

**Rockville Cemetery**  
**1350 Baltimore Road**  
**Rockville, MD 20850**  
**Established 1738.**

Owner: Rockville Cemetery Association  
Nominated by Peerless Rockville  
History updated by Carol Duvall and Eileen McGuckian

**Summary:**

The history of Rockville Cemetery links the settlement period of this area to the present time. Records document nearly 270 years of continuous use of this site. Initiated as a colonial burying ground associated with a Chapel of Ease established by Prince George Parish (Anglican Church) in 1738, since 1880 the property has been owned by the Rockville Cemetery Association, which built the Superintendent's house. In addition to being the community's oldest burying ground, the property is significant as an example of the rural cemetery movement as well as for the many individuals prominent in Rockville and Montgomery County history who are buried here. The grounds have been enlarged and modernized over time, but the original two-acre site and some of the earliest gravesites are extant.



**Description:**

The Rockville Cemetery is located adjacent to the Rockville Civic Center property to the north and Baltimore Road to the south and is bisected by a City-owned 1.8209-acre strip of land following Little Falls Branch from Baltimore Road to the Civic Center. (See Map, Attachment 7.2) Avery Road is the west boundary and an apartment complex the east boundary. The cemetery is in two sections. The older west section, accessed from Avery Road, is comprised of 7.7 acres in three parcels. The east 16.87-acre newer section is adjacent to a circular private road accessed from Baltimore Road at the east and west ends. Geographically, the cemetery lies on the stream banks along Little Falls Branch with the highest elevation, 419 feet, on Avery Road, dropping to 300 feet at the stream and climbing back to 370 feet at the east property line.



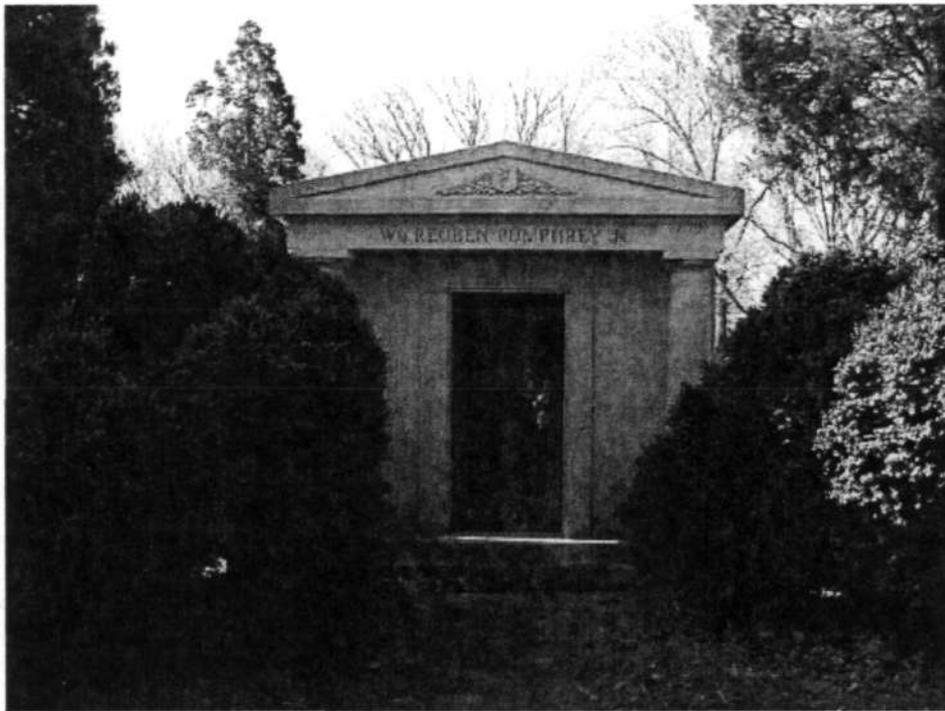
The older section is laid out in a series of terraces with a "U" shaped macadam drive from top to bottom connected by drives and grassed walkways, Concrete stairs from the drives provide access to the terraces. Mature hardwood trees of champion size shade the walks and drive, and tall evergreens recall the 19th century tradition of living memorials. Broken stretches of a 19th century iron fence remain in poor repair along Avery Road. The newly resurfaced Avery Road appears to be very near, or perhaps even covering, some of the gravesites.



The character of the old section of the cemetery is varied. Although its use as religious chapel and church yard dates to 1738, its continuous use and subdivision into family plots has placed pre-Revolutionary, federal, and Victorian stones next to recently carved crisp polished marble. Decorative iron fencing encloses some of the family plots, others by granite or cement curbing, some by boxwood edgings. Prominent family markers with smaller individual stones mark other family plots. The burial sites are not organized in a strict



gridwork, but almost in a patchwork fashion within and without the family plot structure. The memorials themselves vary from a 1752 four-inch thick stone decorated with carved tassel and drape, hourglass and skull and crossbones, to simple inscribed tombstones, tall Victorian obelisks, broken columns and urns, to elaborate free-standing stone crypts and mortuary temples with stained glass windows and brass grillwork. Vandalism is evident in ornaments broken from bases and overturned tombstones, but the cemetery placement well back from the road and the presence of an on-site caretaker has reduced its incidence.



### Caretaker's House



The caretakers are housed in a symmetrical 2 1/2 story, frame vernacular Victorian house located just inside the entrance from Avery Road. Sited on a steep hill, the house faces north, fronting on the cemetery with the south, or rear portion of the fieldstone foundation above grade. The 1889 house has a side-gabled rectangular east-west rear portion with a front gabled wing, (or stem) forming a "T" shape. A one-story veranda wraps around the three sides of the stem. The cross-gable roof is covered with composition shingles and there are two brick interior chimneys in the rear east-west portion. The exterior, including cornerboards, cornice, and any decorative sidings, has been clad with vinyl siding and the shutters removed, although the turned wooden porch posts remain. Two outbuildings are west of the house.

The west façade is composed of the west gabled end and the stem of the "T". There are small square ventilator panels at all gable peaks. The west gable end has a pair of windows centered on the second story, another pair centered on the first story, and one window in the exposed foundation. The north side of the gable end has an exterior door on the first story, and one window is centered on the first story of the stem.

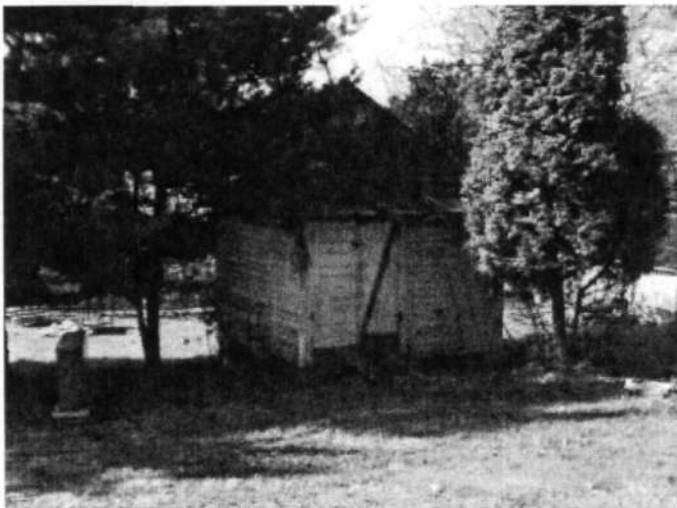
The north (front) gabled end has a pair of windows centered on the second story and a pair centered on the first story.

The east gabled end has two windows evenly spaced on the second story and a pair of windows on the first story. An exterior door is on the north side, first story, of the east gable, and one window is centered on the first story of the stem.

The three-bay south (rear) facade has an unrelieved second story. The first story has one window in each bay. The exposed basement foundation has an attached shed-roofed porch with a cement floor. Two square wood posts connected by a plain stick and rail balustrade support the porch roof on the west half. There is one window in the west bay and a flush-mounted modern exterior door in the center bay. Vertical siding encloses the east bay of the porch with a wood panel exterior door on its west side.



### Outbuildings



Two frame garden and utility sheds are located a distance east and south of the house. Both face north. The larger one is square with a fieldstone foundation, which is exposed on the south and clad with German siding. It has a flared-eave hipped pyramidal roof covered with patterned tin shingles.

The house and outbuildings are in a state of disrepair with much debris and equipment surrounding the area near these buildings. Since the removal of heavy construction equipment, which until recently was located on the grounds, there appears to be much debris left in its wake on the west end of the grounds, near Avery Road.

Avery Road itself appears to be encroaching on some of the actual burial sites at that end. In the lower (newer) section of the cemetery grounds, old tires and other trash have been dumped. The cemetery grounds are in deteriorated condition and in need of general clean up.

### Significance

The history of Rockville Cemetery links the settlement period of this area to the present time. Records document nearly 270 years of continuous use of this site. Initiated as a colonial burying ground associated with a Chapel of Ease established by Prince George Parish (Anglican Church) in 1738, since 1880 the property has been owned by the Rockville Cemetery Association, which built the Superintendent's house. In addition to being the community's oldest burying ground, the property is significant as an example of the rural cemetery movement as well as for the many individuals prominent in Rockville and Montgomery County history who are buried here. The grounds have been enlarged and modernized over time, but the original two-acre site and some of the earliest gravesites are extant.

