

Property Address <u>13630 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring vicinity, Montgomery County</u>
Owner Name/Address <u>Chesapeake Wildlife Sanctuary Incorporated / 17308 Queen Anne Bridge Road,</u> <u>Bowie, Maryland 20716</u>
Year Built <u>circa 1920 (cemetery), 1933 (house)</u>

**Description:**

The Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery was previously surveyed by Lois Snyderman/Susan Escherich, Historic Preservation Consultants in 1991. The property is included on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation. There have been no alterations made to the buildings since the previous survey. Though the cemetery was established in 1921, the earliest headstone on the property is dated 1918. The property was purchased by the Chesapeake Wildlife Sanctuary Inc. in 1996. The new owners continue to operate the property as both a sanctuary for animals and a cemetery. Future plans for the property include the restoration of the main house, and construction of chapel and educational buildings in a style similar to the main house.

**National Register Evaluation:**


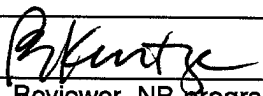
The Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The property is described by the Historic Preservation Commission of Montgomery County as, "a unique facility in the region that has cultural interest." The commission describes the evolution of the property from farm to breed and boarding kennel to pet cemetery as reflective of the change in character of the county from agricultural use to suburban community. The property received national attention in the early and mid-twentieth century as one of the oldest boarding kennels in the Washington region, the only authorized animal hospital south of New York and the largest pet cemetery in the nation. The renowned cemetery became resting place of several celebrated dogs, including "Jiggs" from the "Our Gang" movies, "Rags" the mascot of a World War I division and seven of J. Edgar Hoover's dogs. Therefore, the property is eligible under Criterion A, as an example of the cultural heritage of Montgomery County. The property is also eligible under Criterion C, as the main house on the property is a good example of Tudor Revival-style architecture from the 1930s. The house, which possesses such character-defining features as asymmetrical massing, gabled entryway, banded casement windows, dominant chimney and masonry construction, retains a high degree of integrity. The house embodies a type, period and method of construction.

Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

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Year Built <u>circa 1920 (cemetery), 1933 (house)</u>

**Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:**

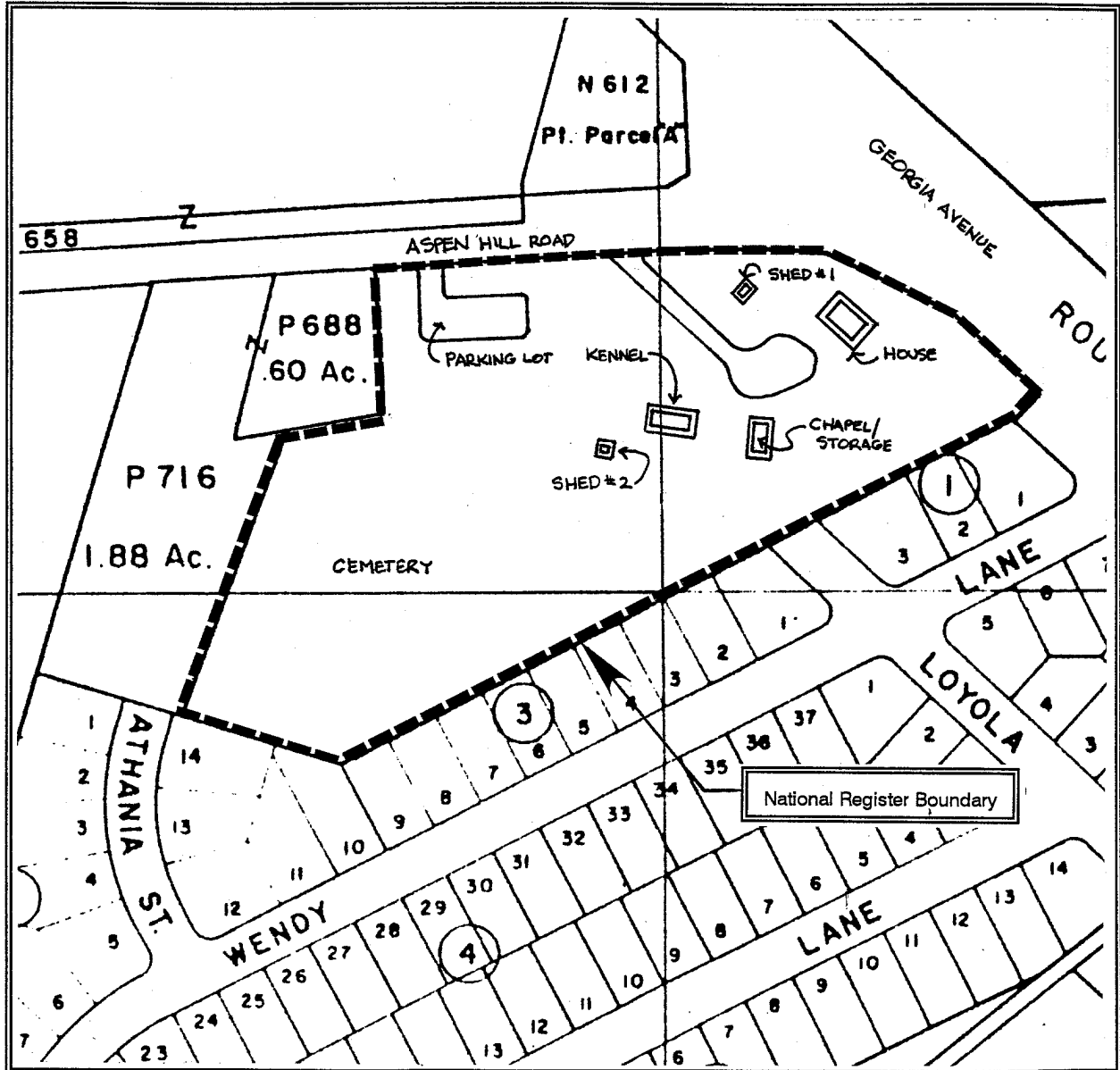
The National Register boundaries of the Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery follow the current property lines of its tax parcel (Tax Map HR 342 / Parcel P719). This 3.15 hectare (7.79 acre) parcel is bounded on the north by Aspen Hill Road, the east by Georgia Avenue, and the south and west by adjacent parcels. A church is located to the west and circa 1970 residential properties are located to the south. The boundary includes the main house, sheds, chapel, kennel and cemetery. According to research, the property was originally a 4 hectare (10 acre) parcel which was subdivided from a 36.4 hectare (90 acre) tract by H. M. Martin in 1916. In 1920, the same land was sold to Richard C. and Bertha T. Birney, who built the kennels and founded the cemetery.

<b>MHT CONCURRENCE:</b>	
Eligibility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recommended	<input type="checkbox"/> not recommended
Criteria <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
_____	
	
<u>9/27/99</u>	<u>9/1/99</u>
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Reviewer, NR program
Date	Date



Property Address 13630 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring vicinity, Montgomery County  
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Bowie, Maryland  
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Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



Capsule Summary  
for  
Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery

June 1991

Mont. Co. survey prefix :  
Site number : M:27-17  
Approx. building date : 1921  
Town/town vicinity : Silver Spring  
Access :  Public  Private

Short Description of Site:

This unique facility contains elaborate gravestones and cenotaphs with statuary of animals, cherubs and the madonna. The main house is an excellent example of Tudor Revival from the thirties, and there is a kennel from the same period.

Analysis of Evaluation  
for  
Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery

M:27-17

June 1991

Value Descr.			
Outstanding			
Considerable	✓	✓	✓
Moderate			
Minor			
Evaluation Criteria	Arch. Signif.	Arch. Integrity	Historical Signif.

Procedure:	
Rating =	$\frac{\# \text{ of Boxes Selected}}{12} \times 100$
0 - 25 % =	Unqualified
25 - 50 % =	Minimal
50 - 75 % =	Mid-level
75 - 100% =	Good
90 - 100% =	Natl. Reg. (with possible exceptions)

**Rating for this site: Good**

Criteria:

Arch. Significance - that quality which embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose component may lack individual distinction.

Historical Significance - that quality present in sites associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history.

