



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

Name: **Pleasant Hills Cemetery [LOST]** Inventory ID: **225**

Alternate name: Darnestown Baptist Church Cemetery (Defunct)

Address: **15408 Spring Meadows Drive, Darnestown, MD 20874**

Website:

GPS coordinates: Latitude: **39.109818** Longitude: **-77.303320**

FindaGrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2213820>

BURIAL SITE TYPE

Category: Religious Community Family African American Other:

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: **115** Date ranges: **1848–1948**

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

• **200'x200' cemetery is still in place but all stones are now buried or removed**

• **Mature pine trees and others were planted by the former owner in 1980**

• **115 burials on record; 92 known, 23 unknown.**

BURIAL SITE CONTACT

Name: **John Mattingly et al Trust**

Relationship to burial site: **Owner** Advocacy contact:

Address: Phone:

City: State: ZIP Code:

BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

Name: **Ingrid Fraley, Ryan Pike** Survey Date: **9/14/2018** Time spent: **15 min**

Address: Phone:

Email:

Photographer: **Ryan J. Pike**

COMMENTS

Suggestions for follow-up:

• **Digitize burial map supplied by Mrs. Mattingly. Need numbered list associated with it.**

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

N/A

Anything of significance about this cemetery?

• **Church operated in a log cabin from 1846 to 1873, first as Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalian, and Presbyterian.**

SOURCES

Cite sources used and resources available:

• **Records of J. Thomas Kelley (former owner of the farm)**

• **Darnestown Presbyterian Church History**



This is a suggested location, but no trace of the cemetery exists.

Pleasant Hills Cemetery (Defunct)
39.109818965574064, -77.3033200950158
15408 Spring Meadows Drive
Darnestown
Montgomery County
Maryland

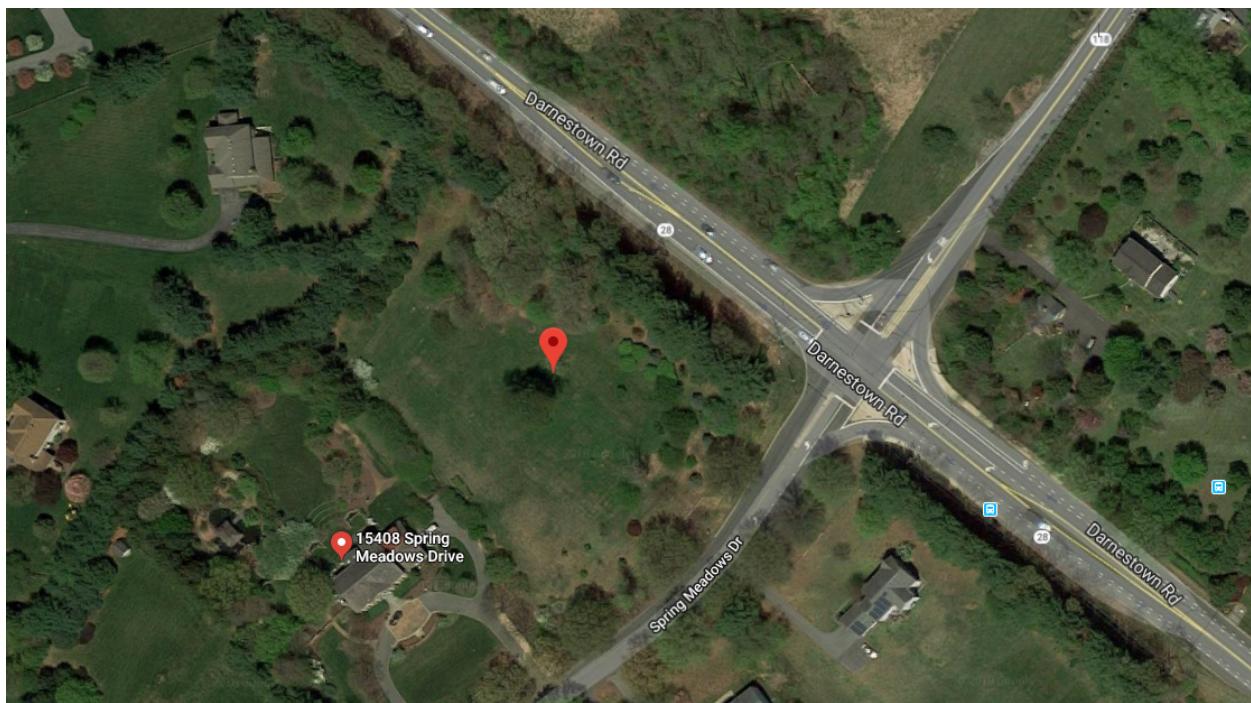
This cemetery is no longer in existence. The location and burial information comes from direct descendants of the interred.