### History and Support

The Anglican Church formed the new parish of Prince George's in 1726, to serve the inhabitants of the rapidly growing northern and western parts of Prince George's County. <sup>1</sup> The 1719 chapel at the mouth of Rock Creek (Later Georgetown) was named the Parish Church by a vote of 49 to 26 on August 13, 1728. The minority parish members considered this chapel site too inconvenient and began a subscription for building a church "in the upper part of the parish." <sup>2</sup>

Land for this new chapel, the site of the present Rockville Cemetery, was first mentioned in the Vestry records of July 23, 1738, when the vestry resolved:

"That a memorandum should be made that as Mr. Thomas Williams was so kind as to offer two acres of land being part of land called Mill Land for the building of a Chappell on that the Vestry accepts the same." <sup>3</sup>

The land patent "Mill Land" had been granted to Edward Dawson in 1724. Lying "at the head of a glade on a branch of Rock Creek," it was approximately one mile northeast of what became the center of Rockville. Thomas Williams of the plantation "Three Sisters" (in Prince George's County) leased this site for a water mill by 1731, and in 1734, purchased the entire 164-acre tract from the Dawsons. <sup>4</sup>

Church histories and vestry records for the next decade document both the enlargement and completion of the parish church at Rock Creek and the beginnings of the new Rock Creek Chapel. The similarity in name and scarcity of details has resulted in some confusion in dating construction stages of these buildings. Both the vestry records and church historians writing in the mid-19th century are silent on the exact beginning of the chapel/cemetery site, but entries from the contemporary documents can be placed in context. (Appendix A, attached) sets out the available information chronologically, giving some idea of size, architectural detail and materials used in these 18th century buildings, and the development of the "Chappell Yard" -- the cemetery. A small building constructed of weatherboarded planks and lop shingled roof was in operation by 1744. It was probably erected in 1734 when an assessment was made "toward building a new church," for by 1744, the General Assembly acted "to name the Chappell, a Chappell of Ease and the former Church the Parish Church."

In 1751 Thomas Nicholls contracted to build a fence around the Chapel Yard, to measure 100 by 96 feet with two gates four feet wide "as it is in the church." Charles Haymond was hired to "grubb the yard and to clear the trees all out of same and to fell the trees for 15 feet distant all around the laid rails." <sup>5</sup>

The earliest extant grade marker now in the cemetery was located within this yard. Long time vestryman John Harding was born in 1685, and buried at this site in 1752. <sup>6</sup> Harding was one of the original 26 petitioners for the new chapel; his descendants would occupy the Harding lands directly opposite the cemetery site until the 20th century. <sup>7</sup> The Harding grave marker is a weathered stone, carved with skull and crossbones and an hourglass motif. Its primitive carvings contrast with nearby modern monuments of finely carved Italian marble and polished brown stone.

In 1753, the vestry voted to set up a system to record births, marriages, and burials of parish members. <sup>8</sup> However, no documentation exists for the earliest burials. Many of the earliest gravesites still extant mark the graves of families allied to Williams and other nearby plantation owners. The names of the Beattys, Clagetts, Hillearys, O'Neals, Owens, and Bealls are a roll call of early families in the area.

In 1754, a 20 by 20-foot addition was made to the "backside" of the chapel, along with an eight-foot entry porch. The addition was to be weatherboarded and planked "as laid in the original chapel" and the roof was to be shingled with "good white oak or cypress shingles." Later the entire building was raised another nine inches, stone foundations were laid and another 20-foot square addition enlarged the building.

From 1734 to 1837, the Mill Land tract surrounding the chapel/cemetery site remained the property of the Williams family. The last half of the 18th century saw the vicinity, especially around the nearby crossroads, develop into an infant community. The chapel bordered the road to Rock Creek Bridge. Other roads led to the market centers, of George Town or Frederick, to the mill sites on creeks and to the other church, the Presbyterian Meeting House at Captain John, generating social and commercial settlement of the area. One of the Thomas Williams' grandsons, William Prather Williams, laid out town lots around the courthouse when this crossroads became the county seat of the new Montgomery County. First platted as "Williamsburg," it was later renamed Rockville.

The original chapel was replaced by a new brick, two-story building between 1802 and 1808. By 1817, Rockville was well established and the replacement building "unsuitable for worship," so the congregation agreed to move into town. The brick church was torn down, and some materials reused in the construction of a new church on Washington Street. (See survey site M: 26/11/11).<sup>9</sup> The various enlargements and demolition of the chapel buildings in the cemetery make the precise location of the original chapel difficult to pinpoint, although in 1894, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Cemetery Association announced that they had uncovered the foundation stones of the earliest chapel. These foundations are no longer in evidence.<sup>10</sup>

Richard Johns Bowie purchased "Mill Land" and other parcels north of the Baltimore Road in 1837.<sup>11</sup> His estate, Glen View, was in sight of the cemetery. In 1877, a new road was cut through the property and the cemetery's western boundary fronted on this road, this road ran from Baltimore Road to Muncaster Mill Road, past Horner's Mill at Rock Creek from which it took its name. Horner's Mill Road is now called Avery Road.<sup>12</sup>

The cemetery owned by Christ Church remained in general use, although Catholics and Baptists had their own burying grounds by the 2nd quarter of the 19th Century. Many families had their own small plots on their lands, but by 1860, the cemetery was so crowded that the Vestry resolved that no more burials could take place without consent of the Rector and vestrymen and only after public notice in the newspaper.

The general conditions and lack of maintenance at the cemetery grounds were so bad by 1873 that they prompted an editorial in the *Montgomery County Sentinel* in which the cemetery "Where the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep" was termed "not an inviting spot." The *Sentinel* mentioned the sandstone tombstone of another Harding, "Henry Harding, died March, 1773," but not the grave of his father, John.<sup>13</sup> (See attached)

Establishment of a community cemetery in Rockville coincided with the desire of the Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church to reverse the ravages time had taken in the old burial ground. In an article published in the *Sentinel*, local citizens had discussed the concept of a public cemetery prior to the Civil War, but took no action until 1880.<sup>14 15</sup> In that year, Judge Richard Johns Bowie donated five acres of land to the Vestry, which deeded the cemetery to the newly incorporated Rockville Cemetery Association. The Association was formed to lay out and maintain "a public cemetery for the burial of all persons, irrespective of religious denominations." The original Board of Directors, all prosperous, well-respected men, included William Veirs Bouic, Jr. and David H. Bouic (Baptists), E.B. Prettyman and Dr. E. E. Stonestreet (Methodists), Hezekiah Trail (Christian), James B. Henderson (Presbyterian), and several Episcopalians, including Judge Bowie.

The neglected cemetery's future brightened with new stewardship. In 1889, the Association contracted with local carpenter William Reuben Pumphrey "to build a tenant house within the enclosure of Rockville Cemetery, the building to be a comfortable structure ... to be occupied by a man who will have general supervision of the grounds."<sup>16</sup> In 1890, Judge Bowie's widow, Catharine Bowie, added two more acres, making a total of nine acres. Visible improvement came four years later, when the board appointed an Executive Committee composed of women. Under the leadership of Mrs. Rebecca T. Veirs, the Rockville

Union Cemetery Society cleared the grounds, planted trees and transformed the burying ground "from a veritable wilderness into a spot of unusual beauty."<sup>17</sup>

The builder of the house is buried within a large mausoleum with granite urns and stained glass windows. William R. Pumphrey was the second generation of local carpenters and undertakers. His father, William E. Pumphrey, died in 1887 and is buried nearby. Later generations of Pumphreys specialized in the mortuary side of the business and ceased to be known as carpenters.

Rockville Cemetery is a stunning example of the rural cemetery movement. This concept began in large Eastern American cities in the 1830s as a reaction to space and sanitation issues as well as the disruption caused by growth. Influenced by cemetery architects and landscape gardeners, the movement filtered down to small towns such as Rockville as a picturesque, safe burial ground, which symbolized community unity. Curving roads, attractive plantings, three-dimensional monuments, as isolated yet accessible location and family-controlled plots carried out the rural cemetery philosophy.<sup>18</sup>

Two more acres were added to the cemetery land in 1890, donated by Catharine Holland Williams Bowie, widow of Judge Bowie. (See Plat 21 d, attached.) Both the Bowies, along with many of the town's 19th century citizens, are buried here. In 1897, 16 bodies were reentered here after their removal from the Baptist Cemetery in Rockville, due to the road realignment and development around Falls Road and Montgomery Avenue.

The Cemetery Association purchased an additional 16.18-acre parcel of land east of the original site in 1933.<sup>19</sup> Most of the modern burials are on this acreage. Through the years, Rockville Cemetery continued to expand, and the adjacent farmland was developed into residential and institutional uses. Purchases, gifts, and exchanges increased the acreage in 1898, 1933, 1938, and 1969. The property was annexed into the City of Rockville in 1984. Rockville Cemetery remains an active non-denominational community burying ground.

The roster of persons buried at Rockville Cemetery reads like a *Who's Who of Montgomery County and Rockville*. As examples, Upton Beall and E. B. Prettyman (Clerks of the Court), Walter "Big Train" Johnson (baseball great and County Commissioner), Judge and Mrs. Richard Johns Bowie (who lived next door), the Pumphrey family (carpenters and undertakers), veterans from the revolutionary, Civil, Spanish-American, Korean, and Vietnam Wars, and World Wars I and II, and (from 1940 until 1975) author F. Scott Fitzgerald and (from 1948) Zelda Fitzgerald. The earliest remaining stone marker is that of John Harding (1685-1752), long-time vestryman and owner of a nearby farm.

Asphalt paths and roads with pebbled concrete curbing now wind beneath the towering trees on the original part of the cemetery. Around the perimeter of the older section, some portions of the 19th century ornamental iron fencing remain. The final resting-places for generations are marked by various styles of grave markers and monuments; some of the family groupings cover more than a hundred years of family lines.

M: 26/18/1

Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> The volume containing The Records of Prince George's Parish bears the date 1726 on its cover, but the vestry records begin with the 1719 list of subscribers for building the chapel at Rock Creek (later St. Paul's, Georgetown). These vestry records were used for most of the extant church histories; the microfilmed copy was used for this form (Reel #1 77 at Rockville Public Library).

<sup>2</sup> Ethan Allen, History of Prince George's Parish, Montgomery County (1860-61). Maryland Historical Society manuscript Collection, Manuscript #376, p.7 and vestry records for August 1728.

<sup>3</sup> Prince George's County Land Records T/1 09 (1734) (Dawsons to Thomas Williams) and Prince George's County Debt Books.

<sup>4</sup> Rev. George Murdoch was paid 36 pounds of tobacco for recording the deed November 30, 1738, at Prince George's County Land Records T/673.

<sup>5</sup> Vestry Records 1751.

<sup>6</sup> Harding family information is found in genealogies, wills, plat and Land Records. John Harding's Will approved 5 February 1752, is recorded at Frederick County Will Book A, folio 74'-75.

