

Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory

ID: NEW 270

Name: Saffell Family

Alternate name: 1

Address: Forest Oak M.S.
651 Saybrooke Oaks Blvd

Town: Leithersburg

ADC Map Page 19 Grid H-7 (vic.)

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) _____

Approximate no. of burials _____ Date range of burials _____

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

Surveyor(s) _____ Survey date _____

Photographer _____ Date _____ Photo no. _____

Current owner _____

Address/Phone No. _____

Historic Status Locational Atlas ID _____ National Register

Master Plan ID _____ Other _____

UTM _____

Additional sources of information: Forest Oak Middle School
Principal John Burley
301-670-8242

270
SAFFELL FAMILY CEMETERY
651 SAYBROOKE OAKS BLVD
LEITHERSBURG



Gaithersburg
A CHARACTER COUNTS! CITY

Saffell

June 16, 2000

Richard Hughes
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

Dear Mr. Hughes:

The reinterment of human remains found during the construction of Forest Oak Middle School has taken place, and the final details of the legal aspects are being completed, namely the recording of the location with the Land Records office. As you may recall, the identity of these bones, which were determined to have been buried in a small family cemetery from approximately 1900, was unknown.

The reinterment was done in a simple, interfaith ceremony in which four ministers representing the faiths present in Gaithersburg in 1900, participated. John Burley, principal of Forest Oak, and representatives of the Montgomery County Public School System and the City of Gaithersburg were also in attendance.

Thank you for the guidance you have provided us over the past two years as we worked our way through this process. We appreciate your ongoing patience and cordial response to our many questions.

Yours truly,

David B. Humpton
City Manager

pap

270
SAFFELL FAMILY CEMETERY
691 SAYBROOK OAKS BLDG.
GAITHERSBURG



Gaithersburg
A CHARACTER COUNTS! CITY

*Hand delivered by
Pat Patula*

02 1990

May 9, 2000

Mr. Rick Baker
States Attorney Office
50 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Baker:

I understand that Patricia Patula, of our staff, has related to you that human remains were discovered on the construction site of Forest Oak Middle School shortly after the work was started in mid-1998. Care was taken to cordon off the area while the police, led by Detective Roger Thompson, conducted their investigation. After forensics determined that the two skulls were those of male Caucasians and had been in the ground about 80-100 years, Detective Thompson turned the bones over to Montgomery County Public Schools for reburial.

During that time, Richard Hughes, of the Maryland Historical Trust, provided guidance to assure that there were no more human remains in what appears to have been a small, unmarked family burial plot. An archeologist, Dr. Phillip Hill, was hired to be on site as the final grading was done. His report, which confirms there that no additional graves were found, is enclosed.

Now that the school construction is finished, the remains are ready for reinterment. Mr. John Burley, Principal of Forest Oak Middle School, has selected a site in a quiet courtyard, which is close to where the remains were discovered. Since neither the identity nor religious affiliation is known, an interfaith ceremony is planned for their reinterment on June 12. The Montgomery County Public Schools intends to follow the Maryland Real Property Article, Section 14-121, *Annotated Code*, in documenting the location of the reinterment site.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to call Pat Patula at 301-258-6330.

