



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

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID:

HP-216

Name:

Riggs Family Cemetery

Description:

Small 19th-century family cemetery.

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

12

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

1839

Latest Year:

1891

Is the Site Extant?:

Moved

Is the Location Sensitive?:

Sensitive Contact:

Sensitive Reason:

Location Confidence:

Known

Location Confirmed:

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

2006 Survey Summary:

https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/MCCI_Summaries_2004/MCCI_Summary_ID_216.pdf

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/Cemeteries/216_Riggs_Family_Laytonsville/216_Riggs_Family_Laytonsville_2018/216_Riggs_Family_Laytonsville_2018_Survey.pdf

FindaGrave.com:

Maryland Tombstone Transcription Project:

Other Website:

Master Plan Historic Resource No.:

Historic Resource:

Confirmed by Planning Board:

Confirmation Date:

Site Survey Date:

Revision Date:

Yes

05/16/2019

04/22/2018

Site Surveyor Name:

Jeff Miller

Data Originator:

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

Notes:

Some graves moved to St. John's Episcopal Church cemetery in 1921. Archaeological work in 1981 found 12 graves 8 of which still included partial human remains, including partially exhumed graves of children and adults.

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:

10/15/2018

Point

Horizontal Accuracy:

GIS Data Source:

MCCIR 2018

Additional Information:

Archaeological investigations were carried out by James Sorensen and June Evans in 1981 prior to the land being used as a sanitary landfill.

Sorensen, James D. and June Evans (1981) Oaks II: An Archeological Investigation of a 200-Year-Old Rural Farmstead in Piedmont Montgomery County, Maryland. (Potomac River Archeology Survey, American University) MHT # MO 44.

Historical research in this report indicates that the graves of the following individuals were moved:

Samuel Riggs, 1813-1882
Milcah W. Riggs, 1812-1874
Mary E. Wood, 1854-1891
Mary W. Riggs, 1788-1864
Hezekiah T. Riggs, 1817-1851
Margaret V. Riggs, 1847-1878
Louisa G. Riggs, 1852-1863
Gilbert T. Riggs, 1838-1839
S. Tilden Riggs
Milcah Myers, June 1865-August 1866
Wm. H. Riggs, 1863-1865
Willie Wood, 1875-1878

The authors indicate the following children could also have been buried on site:

Daughter, June-September 1878 (un-named?): Daughter of Margaret Riggs
Everline Riggs, daughter of Reuben Riggs, August 1815-October 1816.
William Henry Riggs, son of Samuel and Milcah Riggs, 1836-?

The excavations identified 12 graves, one of which may have originally included two bodies. Eight of the graves still had human remains, mostly from the lower bodies. Most of the upper bodies had been removed during grave relocation in 1921.

The authors also investigated whether the graves of enslaved persons might also have been in the vicinity, but state in the report that they did not find any. They conclude that the graves found were associated with the Riggs family. However, a March 1983 article in the Montgomery County Sentinel reports that remains recovered from the Riggs Farm in 1981 assumed to be those of people the Riggs family had enslaved were reburied at the Poor Farm cemetery. This is later repeated in: "The Archaeological Research Design and Scope Of Work for The Poor Farm Cemetery, Montgomery County, Maryland" by Deborah Vrabel, National Park Service 1986.

Images:

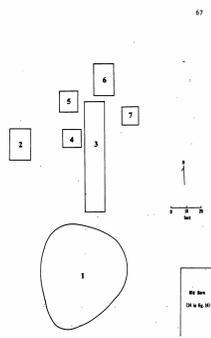


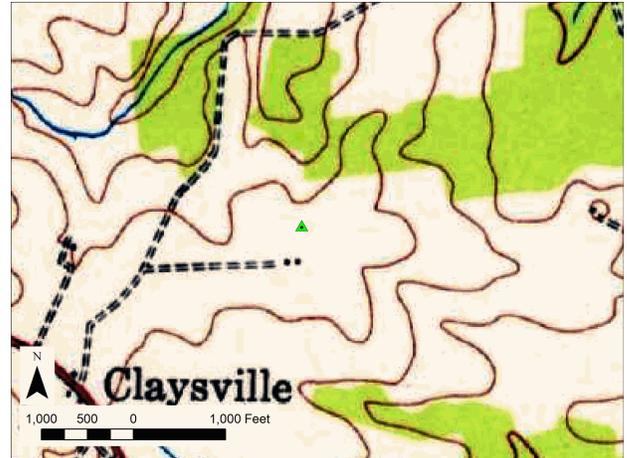
Figure 27: Graveyard and Adjacent Trench Excavations

HP-216-01

Map of 1981 archaeological investigations.
Trench 3 contained grave features.

Date

Photographer



HP-216-02

Location of graves on 1944 USGS
Topographic map

Date

Photographer



HP-216-03

Green triangle indicates area where
archaeologists found graves in 1981 shown
on 1979 Aerial photograph.

Date

Photographer

MARKER ID

GIVEN NAME

FAMILY NAME

DEATH YEAR