<sup>7</sup> During the 19th century, the Harding lands lay on the south side of Baltimore Road, and most of the Hardings were Catholic. Catherine Jane Harding Maddox, (b. 1824) donated part of her farm to St. Mary's for the expansion of the Catholic cemetery, directly opposite the gates to the Rockville Cemetery. The southern portion of Harding/Maddox land is the later subdivision of "Janeta." (Family Histories and Montgomery County Land Records.)

<sup>8</sup> One of John Harding's grandsons was Robert Owen, who was also the nephew of local tavern keeper Lawrence Owen. Robert Owen contracted with the vestry to build the vestry room addition. (See Appendix A).

<sup>9</sup> No records of the vestry for 1773-1790 exist. After the Revolution the American branch of the Church of England adopted the name Protestant Episcopal Church; Rock Creek Chapel became Christ Church.

<sup>10</sup> A short history of the cemetery and church is given in the "Constitution and By-Laws of the Rockville Cemetery Association." This undated brochure, apparently written in the early 20th century, includes the mention of 1894 events. Maude Wilson Betts' 1975 church history, "Piscataway to Prince George's parish," includes a photo of the vicinity.

<sup>11</sup> Land and Tax Records 1777-1887, Plats and history of "Glen View." Survey M: 26/17/1.

<sup>12</sup> Plat recorded at Montgomery County Land Records EBP16/380. The 1879 Hopkins Atlas shows this new road.

<sup>13</sup> Montgomery County Sentinel, May 30, 1873.

<sup>14</sup> Montgomery County Sentinel, May 24, 1872.

<sup>15</sup> In April 1855, a committee was formed to pursue an enlarged "Union Protestant" Graveyard, and on February 7, 1860, the Senate of Maryland passed an Act enabling the Church Vestry to hold 15 acres, but no further mention of enlargement occurs at that time. The cemetery was never known as the Rockville Union Cemetery, despite some references to it by that name. Union in this context meant non-denominational.

<sup>16</sup> Sentinel October 18, 1889.

<sup>17</sup> Obituary of R. T. Veirs, January 18, 1918.

<sup>18</sup> David Charles Sloane, The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991), pp. 64-156.

<sup>19</sup> Land Records 558/319 and 578/312.



Aerial View of Rockville Cemetery located in the top half of the view. The oldest portion of the cemetery is outlined in black. A strip to the left is owned by the City of Rockville and follows the course of Little Falls Branch. The newer portion of the cemetery is on the right. The half-circle road accesses Baltimore Road.

To the west of the cemetery is Avery Road and "Glen View," the Rockville Civic Center.

Attachment A

**Chronology of Building Program – Prince George's Parish**

Rock Creek Church (Georgetown) later St. Paul's

Rock Creek Chapel (Rockville)

1719 - Subscriptions to build a chapel on part of Capt. Bealls land at the mouth of Rock Creek.

1725 - Repairs to Chapel

1726 - Contract for a Vestry House, 16 X 12 feet overjettied, with inside chimneys, 8 foot (roof) pitch, to put floor in Church, engaged George Beall for the work.

1727 - Bingle Page to build 14 pews and a place for clerk to sit.

August, 1728 - Voted 49-26 that Rock Creek would be the Parish Church, but the, minority of 26 began a subscription for a Church in "the upper part of the parish"

1731 - Sent to London for: 5 Casements (windows) 30 X 17 inches long and 5 lights (panes) the same; 10 lights 21 X 17; 2 lights 23 X 11; and surplice.

1733 - Building a pailling (fence) around church with gate.

1733/34 - Contract with Bingle Page and Benjamin Perry to build a gallery with seats, and for 8 "good and substantial new blocks of locust or chestnut to the church" (Path stepping blocks.)

1734 - Sent to London for 6 sash windows 7 X 3 feet long with lines and pulleys...one single light (pane) 3 feet by 18 inches.

1735 - Sent to London for 5 lights of diamond cut glass 5 feet long to be divided in the middle, one half in a casement and the other half fixt.

1737 - Mr. John Chew promised to buy glass for left hand of the Church- will be 76 panes @ 1 shilling 6 pence per.

1738 – Thomas Williams donates 2 acres of "Mill Land" for the building of a chapel.

1739 – Rev. Murdoch paid for recording deed for 2 acres of ground to build a chapel.

1744 - Acts of Assembly, Chapter 2  
(1744) Former Church to be the Parish  
Church.

1744 - Completion of 3 years of  
repairs to church, fence and pews.

1750 - Payment to Church Sexton,  
Richard Peck for 3.

1741 - Sent to London for Bible and Common Prayer  
Book for Chapel.

1743 - Assessment of tobacco per poll toward building a  
new church.

1744 - Acts of Assembly, Chapter 2 (1744). Chapel  
already built to be made a Chapel of Ease, Pringe  
George's Parish.

1748 - Rock Creek Chapel to have services every other  
Sunday in place of Paint Branch Chapel.

1750 - Payment to Chapel Sexton, Susan Beatty for 2.

1750 - John Clagett to build a gallery  
and a reading desk with room for a  
clerk and a pulpit.

1751 - Thomas Nicholls to raile in  
(fence) the Chapel Yard. "Chappell  
Yard to be 100 by 96 feet with 2 gates  
4 feet wide as it is at the Church."

Also to make rail around communion  
table; chancel to be 5 feet wide and 6-  
1/2 feet long and lower to be railed  
10 inches.

1751 - Charles Haymond to "grubb the  
Chapel Yard and clear the trees all out  
of same, to fell all trees for 15 feet  
distant all around the laid railes."

1754 - Simon Nicholls to repair and  
amend Chapel "To make an amendment of  
20 foot square to backside of Chappell;  
to be weatherboarded and planked as  
laid in said Chappell, whole of  
Chappell and Amendment to be shingled  
with good white oak or cypress singles"

Amendment would have windows and  
shutters, pulpit and desh and one door  
to backside

GEORGETOWN

ROCKVILLE

1768 - Rock Creek Church is much deteriorated, pulled down.

1771 - Bills in Assembly to petition for new brick and stone church on site of present one.

1774 - Advertisement for contract for new church to be built four miles from Georgetown, between Monocacy and Seneca Church to be 50 feet square, walls of brick 22-1/2 inches thick on first floor, 18 on second, stone foundations, cypress shingle. (Location of this Church is not determined.)

(No Vestry Minutes/Records 1773-1790)

"One 8 foot square porch to be put on the front, the whole to be underpinned with stone."

1754 - Simon Nicholls paid 8,460 lbs of tobacco.

1755 - Nicholls to raise Chapel 9 inches higher and put up 2 horse blocks.

June, 1761 - Agreement with Nicholas Haymond for work: "5 windows of 18 lights in each, and 1 window above in gallery with 8 lights.

Chapel Yard to be posted with posts 4 feet long, two feet in the ground, 2 feet behind the old post with 3 pins in each post...Three gates to yard to be made good and rails set to rights, if new ones be wanting to be put in place of those that are rotten."

1764 - Robert Owen to build a vestry room "20 X 20 feet, 7 foot 6 inch pitch; planked above and below, planed lop shingles..mantelpiece, back and hearth of stone."

1767 - another 20 foot square addition to the front of the Chapel.

1769-1770 - Gallery built in east end and new pews (26) and several private seats to be built.

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ROCKVILLE

1794 - Chapel in ruinous condition,  
*funds to build new one not available.*

1802-1808 - Construction of 2-story,  
brick church, Christ Episcopal Church.

1817 - Church unsuitable for worship  
due to inconvenient arrangement and  
poor workmanship.

1820 - Subscription for new church to  
be built on South Washington Street in  
Rockville.

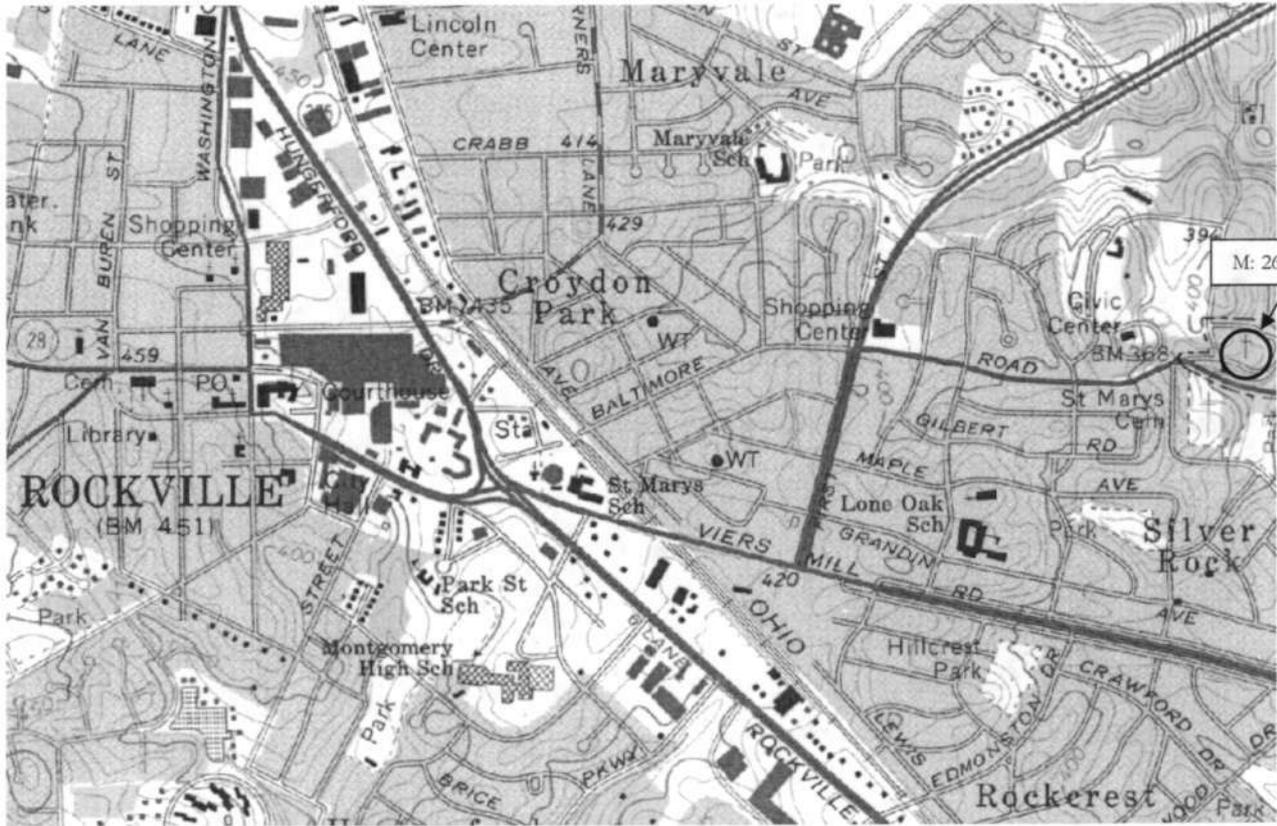
**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Records of Prince George's Parish, church histories by Ethan Allen (1861), Rev. Wayland (1845) Maude Betts (1975).  
Prince George's, Montgomery and Frederick County Land, will and Plat records. Records of the Rockville Cemetery  
Association; Family histories and genealogies; MHT forms for "Glen View" and Christ Episcopal Church.