Arch. Integrity - determined by the number of architectural changes to the site...using the following list as a guide...(and) noting other unusual changes.

Detrimental Changes (depending on the quality of its original character):

- new or relocated chimney
- rebuilt foundation
- new porch
- original windows changed (at a later, but still historical, date)
- modern windows in original frames
- original windows intact but extra ones added
- change in shape or size of window openings
- lack of outbuildings
- aluminum siding (unless original architraves and trim are retained)
- asphalt or asbestos siding (over original siding)
- recent change of location

Critical Changes:

- aluminum siding added; architraves eliminated
- additions engulfing or removing portions of original building

Value Descriptions

Outstanding - distinguished; of particular import. to Md. historic & arch. past.

Considerable - deserving of recognition; contributes to the understanding of history or architectural heritage represented in Maryland

Moderate - commonality...lack of historic signif. or arch. style, except if scarce

Minor - unimportant or inferior; little arch. worth and absence of hist. importance

Site Information Summary

for

Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery

June 1991

Site number : M: 27-17  
Co. tax account number : 951987  
Street address : 13630 Georgia Avenue  
Name of property owner : People for the Ethical Treatment of  
Animals (PETA)  
Addr. of property owner : 13630 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20906

Historic Preservation Master Plan Recommendation:

Historic Preservation Ordinance Criteria

(1) *Historical and cultural significance.* The historic resource:

- a. Has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the county, state or nation;
- b. Is the site of a significant historic event;
- c. Is identified with a person or group of persons who influenced society;
- d. Exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political or historic heritage of the county and its communities.

(2) *Architectural and design significance.* The historic resource:

- a. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; (house)
- b. Represents the work of a master;
- c. Possesses high artistic values;
- d. Represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- e. Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.

Environmental Setting Recommendation:

The environmental setting should include the entire parcel (P719) of 7.79 acres.

M#27/17 Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery, 13630 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring

The Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery was founded in 1921 by Richard and Bertha Birney. In addition to the cemetery use, the Birneys utilized the property as a breeding and boarding kennel, and gained high regard in the field. The site had national recognition, as reflected by a contemporary article that noted it as being one of the oldest boarding kennels in the Washington area and the only authorized animal hospital south of New York.

The cemetery site has a number of interesting funereal monuments, including elaborate animal sculptures, and mature landscaping. In addition, the structures on the property - a house, a kennel, and a chapel - have some architectural interest as early 20th century structures.

Notable pets buried in the cemetery include seven dogs that belonged to J. Edgar Hoover, Jiggs from the Our Gang movie series, and Rags - the mascot of the First Division in World War I. Lyndon Johnson's dogs were cremated at the center before being sent to Texas for burial.

Staff agrees that the Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery is a unique facility in the region and that it has cultural interest. Therefore, staff is recommending it for historic designation for the following reasons:

1. It does reflect the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the County and even of the nation (Historic Preservation Ordinance criteria 24A-3(b)1A). Pet cemeteries are not a broad cultural trend, but they do have a long and unique history both in the United States and abroad. From ancient times to the present, humans have found a need to relate to animals and these cemeteries are a reflection of the depth of some human/animal relationships. It is estimated that there are more than 500 pet cemeteries in the United States, and the Aspin Hill Cemetery is a relatively early example. It is staff's feeling that pet cemeteries do speak to certain aspects of 20th century culture and, in this light, the Aspin Hill Cemetery is worthy of recognition as a reflection of this cultural trend.
2. The resource exemplifies the cultural, economic, social political or historic heritage of the county and its communities (Historic Preservation Ordinance criteria 24A-3(b)1D). The Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery moved from its original use as a farm to a breeding/boarding kennel to a pet cemetery. This progression of changes - all related to the care of animals - also reflects the changing character of Montgomery County from a rural, agricultural area to a more suburban community with different needs and concerns.
3. The cemetery is an established and familiar visual feature of the Aspen Hill community (Historic Preservation Ordinance criteria 24A-3(b)2E). The significance of this property to the community is reflected in the efforts made to save the cemetery from development during the 1980s.

