28 West, to Dawsonville, left on Route 107, Whites Ferry Road. [A.D.C. Map: Montgomery, page 19, grid coordinates B-3.]
Condition of cemetery: Unknown. Inactive cemetery. Earliest known death: 1830. Most recent death: 1850. Date transcribed: 1972. Location of transcribed records: Montgomery County Historical Society Library, 42 West Middle Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Comments: At least 4 marked graves, in 1972 property known as Reddick Farm.

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WOOD FAMILY STONES

Reddick Farm, Poolesville
transcribed Mar. 19, 1972
All stones made of Seneca red sandstone

Here
Rests from the toils of life
the remains of
SUSANNAH, wife of CHARLES WORTH WOOD
daughter of ROBERT & DORITHY NICHOLSON (sic)
all of Birstall Near Leed, Yorkshire,
England
Who departed this life Oct 28th 1830
Aged 21

CHARLES WORTH WOOD
son of CHARLES WORTH & SUSANNAH
WOOD
who departed this life Oct. 29th 1830
aged 5 weeks & 2 days

JOHN GAVEN WOOD
son of
CHARLES WORTH and TRESA ANN WOOD
Born Oct. 17th 1833
Died Feb. 26th 1855
Aged 21 years 4 months

JAMES RANDOLPH WOOD
son of
CHARLES WORTH & TRESA ANN WOOD
Born Dec. 10th 1838
Died June 6th 1855
Aged 16 years 4 months

from Pally Keelers

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wood to
all of
arrived
to
Birstall

WOOD FAMILY POOLESVILLE

28/107 split - ~~to~~ take 107. towards Poolesv.

L on Partnership Rd.

1/5 mi. on right - drive entrance

w/ chain. May have sign for

Jameson Real Estate

grove of trees straight / 11:00 ahead
cemetery is on crest

to left of grove - 9:00 - 10:00 / 45°
about 100 yards

* May not be visible w/ crops.

owned by Casey Foundation

Info from Andy Johnson 9/14/05



The Commissioners Of Poolesville

19933 Fisher Avenue

P. O. Box 158

Poolesville, Maryland 20837

(301) 428-8927 Fax (301) 972-7619

August 29, 2003

Eugene B. Casey Foundation
800 S. Frederick Avenue, #100
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

RECEIVED SEP 1 1 2003

Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)
Attn: Susan Soderberg, Historic Preservation Section
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760

Dear Casey Foundation and HPC:

The purpose of this letter is twofold: first, to alert both the Casey Foundation and HPC that an historic ante-bellum family cemetery on the Casey property located on Partnership Road in Poolesville, Maryland, was recently vandalized and the burial vault likely desecrated, and to ask for assistance in having the site restored and protected; and second, to urge the HPC to undertake a campaign to survey other family cemeteries on private properties that are at risk due to neglect, vandalism and theft.

The Wood Family Cemetery on the Casey Property (located about 1/4 mile south of Rt. 107/Partnership Road intersection)

A person living near the Casey property, having read about my recent work in restoring the headstones to the 1826 Old Methodist Church cemetery in Poolesville, called me in April and told me a troubling story. The Casey property, which has no residence but is farmed and managed by Charles H. Jamison Real Estate, contained a small but historic family cemetery located in the middle of a farmed field about 100 yards in and 200 yards to the left of the Partnership Road entranceway. Sometime in the past six months, according to the person, three headstones belonging to the Wood family had been pushed to the ground, damaged, and there was evidence of digging into a subterranean burial vault.

At the request of the caller, I visited the cemetery, which comprises an area approximately 20 feet by 20 feet, and found it to as described. The information on the headstones reads as follows:

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1st headstone (~5 ft. long)
Susannah Wife of
Charles Worth Wood
& daughter of Robert and Dorothy
Nicholson. All of
Birstall, Near Leeds,
Yorkshire, England.

Dorothy

Who departed this life Oct.
28th, 1830. Aged 21 years

Also, Charles Worth Wood
Son of the above said
Charles Worth & Susannah
Wood who departed this
life Oct. 29th, 1830. Aged
5 weeks & 2 days

2nd headstone (~4 ft. long)
 Ven Wood Son of
Charles Worth & Tresa Ann Worth
Born Oct. 17th, 1833
Died Feb. 26th, 1855
Aged 21 years, 4 months & 9 days

*7
- Aven*

3rd headstone (~4 ft. long)
James Randolph Wood Son of
Charles Worth & Tresa Ann Wood
Born Dec. 10th, 1838
Died June 6th, 1855
Aged 16 years & 4 months

Despite the advance age of headstones and their recent treatment, the headstones are in relatively good shape, though the top right corner of the first headstone was broken off when it was pushed to the ground. A fourth stone – a carved rectangular slab much larger than the headstones but not bearing any writing – is jutting out of the ground at an odd angle, suggesting that this may have been a horizontal cover to Susannah and Charles Jr. burial vault. According to the neighbor, this fourth stone was not visible before the cemetery was vandalized.

Requested Action

In addition to the obvious historical and familial importance of the pre-Civil War headstones

220
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and cemetery, a careful reading of the headstone inscriptions tells a poignant story of a pioneering farmer who buries his 21 year old wife and new born son in the fall of 1830, remarries soon after, only to stand on this gentle rise of land and lay to rest two young sons within four months of each other in 1855.

Immediate action should be taken to restore and protect this modest yet significant family cemetery.

If the Casey Foundation would allow access to the property and support a collaborative effort with HPC and local volunteer historic preservation groups to replace the headstones to their proper positions and construct a modest fence around the cemetery to protect against accidental damage from farm equipment in the future, we can reverse this senseless vandalism at a nominal cost. It is not clear if and to what extent the remains or interred belongings of those buried in the cemetery have been disturbed or removed.

Surveying and Protecting Other Private Family Cemeteries in Montgomery County

The unfortunate damage done to the Wood family cemetery is certainly not unique. To the contrary, given the large number of 18th - and 19th - century farming homesteads in western and northern Montgomery County that are still farmed or have not been developed, it is reasonable to assume that our area is replete with family cemeteries, like the one on the Casey property, containing valuable and perhaps irreplaceable historical information that are in danger of being lost due to neglect and vandalism.

HPC should undertake or fund an initiative to survey and catalog these cemeteries and identify which cemeteries are in need of restoration and protection. Once this survey is complete, a priority list can be generated for those sites most in need restoration. In addition, this family cemetery protection initiative could include an educational component making property owners aware of applicable laws and programs relative to the preservation of historic cemeteries, including the services of groups like the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc., and, more local to Poolesville, the Historic Medley District, Inc.

In closing, I want to thank both the Casey Foundation and the HPC in advance for considering the requests outlined in my letter and your willingness to protect this important link to our Nation's past.

Sincerely,

Andrew W. Johnson

Andrew W. Johnson

Commissioner, Town of Poolesville

Phone #s: Office/U.S. Senate: 202-224-1732 Home: 301-349-2834

My mailing address: 17023 Tom Fox Avenue, Poolesville, MD 20837