Acreage of nominated property: 26/64 acres

Original MHT form prepared by: Anne Cissel (Historian) and J. Christensen (description) for Peerless Rockville,  
October 1986.

M: 26-18-01  
Rockville Cemetery  
1350 Baltimore Road  
Rockville, MD  
USGS Rockville Quad



Site: M:26/18/1

Rockville Cemetery and Caretaker's House

Cemetery estab: 1743

Baltimore and Avery Roads

House Built: 1889

Architect/Builder: W. R.  
Pumphrey

Private

This site has been used as a burying ground for nearly 250 years. A small Chapel of Ease was erected by the Anglican Church here in 1743; the earliest extant grave marker, that of vestryman John Harding, is dated 1752. Although a second chapel of brick, erected in the early 19th century, was abandoned for a new Christ Church in the town of Rockville, the cemetery remained in general use. In 1880 the Rockville Cemetery Association incorporated to hold and manage the grounds, building a caretaker's house nine years later. The cemetery area, now increased to almost 27 acres, contains plots for many long-standing Rockville families.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M:26/18/1

Magi No. 1651715108

DOE  yes  noNR eligible  yes  no  
contrib. element in H.D. 

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Rockville Cemetery

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 1350 Baltimore Road  not for publicationcity, town Rockville  vicinity of congressional district 8state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 18)

## 3. Classification

| Category                                   | Ownership  | Status  | Present Use                            |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district          | <input type="checkbox"/> public                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s)       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private        | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> park                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure         | <input type="checkbox"/> both                      | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational   | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                          | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government    | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                        |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered          | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                    |
|  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Cemetery</u> |

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Rockville Cemetery Associationstreet & number 1350 Baltimore Road telephone no.:city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Land Records liber Tstreet & number Prince George's Courthouse folio 673city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland National-Capital Park & Planning Commissiondate 1976  federal  state  county  localdepository for survey records Park Historian's Office, 8700 Needwood Roadcity, town Derwood state Maryland

## 7. Description

Survey No. M:26/18/1

Condition  
 excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

Check one  
 unaltered  
 altered

Check one  
 original site  
 moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Rockville Cemetery lies between the Rockville Civic Center property to the north and Baltimore Road to the south, bisected by a City-owned 1.8209 acre strip of land following Little Falls Branch from Baltimore road to the Civic Center. (See Map, Attachment 7.2) Avery Road is the west boundary and an apartment complex the east boundary. The cemetery is in two sections. The older west section, accessed from Avery road, is comprised of 7.7 acres in three parcels. The east 16.87 acre newer section is accessed by a circular private road accessed from Baltimore road at the east and west ends. Geographically, the cemetery lies on the stream banks along Little Falls with the highest elevation, 419 feet, on Avery Road, dropping to 300 feet at the stream and climbing back to 370 feet at the east property line.

The older section is laid out in a series of terraces with a "U"-shaped macadam drive from top to bottom connected by drives and grassed walkways. Concrete stairs from the drives provide access to the terraces. Mature hardwood trees of champion size shade the walks and drives, and tall evergreens recall the 19th century tradition of living memorials. Broken stretches of a 19th century iron fence remain in poor repair along Avery Road.

The character of the old section of the cemetery is varied. Although its use as religious chapel and church yard dates to 1738, its continuous use and subdivision into family plots has placed pre-revolutionary, federal, and Victorian stones next to recently carved crisp polished marble. Some of the family plots are enclosed by decorative iron fencing, others by granite or cement curbing, some by boxwood edgings. Prominent family markers with smaller individual stones mark other family plots. The burial sites are not organized in a strict gridwork, but almost in a patchwork fashion within and without the family plot structure. The memorials themselves vary from a 1752 four-inch thick stone decorated with carved tassel and drape, hourglass and skull and crossbones, to simple inscribed tombstones, tall Victorian obelisks, broken columns and urns, to elaborate free-standing stone crypts and mortuary temples with stained glass windows and brass grillwork. Vandalism is evident in ornaments broken from bases and overturned tombstones, but the cemetery placement well back from the road and the presence of an on-site caretaker has reduced its incidence.

continued on attachment 7.1

# 8. Significance

Survey No. M:26/18/1

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/<br>humanitarian                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)<br>local history |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   |  |

Specific dates 1738 site, 1889 bldg. Builder/Architect W.R.Pumphrey, Sr.

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### Significance

The history of the Rockville Cemetery links the settlement and colonial period of this area to the present time. Records document nearly 250 years of continuous use for this site. Since 1880 the property has been owned by the Rockville Cemetery Association which built the Superintendent's house in 1889. The grounds have been enlarged and modernized over time, but the original two acre site and some of the earliest gravesites are extant.

### ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA:

1. Historic context theme(s): Religion
2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont, Montgomery County, City of Rockville
3. Chronological Period(s): Contact and Settlement (1600-1750)
4. Resource type: cemetery, single family residence

### History and Support

The new parish of Prince George's was formed by the Anglican church in 1726 to serve the inhabitants of the rapidly growing northern and western parts of Prince George's County. 1/ The 1719 chapel at the mouth of Rock Creek (later Georgetown) was named the Parish Church by a vote of 49 to 26 on August 13, 1728. The minority parish members considered this chapel site too inconvenient and began a subscription for building a church "in the upper part of the parish". 2/

Land for this new chapel, the site of the present Rockville Cemetery, was first mentioned in the Vestry records of July 23, 1738 when the vestry resolved:

That a memorandum should be made that as Mr. Thomas Williams was so kind as to offer two acres of land being part of land called Mill Land for the building of a Chappell on that the Vestry accepts the same.

continued on page 8.1

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:26/18/1

Records of Prince George's Parish, church histories by Ethan Allen (1861), Rev. Wayland (1845) Maud Betts (1975). Prince George's, Montgomery and Frederick County Land, Will and Plat records. Records of the Rockville Cemetery Association; Family histories and genealogies; MHT forms for "Glen View" and Christ Episcopal Church.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 26.64 acres

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

|      |         |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|      |         |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone | Easting |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

B 

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|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | Easting |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

C 

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|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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D 

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| Zone | Easting |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

E 

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| Zone | Easting |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| Zone | Easting |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

G 

|      |         |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |         |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone | Easting |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

|      |         |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |         |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone | Easting |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

|                 |                    |                      |                |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| name/title      | Anne Cissel        | J. Christensen Arch. | description    |
| organization    | Peerless Rockville | date                 | October, 1986  |
| street & number | P.O. Box 4262      | telephone            | 762-0096       |
| city or town    | Rockville          | state                | Maryland 20850 |

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

Description (continued) : Rockville Cemetery

The caretaker and family are housed in a symmetrical 2-1/2 story, frame vernacular Victorian house located just inside the entrance from Avery Road. Located on a steep hill, the house faces north, fronting on the cemetery with the south, or rear portion of the fieldstone foundation above grade. The 1889 house has a side-gabled rectangular east-west rear portion with a front gabled wing, (or stem) forming a "T" shape. A one-story verandah wraps around the three sides of the stem. The cross-gable roof is covered with composition shingles and there are two brick interior chimneys in the rear east-west portion. The exterior, including cornerboards, cornice, and any decorative sidings, has been clad with vinyl siding and the shutters removed, although the turned wooden porch posts remain. A terraced vegetable garden is southwest of the house and several outbuildings are to the west.

The west facade is composed of the west gabled end and the stem of the "T". There are small square ventilator panels at all gable peaks. The west gable end has a pair of windows centered on the second story, another pair centered on the first story, and one window is in the exposed foundation. The north side of the gable end has an exterior door on the first story, and one window is centered on the first story of the stem.

The north (front) gabled end has a pair of windows centered on the second story and a pair centered on the first story.

The east gabled end has two windows evenly spaced on the second story and a pair of windows on the first story. An exterior door is on the north side, first story, of the east gable and one window is centered on the first story of the stem.

The three-bay south (rear) facade has an unrelieved second story. The first story has one window in each bay. The exposed basement foundation has an attached shed-roofed porch with a cement floor. Two square wood posts connected by a plain stick and rail balustrade support the porch roof on the west half. There is one window in the west bay and a flush-mounted modern exterior door in the center bay. The east bay of the porch is enclosed by vertical siding with a wood panel exterior door on its west side.

Outbuildings

Two frame garden and utility sheds are located a distance west of the house. Both face north. The larger one is square with a fieldstone foundation which is exposed on the south and clad with German siding. It has a flared-eave hipped pyramidal roof covered with patterned tin shingles. There is a double door on the north side. A smaller square one also has a fieldstone base, but is clapboard siding, a side-gabled roof and a single battened door.



Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :  
Rockville Cemetery

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The tract "Mill Land" was granted to Edward Dawson in 1726. Lying "at the head of a glade on a branch of Rock Creek" it was approximately one mile northeast of what became the center of Rockville. Thomas Williams of the plantation "Three Sisters" (in Lanham, Prince George's County) leased this site for a water mill by 1731, and in 1734 purchased the entire 164 acre tract from the Dawsons. 3/ 4/

The church histories and vestry records for the next decade document both the enlargement and completion of the parish church at Rock Creek and the beginnings of the new Rock Creek Chapel. The similarity in name and scarcity of details have resulted in some confusion in dating construction stages of these buildings. Both the vestry records and church historians writing in the mid-19th century are silent on the exact beginning of the chapel/cemetery site. But many entries from the contemporary documents can be placed in context. (Appendix A Attachment 8.6 - 8.11) sets out the available information chronologically, giving some idea of size, architectural detail and materials used in these 18th century buildings, and the development of the "Chappell Yard"--today's cemetery. A small building constructed of weatherboarded planks and lop shingled roof was in operation by 1744. It was probably erected in 1734 when an assessment was made "toward building a new church", for by 1744 the General Assembly acted "to name the Chappell, a Chappell of Ease and the former Church the Parish Church."

In 1751 Thomas Nicholls contracted to build a fence around the Chapel Yard, to measure 100 by 96 feet with two gates four feet wide "as it is in the Church". Charles Haymond was hired to "grubb the yard and to clear the trees all out of same and to fell the trees for 15 feet distant all around the laid railles."5/

The earliest extant grave marker now in the cemetery was located within this yard. Long time vestryman John Harding was born in 1685 and buried at this site in 1752. 6/ Mr. Harding was one of the original 26 petitioners for the new chapel; his descendents would occupy the Harding lands directly opposite the cemetery site until the 20th century. 7./ The Harding grave marker is a weathered stone, carved with a skull and crossbones and an hourglass motif. Its primitive carvings contrast with nearby modern monuments of finely carved Italian marble and polished brown stone.

In 1753, the vestry voted to set up a system to record births, marriages, and burials of parish members. However, no documentation exists for the earliest burials. Many of the earliest grave sites still extant mark the graves of families allied to the Williams and other nearby plantation owners. The names of the Beattys, Clagetts,

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :  
Rockville Cemetery

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Hillearys, O'Neals, Owens, and Bealls are a roll call of early families in the area.

In 1754 a 20 by 20 foot addition was made to the "backside" of the chapel, along with an eight foot entry porch. The addition was to be weatherboarded and planked "as laid in the original chapel" and the roof was to be shingled with "good white oak or cypress shingles. Later the entire building was raised another nine inches, stone foundations were laid and another 20 foot square addition enlarged the building. Appendix A lists additions of aisles, galleries, pews and windows to this vernacular church building.

During the century from 1734 to 1837 the Mill Land tract surrounding the chapel/cemetery site remained the property of the Williams family. The last half of the 18th century saw the vicinity, especially around the nearby crossroads, develop into an infant community. The chapel bordered the road to Rock Creek bridge. Other roads led to the market centers of Georgetown or Frederick, to the mills sites on creeks and to the other Church, the Presbyterian Meeting House at Captain John, generating social and commercial settlement of the area. One of Thomas Williams' grandsons, William Prather Williams, laid out town lots around the courthouse when this crossroads became the county seat of the new Montgomery County. First platted as "Williamsburg", it was later renamed Rockville. 8/

The original chapel was replaced by a new brick, two-story building between 1802 and 1808, but by 1817 this building was so deteriorated that the congregation members agreed to move into Rockville. The brick church was torn down, and some materials reused in the construction of a new Christ Church on Washington Street. (See survey site M:26/11/11) 9/ The various enlargments and final demolition of the chapel buildings in the cemetery make the precise location of the original chapel difficult to pinpoint, although in 1894 the Ladies Auxillary of the Cemetery Association announced that they had uncovered the foundation stones of the earliest chapel. These foundations are no longer in evidence. 10/

Richard J. Bowie purchased "Mill Land" and other parcels north of the Baltimore Road in 1837. 11/ His estate, Glen View, was in sight of the cemetery. In 1877 a new road was cut through the property and the cemetery's western boundary fronted on this road. This road ran from Baltimore Road to Muncaster Mill Road, past Horner's Mill at Rock Creek from which it took its name. Horner's Mill Road is now called Avery Road. 12/

The cemetery owned by Christ Church remained in general use, although both the Catholics and Baptists had their own burying grounds by the mid-19th century. Many families had their own small plots on their

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :  
Rockville Cemetery

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lands, but by 1860 the cemetery was so crowded that the Vestry resolved that no more burials could take place without consent of the Rector and vestryman and only after public notice in the newspaper.

The general conditions and lack of maintenance at the cemetery grounds were so bad by 1873 that they prompted an editorial in the Montgomery County Sentinel in which the cemetery "Where the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep" was termed "not an inviting spot". (Attachment 8.11) The Sentinel mentioned the sandstone tombstone of another Harding, "Henry Harding, died March, 1773", but not the grave of his father, John. 13/

The move to expand the cemetery grounds, first discussed by the vestry in 1855, was not successful until 1880 when Judge Bowie donated 5 acres of land to the Vestry. 14/ At the same time an independent corporation was formed to hold and manage the cemetery grounds. Since that time the Rockville Cemetery Association has existed for that purpose, selling cemetery lots to persons of all religions.

In 1889 the Association contracted with local carpenter William Reuben Pumphrey "to build a tenant house within the enclosure of Rockville Cemetery, the building "to be a comfortable structure...to be occupied by a man who will have general supervision of the grounds". 15/ This cottage lies just east of the cemetery gates. It is built on a slope, T-shaped with projecting front gable, and a full width porch. Victorian elements are present in the long narrow windows fronting on this porch, and some turned, wooden spindle porch posts. The majority of the windows are 6/6, but few decorative details are present. In 1980 the old frame sheathing was covered with vinyl siding, but one of the original frame outbuildings is extant. This raised structure is square, with splayed eaves supported by small brackets. It retains its patterned tin roof. A later outbuilding of is also present.

The builder of the house is buried within a large mausoleum with granite urns and stained glass windows. William R. Pumphrey was the second generation of local carpenters and undertakers. His father, William E. Pumphrey, died in 1887 and is buried nearby. Later generations of Pumphreys specialized in the mortuary side of the business and ceased to be known as carpenters.

Two more acres were added to the cemetery land in 1890, donated by Catherine Holland Williams Bowie, widow of Judge Bowie. (See Plat 21d, Attachment 8.12) In 1897, 16 bodies were reinterred here after their removal from the Baptist Cemetery in Rockville, due to the road realignment and development around Falls Road and Montgomery Avenue. Both the Bowies, along with many of the town's 19th century citizens, are buried here.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :  
Rockville Cemetery

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The Cemetery Association purchased an additional 16.18 acre parcel of land east of the original site in 1933. 16/ Most of the modern burials are on this acreage.

Asphalt paths and roads with pebbled concrete curbing now wind beneath the towering trees on the original part of the cemetery. Around the perimeter of the older section, some portions of the 19th century ornamental iron fencing remain. Various styles of grave markers and monuments represent the resting places of individuals and families. Some of the family groupings cover more than a hundred years of family lines.

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Footnotes:

1. The volume containing The Records of Prince George's Parish bears the date 1726 on its cover, but the vestry records begin with the 1719 list of subscribers for building the chapel at Rock Creek (later St. Paul's, Georgetown). These vestry records were used for most of the extant church histories; the microfilmed copy was used for this form (Reel #117 at Rockville Public Library).
2. Ethan Allen, History of Prince George's Parish, Montgomery County (1860-61). Maryland Historical Society manuscript Collection, Manuscript #376, p. 7 and vestry records for August, 1728.
3. Prince George's County Land Records T/109 (1734)(Dawsons to Thomas Williams) and Prince George's County Debt Books.
4. Rev. George Murdoch was paid 36 pounds of tobacco for recording the deed November 30, 1738 at Prince George's County Land Records T/673.
5. Vestry records for August and November, 1751.
6. Harding family information is found in genealogies, wills, plat and Land Records. John Harding's Will proved 5 February, 1752 is recorded at Frederick County Will Book A, folio 74-75.
7. The Harding lands during the 19th century lay on the south side of Baltimore Road, and most of the Hardings were Catholic. Catherine Jane Harding Maddox (b. 1824) donated part of her farm to St. Mary's for the expansion of the Catholic cemetery, directly opposite the gates to the Rockville Cemetery. The southern portion of Harding/Maddox land is the later subdivision of "Janeta". (Family Histories and Montgomery County Land Records.)
8. One of John Harding's grandsons was Robert Owen, who was also the nephew of local tavern keeper Lawrence Owen. Robert Owen contracted with the vestry to build the vestry room addition in 1764. (See Appendix A, Attachment 8.6-8.11).

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :  
Rockville Cemetery

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9. No records of the vestry for 1773-1790 exist. After the Revolution the American branch of the Church of England adopted the name Protestant Episcopal Church; Rock Creek Chapel became Christ Church.
10. A short history of the cemetery and church is given in the "Constitution and By-Laws of the Rockville Cemetery Association". This undated brochure, apparently written in the early 20th century, includes the mention of 1894 events. Maud Wilson Betts' 1975 church history, "Piscataway to Prince George's Parish", includes a photo of the vicinity.
11. Land and Tax Records 1777-1887, Plats and history of "Glen View". Survey M:26/17/1.
12. Plat recorded at Montgomery County Land Records EBP16/380. The 1879 Hopkins Atlas shows this new road.
13. Montgomery County Sentinel, May 30, 1873.
14. In April 1855 a committee was formed to pursue an enlarged "Union Protestant" Graveyard, and on February 7, 1860 the Senate of Maryland passed an Act enabling the Church Vestry to hold 15 acres, but no further mention of enlargement occurs at that time. The cemetery was never known as the Rockville Union Cemetery, despite some references to it by that name.
15. Sentinel, October 18, 1889.
16. Land Records 558/319 and 578/312.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) :  
Rockville Cemetery

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APPENDIX A

CHRONOLOGY OF BUILDING PROGRAM - PRINCE GEORGE'S PARISH

Rock Creek Church (Georgetown)  
Later St. Paul's

Rock Creek Chapel (Rockville)  
Later Christ Church

1719 - Subscriptions to build a chapel on part of Capt. Bealls land at the mouth of Rock Creek.

1725 - Repairs to Chapel

1726 - Contract for a Vestry House, 16 X 12 feet overjettied, with inside chimneys, 8 foot (roof) pitch, to put floor in Church, engaged George Beall for the work.

1727 - Bingle Page to build 14 pews and a place for clerk to sit.