A Methodist church and graveyard were on this site until 1844. In 1846, it became the Darnestown Baptist Church -- organized by Rev. S. R. White -- and remained in operation until 1873. The church was dissolved and the property was abandoned.

The property was eventually purchased in 1951 for back taxes by Mr. Kelley, a farmer. The farmer buried the tombstones at the head of each grave in 1951 after receiving signed releases from relatives of the deceased. The current property owner planted trees throughout the burial area.

[More details](#)
[Get directions](#)

The map shows the location of the cemetery on Spring Meadows Drive, near the intersection with Kelley Farm Dr and Poplar Hill Rd. The area is labeled "Darnestown".





History

Emailed from Toby Mattingly, January 12, 2018.

When we purchased our lot to build a house at 15408 Spring Meadows Drive, in 1989, we were told there was an old cemetery on the corner lot, adjacent to Route 28. On our original plat, there is no information about the cemetery, but, when we purchased the corner lot from Teddy Miller, in 2002, it is shown. The cemetery was in use prior to 1951, per info provided by Tom Kelley, former landowner. Although the corner lot was described as a buildable lot, there are so many restrictions, regarding the cemetery, that one would be hard pressed to build anything other than a garden shed or small barn. We had to jump thorough many hoops to get permission to drill a well on said lot, so we could supply water to our koi pond and irrigation for our yard. Montgomery County said the cemetery was right off Route 28, yet we weren't allowed to drill for a well next to our house, but had to have the well installed close to where the cemetery is supposedly located. The well digger was not surprised, as he had dealt with Montgomery County regulators all his life.

The driveway entrance to the church, which was a Methodist Church originally but was later used by the Baptists, was once visible off Darnestown Road (Route 28.) The ruts are still faintly there. It was a log structure. Miller originally had the driveway entrance to this corner lot, almost at the end of the lot, off Route 28. The County wasn't happy with that, as they had plans to widen Route 28 to include a passing lane and left turn lane, at Route 118. The County had no qualms about acquiring a right of way and putting in their road knowing there was a cemetery adjacent to the road. I'm not so sure some graves might have been compromised at that time, especially at the end closest to Route 118, where the road is the widest.

Unless one has penetrating ground radar, I don't think we'll ever know exactly where the graves are located. Teddy Miller gave us a different plat, showing about 20-30 x marks, all neatly arranged in the upper quadrant of the lot. Did the Baptists have a separate cemetery from the Methodists, or did they just co-mingle the graves? I can't find that other plat, but I will keep looking. It was obviously done to satisfy the County, and to get permission to develop the lot. The original plat for the lot just shows a small area with a cross and it's marked "Cemetery".

I have a copy of the History of Western Maryland, which includes Frederick, Montgomery, Carroll, Washington, Allegany and Garrett Counties. (Misspelling is on the title) Volume I, written by J. Thomas Scharf, and originally published in 1882. The article about the church says it was built over a half century ago, and that was in 1882. That would date it about 1832, well before the Civil War. It lists the names of persons buried there. This info comes from Montgomery County Historical Society. In pencil, it's noted that the lady who provided the historical information to us was Terri Sackett. Her phone: [301-368-3338](tel:301-368-3338). This was included in the final information when the county sent the stamped plat, tax assessments, etc. to us.

