



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEMETERY INVENTORY REVISITED

BURIAL SITE INFORMATION

Name: Barnsley Family Cemetery	Inventory ID: 277
Alternate name: Avery Lodge Cemetery	
Address: 15801 Avery Road, Rockville [Behind 15715 Avery Road]	
Website:	
GPS coordinates: Latitude: 39.113854	Longitude: -77.118515
FindaGrave:	

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:	Date ranges: 1860–1925?
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Description: (markers, materials, arrangement, landscaping/vegetation, fence, paths and roads, etc.)

- **~80'x115' cemetery located ~400 feet east of the Barnsley House**
- **Completely overtaken with weeds and thicket. Have to wait for winter to investigate.**
- **Possible siting of cut granite stones, may be grave markers.**
- **Must contact owner in writing to obtain permission to enter site. No Trespassing signs everywhere.**

BURIAL SITE CONTACT

Name: Maria Florencia De Las Gradillas		
Relationship to burial site: Property Owner	Advocacy contact: Rick Mencia	
Address:		Phone:
City:	State:	ZIP Code:

BURIAL SITE SURVEYOR

Name: Sue Reeb, Eileen McGuckian	Survey Date: 9/25/2018	Time spent: 120 min
Address:		Phone:
Email:		
Photographer: Sue Reeb		

COMMENTS

Suggestions for follow-up:

- **Clean up area to determine existence and extent of burial site.**
- **Research to determine family members who may be buried here.**

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

- **Severe overgrowth of vegetation and possible animal burrows/dens.**

Anything of significance about this cemetery?

- **1860 Barnsley house is designated on Master Plan for Historic Preservation (MHT 22-30)**
- **Avery Lodge is designated on Master Plan for Historic Preservation (MHT 22-31)**

SOURCES

Cite sources used and resources available:

- <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M;%2022-30.pdf>
- <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M;%2022-31.pdf>



NOTES:

The Barnsley family owned the land directly across Avery Road from the entrance to Lake Needwood. At this location was a schoolhouse used for church services prior to building the Free Methodist Church in 1893. The schoolhouse was in close proximity to the Barnsley house and as "Avery Lodge" was a small community, I strongly suspect the Barnsley Cemetery was used for the entire community, at least until the land was auctioned around 1918. The cemetery is oval in shape and measures slightly smaller than half of a football field, quite large for a family cemetery. Additionally, census records reveal that the community was mixed with white, black and mulatto residents. A basic tenet of the Free Methodist Church was a belief that everyone should be able to attend services and worship together. I believe this was a mixed race burial ground for the community of Avery Lodge.

Presumed burial site is within a dense copse of overgrown shrubs, including multiflora roses, mulberries, etc. The thicket seems oval in shape, is 6-8' deep from the outside in, and surrounds what appears to be a clearing where the grass is high and unkempt. Visible through this thicket are huge tree trunks, multiple downed trees, some cut wood, a variety of trashed items, and **2-4 granite blocks that appear to be cut, perhaps as gravestones**. The outer brush seems to be lower in the area closer to the Barnsley house, suggesting this may have been an entrance to a family burial ground. Not far from the southeastern side of the thicket are an old fruit tree and a wooden bench set on blocks; these overlook a farm pond farther away from the cemetery.

Currently, the landowner of the cemetery resides in Hyattstown; she has leased her house and acreage to a German family who are very private and do not welcome strangers, according to Rick Mencia. There are signs posted on both the Mencia and the De las Gradillas land indicating *no trespassing*.

Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Photograph Log

Cemetery Name: Barnsley Family Cemetery		Inventory ID: 277
Photographer: Sue Reeb		Date: 9/25/2018
Time	Photo No.	Description and direction you are facing (Ex: detail of wall around Carr plot facing North)
12:22 pm	1	Crest of hill overlooking the cemetery, facing east



1. Crest of hill overlooking the cemetery, facing east

Additional sources:

Hand drawn map of Avery Lodge from Clara L. Shipe (nee Penn) dated 10/25/00
MHR Survey Church Records 4/16/37 Avery Lodge
Original Deed for Free Methodist Church at Avery Lodge
Google Earth 15801 Avery Road
SDAT Account Number 04-00045474 Rick & Eileen Mencia (owners of Barnsley House)
SDAT Account Number 04-00049494 Maria Florencia de las Gradillas owner of subdivided lot where cemetery is located
Montgomery County Sentinel 5//12/1893 Church Dedication
Acts 12:24 Free Methodist Churches of the Mid-Atlantic Region Annual Conference 2016
SDAT Account Number 04-00045474
SDAT Account Number 04-00049494
United States Census Records 1850 through 1920
Rick Mencia, Barnsley House owner
Frederick News Post various articles, 1890s through 1920, under 'Avery'