August, 1728 - Voted 49-26 that Rock Creek would be the Parish Church, but the minority of 26 began subscription for Church in "the upper part of the parish."

1731 - Sent to London for: 5 Casements (windows) 30 X 17 inches long and 5 lights (panes) the same; 10 lights 21 X 17; 2 lights 23 X 11; and surplice.

1733 - Building a pailling (fence) around church with gate.

1733/34 - Contract with Bingle Page and Benjamin Perry to build a gallery with seats, and for 8 "good and substantial new blocks of locust or chestnut to the church" (Path stepping blocks.)

1734 - Sent to London for 6 sash windows 7 X 3 feet long with lines and pulleys...one single light (pane) 3 feet by 18 inches.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued)  
Rockville Cemetery: Appendix A - Chronology of Building Program

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Rock Creek Church (Georgetown)  
Later St. Paul's

1735 - Sent to London for 5 lights of diamond cut glass 5 feet long to be divided in the middle, one half in a casement and the other half fixt.

1737 - Mr. John Chew promised to buy glass for left hand of the Church- will be 76 panes @ 1 shilling 6 pence per.

1744 - Acts of Assembly, Chapter 2 (1744) Former Church to be the Parish Church.

1744 - Completion of 3 years of repairs to church, fence and pews.

1750 - Payment to Church Sexton, Richard Peck for 3.

Rock Creek Chapel (Rockville)  
Later Christ Church

1738 - Thomas Williams donates 2 acres of "Mill Land" for the building of a chapel.

1739 - Rev. Murdoch paid for recording deed for 2 acres of ground to build a chapel.

1741 - Sent to London for Bible and Common Prayer Book for Chapel.

1743 - Assessment of tobacco per poll toward building a new church

1744 - Acts of Assembly, Chapter 2 (1744). Chapel already built to be made a Chapel of Ease, Prince George's Parish.

1748 - Rock Creek Chapel to have services every other Sunday in place of Paint Branch Chapel.

1750 - Payment to Chapel Sexton, Susan Beatty for 2.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued)  
Rockville Cemetery: Appendix A - Chronology of Building Program

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Rock Creek Church (Georgetown)  
Later St. Paul's

Rock Creek Chapel (Rockville)  
Later Christ Church

1750 - John Clagett to build a gallery and a reading desk with room for a clerk and a pulpit.

1751 - Thomas Nicholls to rail in (fence) the Chapel Yard. "Chappell Yard to be 100 by 96 feet with 2 gates 4 feet wide as it is at the Church."

Also to make rail around communion table; chancel to be 5 feet wide and 6-1/2 feet long and lower to be railed 10 inches.

1751 - Charles Haymond to "grubb the Chapel Yard and clear the trees all out of same, to fell all trees for 15 feet distant all around the laid railes."

1754 - Simon Nicholls to repair and amend Chapel "To make an amendment of 20 foot square to backside of Chappell; to be weatherboarded and planked as laid in said Chappell, whole of Chappell and Amendment to be shingled with good white oak or cypress singles"

Amendment would have windows and shutters, pulpit and desh and one door to backside

"One 8 foot square porch to be put on the front, the whole to be underpind with stone."

1754 - Simon Nicholls paid 8,460 lbs of tobacco.

1755 - Nicholls to raise Chapel 9 inches higher and put up 2 horse blocks.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued)  
Rockville Cemetery: Appendix A - Chronology of Building Program

---

Rock Creek Church (Georgetown)  
Later St. Paul's

Rock Creek Chapel (Rockville)  
Later Christ Church

June, 1761 - Agreement with Nicholas Haymond for work: "5 windows of 18 lights in each, and 1 window above in gallery with 8 lights.

Chapel Yard to be posted with posts 4 feet long, two feet in the ground, 2 feet behind the old post with 3 pins in each post...Three gates to yard to be made good and railles set to rights, if new ones be wanting to be put in place of those that are rotten."

1764 - Robert Owen to build a vestry room "20 X 20 feet, 7 foot 6 inch pitch; planked above and below, planed lop shingles..mantlepiece, back and hearth of stone."

1767 - Another 20 foot square addition to the front of the Chapel.

1768 - Rock Creek Church is much deteriorated, pulled down.

1769-1770 - Gallery built in east end and new pews (26) and several private seats to be built.

1771 - Bills in Assembly to petition for new brick and stone church on site of present one.

(No Vestry Minutes/Records 1773-1790)

1774 - Advertisement for contract for new church to be built four miles from Georgetown, between Monocacy and Seneca Church to be 50 feet square, walls of brick 22-1/2 inches thick on first floor, 18 on second, stone foundations, cypress shingle. (Location of this Church is not determined.)

Statement of Significance/ History (continued)  
Rockville Cemetery: Appendix A - Chronology of Building Program

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Rock Creek Church (Georgetown)  
Later St. Paul's

Rock Creek Chapel (Rockville)  
Later Christ Church

1794 - Chapel in ruinous condition,  
funds to build new one not available.

1802-1808 - Construction of 2-story,  
brick church, Christ Episcopal Church.

1817 - Church unsuitable for worship  
due to inconvenient arrangement and  
poor workmanship.

1820 - Subscription for new church to  
be built on South Washington Street in  
Rockville.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued)  
Rockville Cemetery: Montgomery County Sentinel May 30, 1873

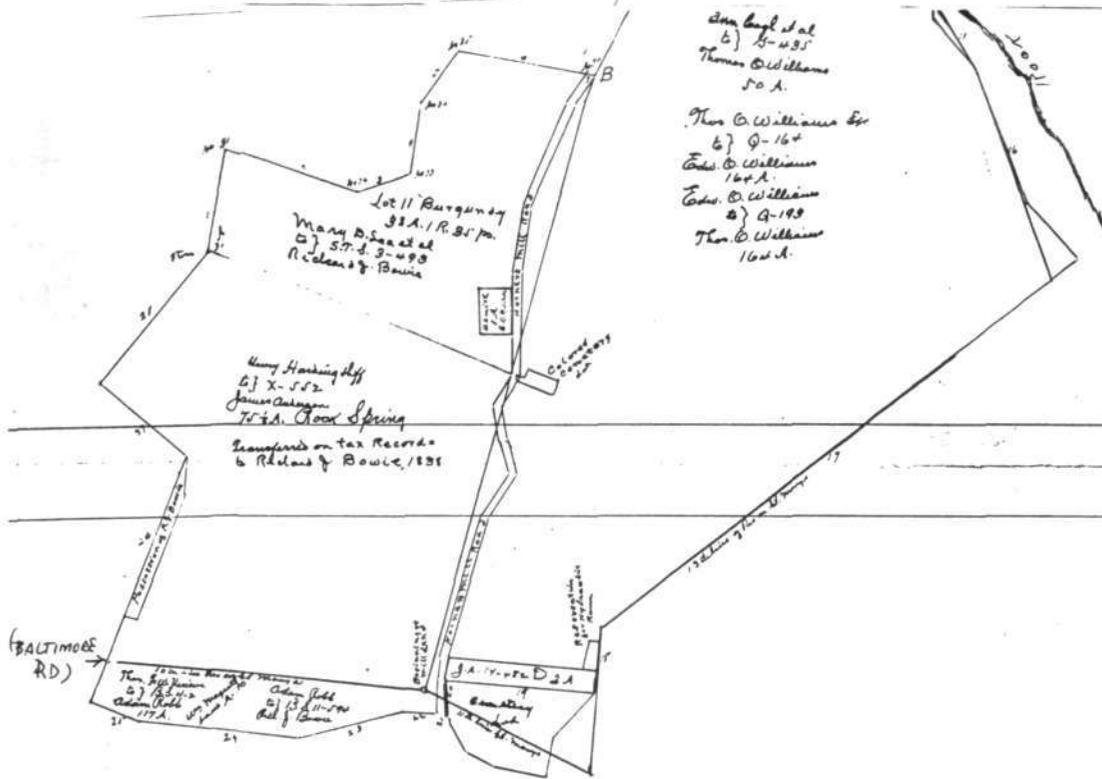
THE OLD GRAVEYARD.—About a mile from Rockville, on the farm of Judge Bowte, is an old graveyard, located there by the ancestors of a generation that has passed away. It lies near the Baltimore road, and, at present, is not an inviting spot, though one could there spend profitably an hour or two among the tombs, over which the storms of more than a century have spent their force, the sleepers beneath unconscious of their fury. We wandered over this enclosure, an evening of two ago, in company with the estimable lady of our esteemed Judge, who pointed out to us the various places of interest. An old, gray sandstone, surrounded by undergrowth, lay flat on the ground, and over the remains of one who had been laid in that lonely spot more than a century ago. Time had made its impress upon the stone, as it does upon all things else, but the inscription was slightly legible, and was, "Henry Harding, died March, 1772." Was any one here who did not make out. What mighty events have transpired since that time, when Maryland was a province of the British Crown; George III. was on the throne of England, but none now lying were his subjects, and the Revolution had not taken place. But we must not pursue this train of thought. — Yet, here, where —

"The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep,"

Are others who have been deposited there, of more recent date. Several of the graves are enclosed—some have tombstones that affection has placed there, while other graves are nameless and unknown. It was a burying-ground common to all, but is now not much used owing to the opening of others in the past few years, and it may afford a melancholy pleasure to those who have kindred and friends buried there, to learn, that a movement is now being made to open again, and beautify and adorn the old graveyard—lay out walks and improve the spot in every particular. In response to an invitation to effect this end, of members of Christ Church, Rockville, Rev. James B. Axtell, will preach a sermon in the Episcopal Church, Rockville, Sunday evening, June 1st, at 8 o'clock, "On the Duties to the Dead imposed by Religion." Text: Genesis, 50th., 23 to 26. vs. Joseph's command concerning his own bones.

No more fitting place for a cemetery could be found, and our people owe it to themselves to beautify and adorn this spot, and consecrate it as a burial ground for them and theirs when they shall be called to sleep with their fathers.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued)  
Rockville Cemetery: Plat 21d "Rock Spring, Burgundy, Mill Land", 1889  
Collection Montgomery County Historical Society



Scale 80 p. to one inch.