We also have a copy of the original list of grave sites, prepared by J. Thomas Kelley, III, which was again, part of Historical Society records. It lists 115 or more people as being interred in the church cemetery, which would obviously be more people than what Teddy Miller showed on his plat of the land.

When I asked the older/now retired Miller employees where the markers were for these graves, I was told that old farmer Kelley—that would have been Thomas Kelley, Sr.—wanted to farm all the land, so he took down the grave markers, and buried them in a hole on the property. He supposedly used the marble ones as door sills/steps, at his big farm house. I never checked out the farm house, although we frequently bought corn from Mr. Kelley prior to building our home here in 1990. The original entrance to the Kelley farm, was off Route 28, as Kelley Farm Drive didn't exist. Also, the older carpenters and workers from Miller Co. showed me where they had filled in the old well on the lot. It is an area where today an old pine and a wild cherry tree grow together, surrounded by a huge ground hog hole.

There are chunks of marble scattered among the trees growing along the edge of the lot. I'm not sure they were originally where they are now. They could have been tossed into the woods if they were broken when the markers were being removed by Mr. Kelley. There is an aloe plant and a crabapple tree, obviously not native to the site. They too could have been tossed into the woods if someone was clearing the land for farming.

We try and keep the brambles at bay and pick up trash thrown from Route 28, onto the lot. It is riddled with ground hog holes. We have planted various trees and shrubs to help buffer the noise from Route 28. We have daffodils in the edge of the woods, also. We use it as a park, where we walk our dog. My husband mows the lot regularly, and we have the street trees treated and trimmed or removed, as necessary. We have water available and the landscapers hired by the subdivision are free to use the water.

We really don't want people tramping around over there. My husband doesn't want any markers or ceremonies. I should think it could simply be listed in a list of historical places in Montgomery County.

I will lend you my copies of these documents mentioned. I will be happy to show you around, but please call me, first.

I should think the Methodists or Baptists would have some historical information regarding their churches in the area with a list of communicants. I have done genealogical research, searching for my family, and I have found some information in church records.

Some lady stopped by here about 10 years ago, and said her aunt was buried in the cemetery. She couldn't show me where the grave site was or whether it had a grave or stone/marker. She couldn't tell me about the church. I can't remember her name. I'm not sure she really attended such a funeral, or if her family simply told her this. I told her it was going to be kept as a park with trees and other plantings. We have bluebird houses all around and have seen foxes, deer, squirrels, raccoons, and opossums at various times.

I'm not sure this is a completely factual list. I think Mr. Kelley had to somehow placate the county as to why he removed the markers in the first place, and so he said I have this list of all the people's names.



1957 Aerial



1963 Aerial



1970 Aerial



1980 Aerial



2018 Aerial



Cemetery Name: Pleasant Hills Cemetery [LOST]		Inventory ID: 225
Photographer: Ryan J. Pike		Date: 9/14/2018
Description and direction you are facing		
Time	Photo No.	
1:05 pm	1	Approach to cemetery from Spring Meadow Drive, facing north
	2	Center of cemetery, facing north
	3	Center of cemetery, facing west
	4	Center of cemetery, facing south
	5	Center of cemetery, facing east (Darnestown Road/Rt. 28)
	6	Panoramic from west to north to east
	7	Panoramic from east to south to west
1:15 pm	8	View along Spring Meadow Drive toward Darnestown Road/Rt. 28



1. Approach to cemetery from Spring Meadow Drive, facing north



2. Center of cemetery, facing north



3. Center of cemetery, facing west



4. Center of cemetery, facing south



5. Center of cemetery, facing east (Darnestown Road/Rt. 28)



6. Panoramic from west to north to east



7. Panoramic from east to south to west



8. View along Spring Meadow Drive toward Darnestown Road/Rt. 28