



Montgomery County Planning Department  
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

## Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

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Historic Preservation ID:

HP-354

Name:

Brooke Family Cemetery

Description:

Small 19th-century family cemetery.

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Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

2+

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

1824

Latest Year:

1860

Is the Site Extant?:

Is the Location Sensitive?:

Sensitive Contact:

Sensitive Reason:

Location Confidence:

Approximate

Location Confirmed:

**Volunteer Forms and External Web Links (Montgomery Planning is not responsible for content.  
Links provided for informational purposes only)**

2006 Survey Summary:

[NA](#)

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

[NA](#)

FindaGrave.com:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39406164/thomas-alexander-brooke>

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

[NA](#)

Other Website:

Master Plan Historic Resource No.:

Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board:

Confirmation Date:

Site Survey Date:

Revision Date:

No

Site Surveyor Name:

Data Originator:

MNCPPC Historic Preservation

Notes:

Thomas Alexander Brooke Sr (1781-1824) and his wife Henrietta (1787-1860) were buried on their farm. Both of these graves were moved to Rockville Cemetery in 1918. It is unknown whether there were other graves of children or people the family enslaved, or if so, whether they were also relocated in 1928.

**Technical information about the locational information shown in the online map.**

Public Display Scale:

Is there a Restriction on Sharing Information?:

1: 0

GIS Source Date:

GIS Source Datum:

Boundary Type:

Horizontal Accuracy:

GIS Data Source:

Additional Information:

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Thomas' son Edmund Brooke and his wife Fannie sold the property to James Gaherty in 1884 excepting "the burying ground which is reserved." A later newspaper ad mentions the graveyard as well ( Montgomery County Land Records Liber EBP 32 Folio 153; Evening Star. Washington, DC May 8, 1897, page 22).

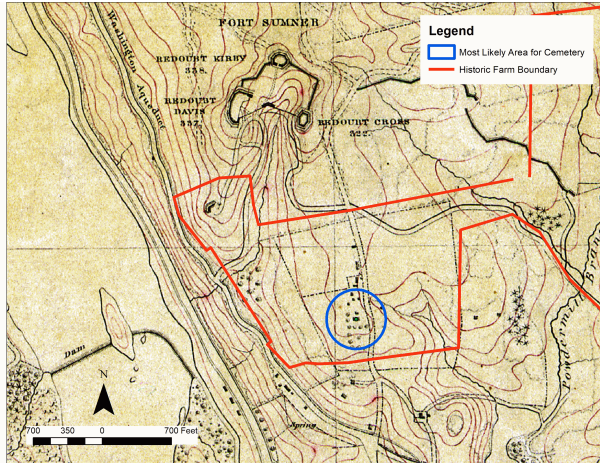
There is no record of how many people were buried in the Brooke Family burial ground, though some information is available about who lived there. In addition to Thomas, Henrietta and their children, others who lived and worked at the Brooke family farm included people held in slavery. The total number of individuals the Brooke family enslaved is unknown, but the number at several points in time is. Thomas A. Brooke held 18 people in slavery in 1820. Henrietta Brooke held 15 people in slavery in 1840 and 14 in 1850 aged from 3 to 80 years old according to US census records. The names for the enslaved are mostly not available, but Henrietta Brooke placed an ad for a "runaway slave" named Lydia Garey in 1835. It is possible that some of these individuals could have been buried near the family cemetery. Children who did not live to adulthood could also have been buried there.

The Brooke family farm is shown in detail on an 1865 US Army Corps of Engineers map of the defenses of Washington, owing to nearby earthworks. Figure 1 shows the farm boundaries and most likely area for a family cemetery on this map. The farmhouse is not labeled, but the building indicated in Figure 1 appears as a building in subsequent USGS maps while the other probable outbuildings do not. The location on a high point along a terrace above Potomac River in a grove of trees matches the description in the 1897 ad in the Evening Star. The ad describes the house as:

a large frame dwelling, containing 11 rooms, located in a grove of forest trees, upon a commanding eminence, affording extensive and picturesque views of the Potomac River, the hills of Maryland and Virginia, and it is only a short distance from and in full view of the Methodist University.  
Evening Star - May 8, 1897 - page 22

The most likely location of the family burial ground is within a few hundred feet of the house and on high ground. Analysis of known family burial sites in the Montgomery County Burial Sites inventory indicates that the average distance from the associated family house was 475 ft for the 55 family cemeteries where both the cemetery and original house could be identified confidently. Approximately 75% of these are between 150 and 650 feet from the house. Analysis also showed that family burial grounds tended to be located on a prominent landform such as a small hill or stream terrace. The large majority of family cemeteries in Montgomery County are at a higher elevation than their immediate surroundings (within 500 feet). Figure 2 shows the farm boundary and a 350-foot buffer around the probable farmhouse on a contemporary map.

Images:

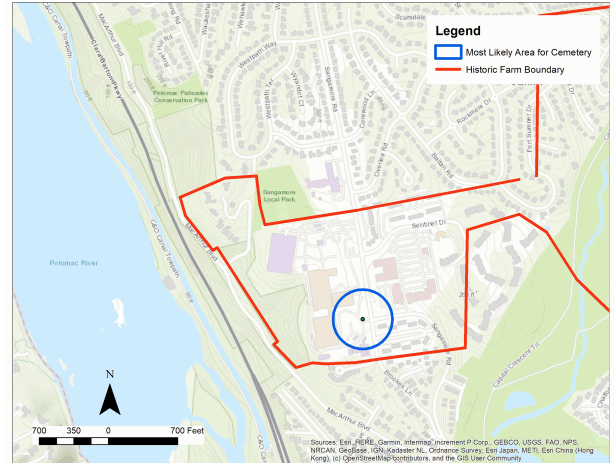


HP-354-01

Figure 1: Brooke family farm shown on an Army Corps of Engineers Map in 1865.

Date

Photographer



HP-354-02

Figure 2: Contemporary map

Date

Photographer

MARKER ID

GIVEN NAME

FAMILY NAME

DEATH YEAR