Plan of parts of Rock Spring, Burgundy and Mill Land. Copied from plat made by George W. Anderson County Surveyor June 1889.

- A shows the present beginning
- B shows the beginning of the farm Mary D. Seel et al
- C shows the beginning of mill land from Meredith H. Cookman as the beginning of Rock Spring purchased from Dr. James Anderson
- D shows the lot conveyed by Catherine L. Bowie to Boardwalk Cemetery Association Aug. 1st, 1890 on a 2 acre of land. Robert R. Bowie

ROCK SPRING  
BURGUNDY  
MILL LAND

PLAT 21d

COLLECTION MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

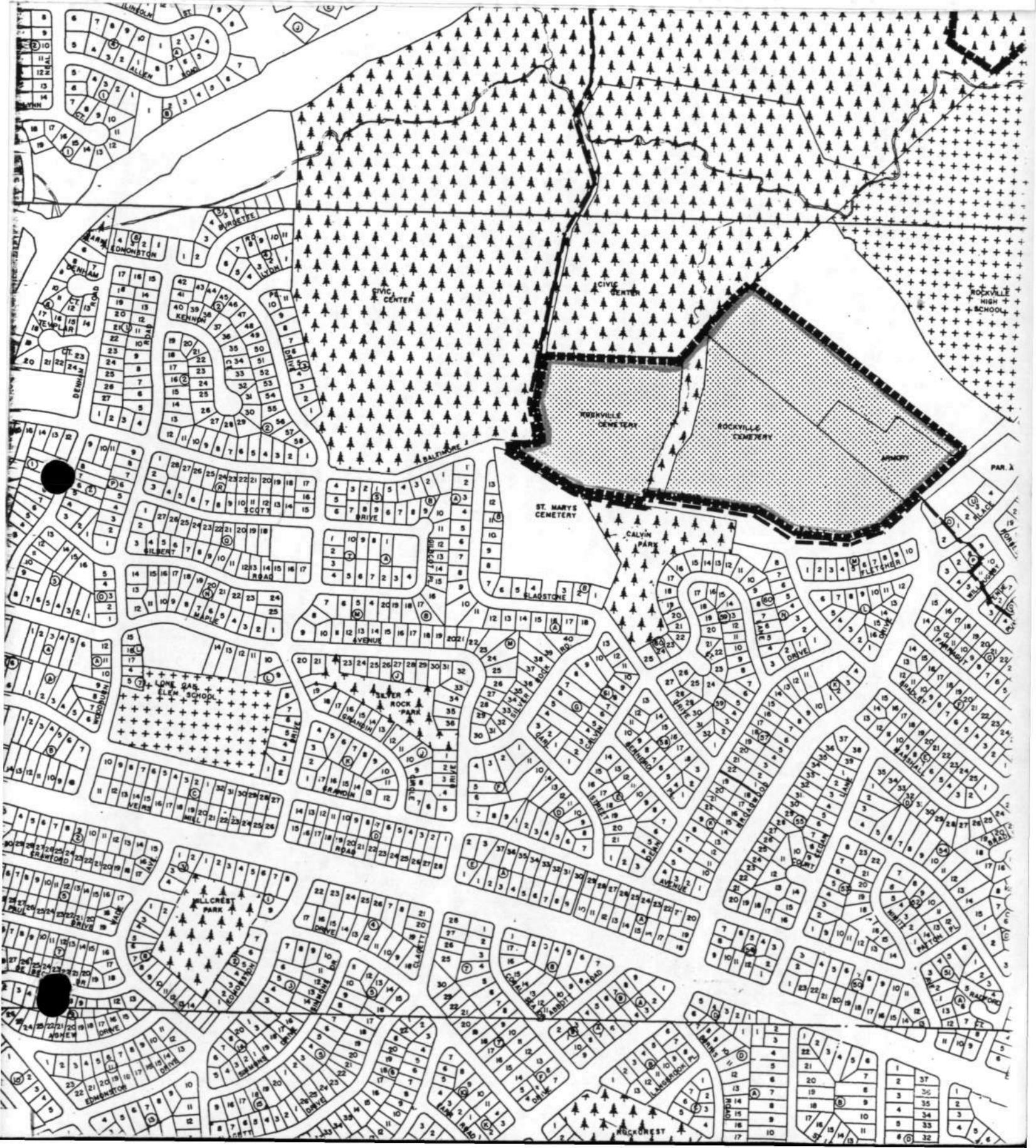
1982

# City of Rockville scale: 1" = 600'

M:26/18/1

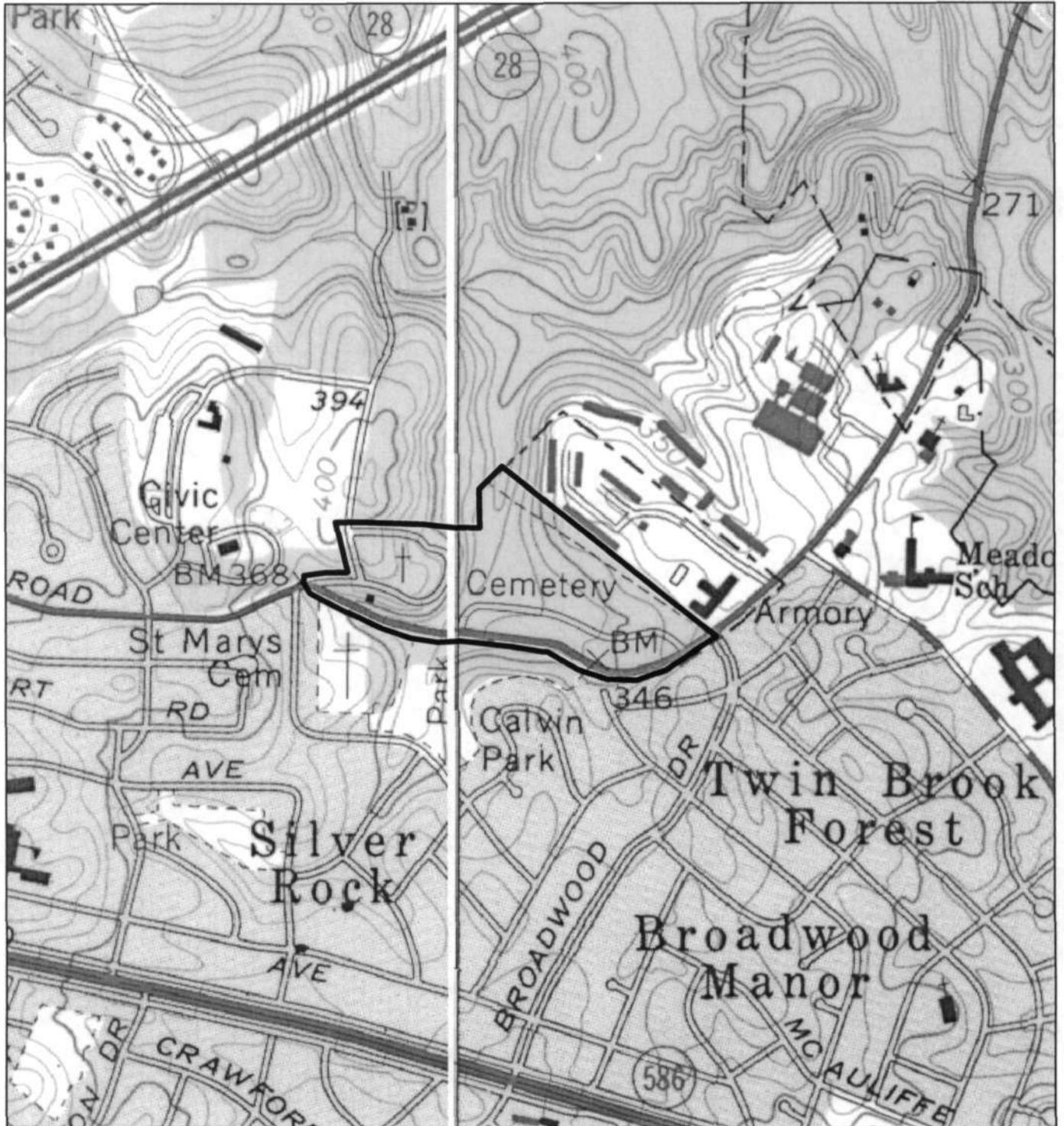
18  Rockville Cemetery

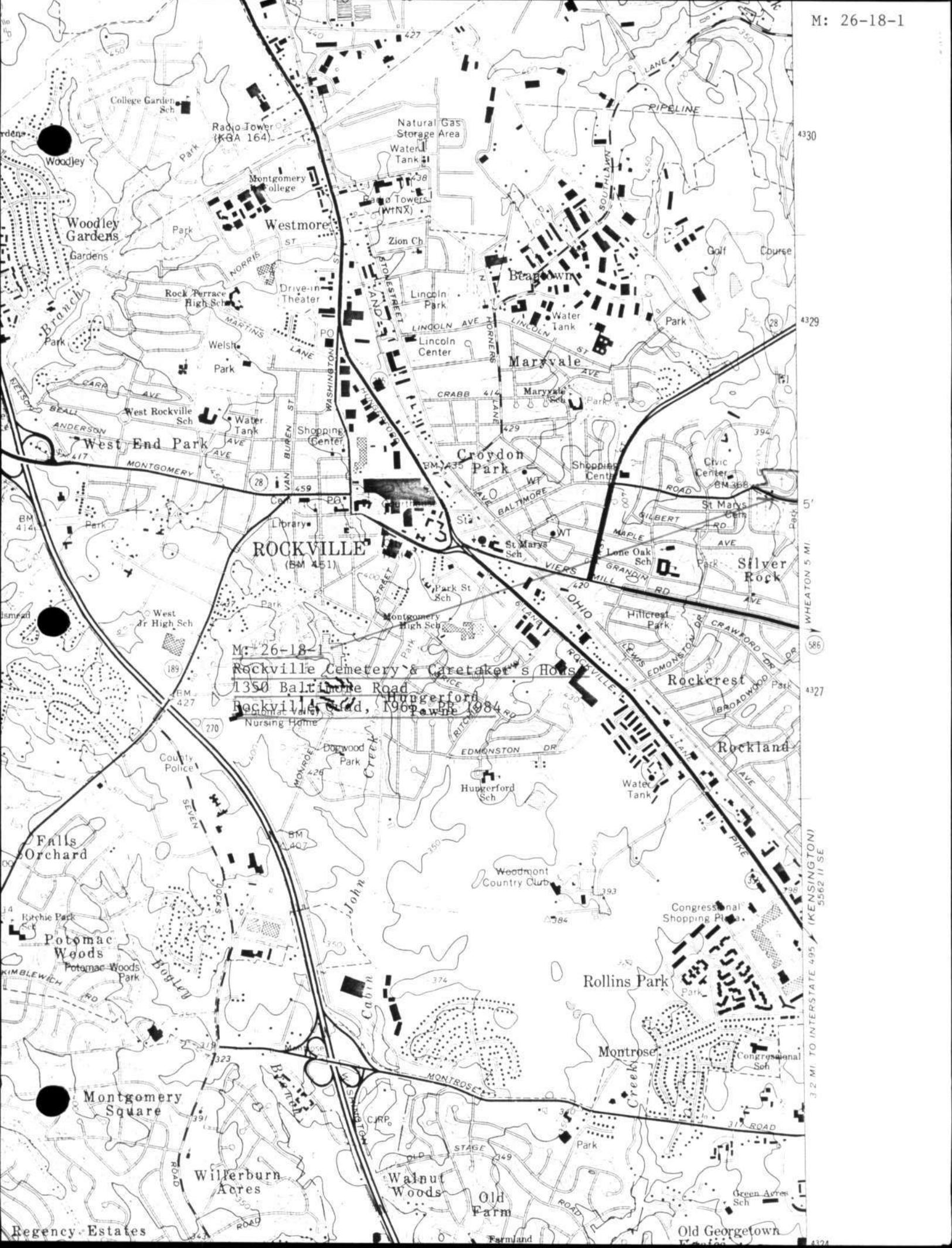
Baltimore Road



M: 26-18-1  
Rockville Cemetery and Caretaker's House  
1350 Baltimore Road  
Twinbrook  
Rockville and Kesington Quads

Rockville      Kensington





M: 26-18-1  
 Rockville Cemetery & Caretaker's Home  
 1350 Baltimore Road  
 Rockville, Md., 1969-1984

4330  
 4329  
 394  
 51  
 4327  
 4327  
 586  
 3.2 MI. TO INTERSTATE 495 (KENSINGTON)  
 5662 11 SE

ROCKVILLE  
 (BM 451)

Silver Rock

Rockerest

Rockland

Rollins Park

Montrose

Montgomery Square

Willerburn Acres

Walnut Woods

Old Farm

Old Georgetown

Regency Estates

College Garden Sch  
 Radio Tower (KGA 164)

Natural Gas Storage Area  
 Water Tank

Montgomery College

Zion Ch

Beagtown

Maryvale

Croydon Park

St Marys Sch

St Marys Sch

Montgomery High Sch

West Jr High Sch

County Police

Hungerford Sch

Water Tank

Congressional Shopping Pl

Congressional Sch

Green Acres Sch

Rock Terrace High Sch

West Rockville Sch

West End Park

Library

Shopping Center

Shopping Center

Civic Center

St Marys Sch

Hillcrest Park

Broadwood Park

Woodmont Country Club

John Creek

Montrose Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

Woodley

Woodley Gardens

Woodley Gardens

West End Park

West Jr High Sch

Falls Orchard

Potomac Woods

Montgomery Square

Regency Estates

Westmore

Drive-in Theater

Welsch Park

Water Tank

Com

Library

West Jr High Sch

County Police

Woodmont Country Club

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

Lincoln Park

Lincoln Center

Crabb Lane

St Marys Sch

St Marys Sch

Montgomery High Sch

County Police

