



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

Montgomery County Burial Sites Inventory

Historic Preservation ID:

HP-225

Name:

Darnestown Baptist Church Cemetery

Description:

Darnestown Baptist Church Cemetery (Pleasant Hills Cemetery).

Community:

Religious:

Family:

African American:

Other Site Type:

Number of Burials:

115

Visible Markers:

Formal Entrance:

Cemetery Sign:

Active:

Earliest Year:

1843

Latest Year:

1948

Is the Site Extant?:

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_225.pdf

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.:

https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/Cemeteries/225_Darnestown_B_Pleasant-Hills_ME_Darnestown/225_Darnestown_B_Pleasant-Hills_ME_Darnestown_2018/225_Darnestown_B_Pleasant-Hills_ME_Darnestown_2018_Survey.pdf

FindaGrave.com:

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2213820>

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

09/14/2018

Site Surveyor Name:

Ingrid Fraley, Ryan Pike

Data Originator:

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

Notes:

A Methodist church and graveyard were on this site until 1844. In 1846, it became the Darnestown Baptist Church - organized by Rev. S. R. White - and remained in operation until 1873. The property was purchased in 1951 by Mr. Kelley, a farmer. He buried the tombstones at the head of each grave in 1951 after receiving signed releases from relatives of the deceased.

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:

The following is excerpted from the contents of an email from Toby Mattingly, January 12, 2018 included in the Montgomery Preservation, Inc. volunteer prepared inventory form:

When we purchased our lot to build a house at 15408 Spring Meadows Drive, in 1989, we were told there was an old cemetery on the corner lot, adjacent to Route 28. On our original plat, there is no information about the cemetery, but, when we purchased the corner lot from Teddy Miller, in 2002, it is shown. The cemetery was in use prior to 1951, per info provided by Tom Kelley, former landowner.

The driveway entrance to the church, which was a Methodist Church originally but was later used by the Baptists, was once visible off Darnestown Road (Route 28.) The ruts are still faintly there. It was a log structure. Miller originally had the driveway entrance to this corner lot, almost at the end of the lot, off Route 28. The County wasn't happy with that, as they had plans to widen Route 28 to include a passing lane and left turn lane, at Route 118. The County had no qualms about acquiring a right of way and putting in their road knowing there was a cemetery adjacent to the road. I'm not so sure some graves might have been compromised at that time, especially at the end closest to Route 118, where the road is the widest.

Unless one has penetrating ground radar, I don't think we'll ever know exactly where the graves are located. Teddy Miller gave us a different plat, showing about 20-30 x marks, all neatly arranged in the upper quadrant of the lot. Did the Baptists have a separate cemetery from the Methodists, or did they just co-mingle the graves? I can't find that other plat, but I will keep looking. It was obviously done to satisfy the County, and to get permission to develop the lot. The original plat for the lot just shows a small area with a cross and it's marked "Cemetery".

I have a copy of the History of Western Maryland, which includes Frederick, Montgomery, Carroll, Washington, Allegany and Garrett Counties. (Misspelling is on the title) Volume I, written by J. Thomas Scharf, and originally published in 1882. The article about the church says it was built over a half century ago, and that was in 1882. That would date it about 1832, well before the Civil War. It lists the names of persons buried there. This info comes from Montgomery County Historical Society. In pencil, it's noted that the lady who provided the historical information to us was Terri Sackett. Her phone [redacted]. This was included in the final information when the county sent the stamped plat, tax assessments, etc. to us.

We also have a copy of the original list of grave sites, prepared by J. Thomas Kelley, III, which was again, part of Historical Society records. It lists 115 or more people as being interred in the church cemetery, which would obviously be more people than what Teddy Miller showed on his plat of the land.

When I asked the older/now retired Miller employees where the markers were for these graves, I was told that old farmer Kelley—that would have been Thomas Kelley, Sr.—wanted to farm all the land, so he took down the grave markers, and buried them in a hole on the property. He supposedly used the marble ones as door sills/steps, at his big farm house. I never checked out the farm house, although we frequently bought corn from Mr. Kelley prior to building our home here in 1990. The original entrance to the Kelley farm, was off Route 28, as Kelley Farm Drive didn't exist. Also, the older carpenters and workers from Miller Co. showed me where they had filled in the old well on the lot. It is an area where today an old pine and a wild cherry tree grow together, surrounded by a huge ground hog hole.

There are chunks of marble scattered among the trees growing along the edge of the lot. I'm not sure they were originally where they are now. They could have been tossed into the woods if they were broken when the markers were being removed by Mr. Kelley. There is an aloe plant and a

crabapple tree, obviously not native to the site. They too could have been tossed into the woods if someone was clearing the land for farming.

Images:



HP-225_01

Approach to cemetery from Spring Meadow Drive, facing north

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike



HP-225_02

Center of cemetery, facing north

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike



HP-225_03

Center of cemetery, facing west

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike



HP-225_04

Center of cemetery, facing south

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike



HP-225_05

Center of cemetery, facing east (Darnestown Road/Rt. 28)

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike



HP-225_06

Panoramic from west to north to east

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike



HP-225_07

Panoramic from east to south to west

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike



HP-225_08

View along Spring Meadow Drive toward Darnestown Road/Rt. 28

Date 09/14/2018
Photographer Ryan J. Pike

MARKER ID

GIVEN NAME

FAMILY NAME

DEATH YEAR