Sincerely,

David B. Humpton
City Manager

dbh/pap

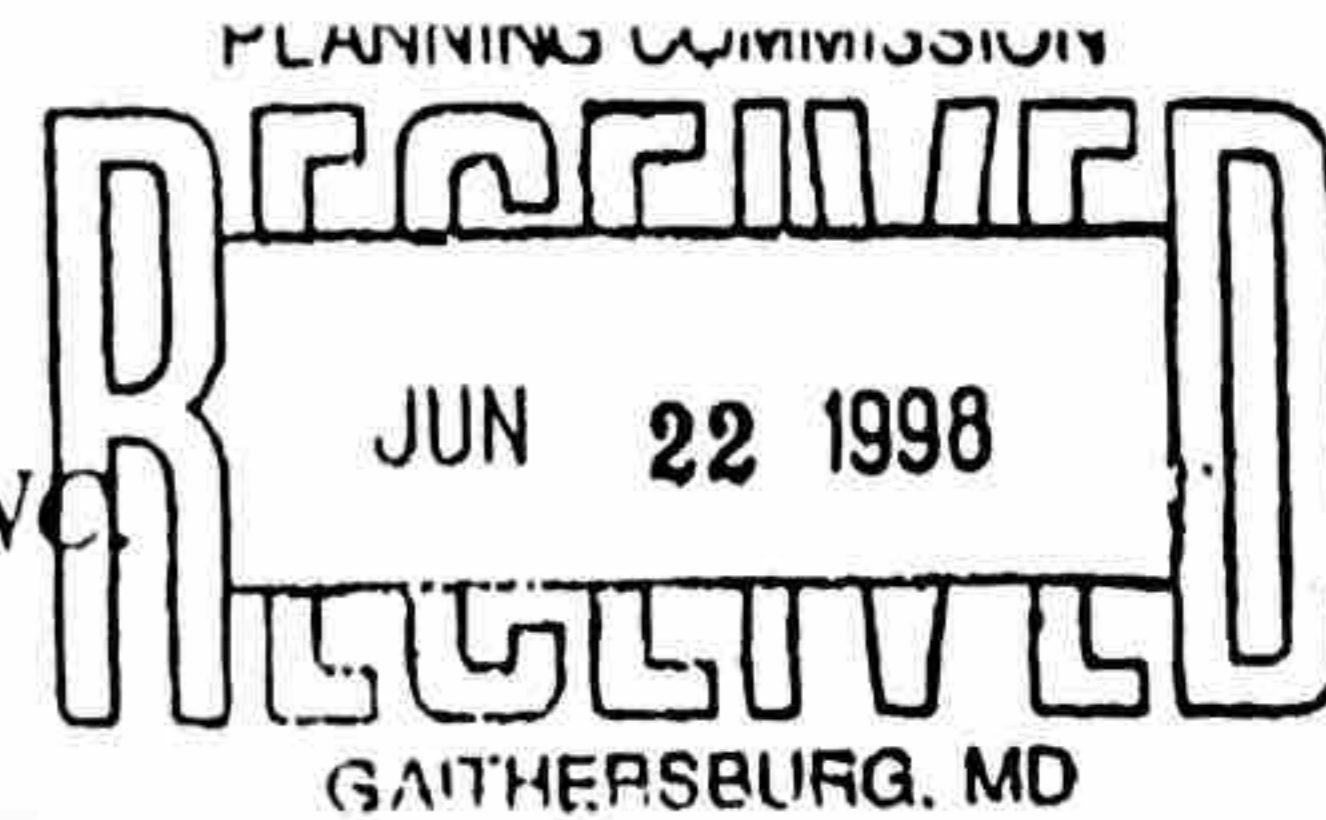
Enclosure

cc: John Burley, Principal, Forest Oak Middle School
Richard Hawes, Montgomery County Public Schools

*Permission Granted
Douglas F. Mansler
May 9, 2000*

270
SAFEELL FAMILY CEMETERY
691 SAYBROOK OAKS BUD.
GAITHERSBURG

ARCHEOLOGICAL TESTING AND CONSULTING, INC.
12025 Remington Drive
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902
Phone:(301) 593-4192 Fax: (301) 593-6952



City of Gaithersburg
31 South Summit Avenue
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

Dear Ms. Patula,

I am writing you regarding the outcome of the one-day archeological investigation at the Forest Oak Middle School project area. As you know during mechanical earth removal and grading associated with construction of the school in late May or early June, two human skulls were recovered at the bottom of a sloped area adjacent a dirt pile. It was concluded that the human remains were unearthed from an unmarked one hundred year old family cemetery located nearby where an isolated patch of trees once existed. This conclusion was corroborated by the similarity of soils observed near the skulls and where they were thought to have been buried.

Because of the sensitive nature of these finds, Archeological Testing and Consulting, Inc., was asked to monitor the remaining earth removal and grading processes scheduled for the presumed cemetery area, as well as examine the location where the human remains were found. Apropos of the location where the skulls were found, an uncontrolled surface collection procedure was employed in order to recover other exposed bones. This method was followed by mechanically plowing through the soils to initiate a below-ground recovery. Both procedures failed to produce post-cranial bones. A plausible explanation for the lack of bones was that they were too deeply buried to be recovered.

Investigative procedures were also employed in the presumed area of the cemetery. The goal was to located intact portions of the cemetery if they still existed. It was expected that the cemetery was completely destroyed because of the five-foot depth of soil previously removed. The procedure used was a mechanical scrape over the probable cemetery area. It was hoped that soil stains in the shape of burial plots would be exposed if they still existed. As expected, no burial features were encountered.

It can be concluded that the unmarked cemetery was completely destroyed during earth removal and grading. It is likely that post-cranial remains still exist on the site, but in a secondary or disturbed context. Locating them would be very difficult at best, as well as time-consuming and expensive. Therefore, no further investigation is recommended. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Hill

270
SAFEEL FAMILY CEMETERY
691 SAFFERBROOK OAKS BLD.
GAITHERSBURG

ATLAS
OF
FIFTEEN MILES AROUND
WASHINGTON
INCLUDING
THE COUNTY OF
MONTGOMERY
MARYLAND

Compiled, Drawn and Published from Actual Surveys,

BY

G. M. HOPKINS, C.E.

320 WALNUT STREET

PHILADELPHIA.