Woodmont Country Club

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

Beagtown

Maryvale

Maryvale Sch

St Marys Sch

St Marys Sch

Montgomery High Sch

County Police

Woodmont Country Club

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

Beagtown

Maryvale

Maryvale Sch

St Marys Sch

St Marys Sch

Montgomery High Sch

County Police

Woodmont Country Club

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

Beagtown

Maryvale

Maryvale Sch

St Marys Sch

St Marys Sch

Montgomery High Sch

County Police

Woodmont Country Club

John Creek

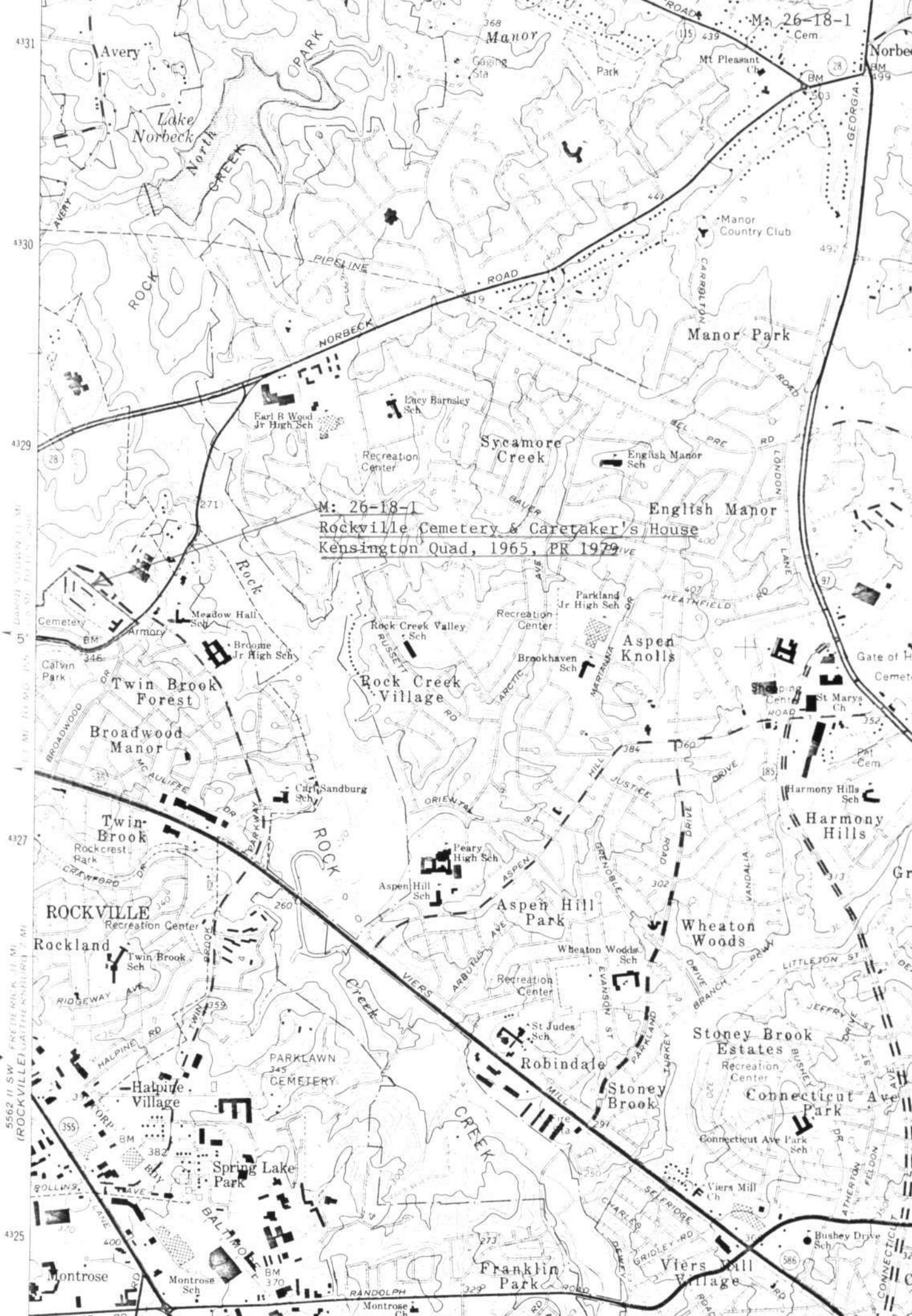
John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek

John Creek



M: 26-18-1  
Rockville Cemetery & Caretaker's House  
Kensington Quad, 1965, PR 1979

4321  
4330  
4329  
5  
4327  
4325

5662 II SW FREDERICK A. 31 MI  
(ROCKVILLE) GAITHERSBURG 7 MI

M: 26-18-1  
Cem

Norbeck  
BM 499

368  
Manor

Avery

Lake Norbeck

ROCK CREEK  
NORBECK

PIPELINE

ROAD

Manor Park

Earl B Wood Jr High Sch

Lucy Barnsley Sch

Sycamore Creek

English Manor Sch

M: 26-18-1

English Manor

Cemetery

Meadow Hall Sch

Broome Jr High Sch

Rock Creek Valley Sch

Parkland Jr High Sch

Aspen Knolls

Twin Brook Forest

Rock Creek Village

Broadwood Manor

Carl Sandburg Sch

Aspen Hill Sch

Aspen Hill Park

Wheaton Woods

ROCKVILLE

Rockland

Twin Brook Sch

Parklawn Cemetery

St. Judes Sch

Robindale

Stoney Brook

Stoney Brook Estates

Connecticut Ave Park

Halpize Village

Spring Lake Park

Franklin Park

Viers Mill Village

Montrose

Montrose Sch

Montrose Ch

Bushey Drive Sch



RICHARD H. ANDREWS  
424-8282  
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.  
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

12863307

M:26/18/1  
Rockville Cemetery  
Baltimore&Avery Road  
Rockville, Md. 20851  
Dean Evangelista  
date:6/1987 elevation: NW

NW elevation



RICHARD H. ANDREWS  
401-8252

M:26/18/1  
Rockville Cemetery  
Baltimore&Avery Road  
Rockville, Md. 20851  
Richard Andrews  
date: 6/1987 elevation:NW

12863412

*Elevation*



RICHARD H. ANDREWS  
424-8282  
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.  
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

M:26/18/1

Rockville Cemetery  
Baltimore&Avery Road  
Rockville, Md. 20851  
Richard Andrews  
date:6/1987 elevation:NW

*Elevation*

12863416