1879.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year AD 1878 by G.M. Hopkins, in the Office of the Librarian at Washington.

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Steam Lithographic Press
31 So. Sixth St. Phila.

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SAFELL FAMILY CEMETERY
691 SAYBROOK OAKS BLVD.
CATHERSBURG

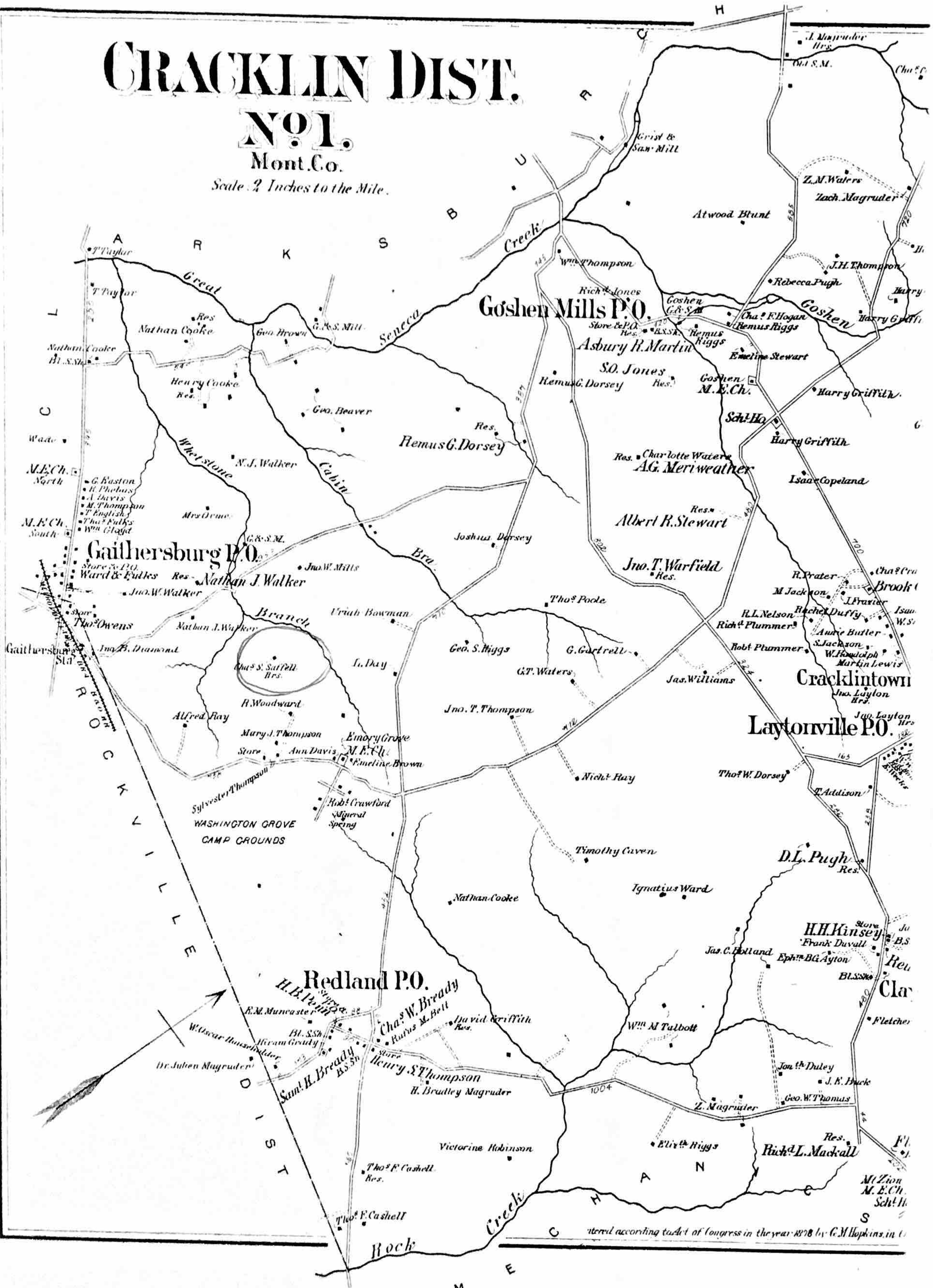
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N. 1.

Mont. Co.

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.



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SAFEELL FAMILY CEMETERY
691 SAFFERBROOK OAKS BUD.
GATHERSBURG