Staff would also note that the Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery is protected by a set of stringent covenants that specify that the property will be used as a pet cemetery and as an educational and animal care facility in perpetuity. Therefore, there are - in all likelihood - going to be few threats to the resource in the future. Historic designation would only serve to highlight this unique County resource and educate the public in terms of its history/purpose.

The environmental setting for the resource would be the entire property which consists of approximately eight acres.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery

and/or common Same

## 2. Location

street & number 13630 Georgia Avenue  not for publicationcity, town Silver Spring  vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery

## 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 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 type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Pet Cemetery

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

name People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

street &amp; number 13630 Georgia Avenue telephone no.: (301) 871-6700

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code Maryland 20906

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 8280

street &amp; number folio 0178

city, town Rockville state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. M: 27-17

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Summary: This unique facility contains elaborate gravestones and cenotaphs with statuary of animals, cherubs and the madonna. The main house is an excellent example of Tudor Revival from the 1930s, and there is a kennel from the same period.

Description: The graveyard is laid out in sections with enameled signs, eg., "St. Francis Section". There are many mature trees and bushes. Some graves are decorated with fine examples of animal sculptures and many are decorated with votive lights, plastic flowers and plastic madonnas. There are large gravestones with the name of the family surrounded by small markers with the names of the pets interred there.

The main building, which is an excellent example of Tudor Revival architecture from the 1930s, is approached through a fenced area which contains animals being boarded by PETA as well as the kennel. The kennel building has low pitched roof with wide eaves. It is faced with oversized red bricks. The corners of the building and the windows are detailed with two header and two stretcher bricks arranged alternately in basket weave. There are eight windows with six horizontal lights under the eaves on the side of the building. The lower parts of larger windows appear to have been filled in with bricks. A shed roof supported by square columns protects the door entry under the gable end of the building. The roof has shaped rafters. The door is flanked by 4/1 windows. A wooden shed extension is built on the south side of the kennel.

Next to the kennel, between it and the main building, is the chapel, a one-story frame building with a door and two windows in the gable end. It has a shed-roofed porch with square posts on the north, which is enclosed with lattice, and a shed extension on the south side in the rear.

The main building, which faces Aspen Hill Road, is an excellent example of Tudor Revival architecture. It is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay house. A brick patio entrance has a curved buttress wall at the side, and a massive chimney with random stones set into it dominates the center of the facade. A steep gable covers the arched batten door which contains a diamond shaped window with small diamond panes. The door is surrounded with tabbed stones and surmounted with a small rectangular window with diamond lights. The windows are metal with a row of fixed lights around two central casements that open. The front windows have diamond pane casements. Heavy exposed rafters can be seen in the front rooms of the house.

Soldier courses mark the floor levels of the house. The windows in the English basement are hopper windows with three lights each. On the east side of the house is an oriel window with a copper roof. On the rear of the

(cont.)

house is an arcaded porch under the main roof which curves into a cat slide configuration. The arches have tabbed stones at the impostes and keystones. This porch may have been partially bricked in. There is a shed dormer with three casement windows on the rear elevation. The west side of the house has a metal coal chute with "VENTO" stamped on it.

Brick detailing under the eaves consists of a header course over a stretcher course, corbelled. Some of the original copper guttering remains in the rear of the house.

There are no roadways or formal paths through the cemetery.

Researcher: Susan Escherich, May 28, 1991.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. M: 27-17

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Pet Cemetery

Specific dates 1921 Builder/Architect ----

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.

The Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery site is significant because it was established in the early decades of the twentieth century and is representative of an earlier period in the county's development; it was one of the first such cemeteries in the nation and gained national prominence; and it is an important cultural resource. In addition, the buildings on the site are historically associated with its function as a kennel and pet cemetery; the residence is an excellent example of 1930s Tudor Revival architecture; and the kennel is unusual because of its age.

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Social/Educational/Cultural Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont (Montgomery County)
3. Development Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.
4. Resource Type(s): Cemetery

The Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery is located on part of a tract called the "Hermitage" granted to William Joseph, May 2, 1689, for 3866 acres.<sup>1</sup> In the early 1800's approximately 300 acres of the tract were owned by Dr. John Bowie. Upon Dr. Bowie's death (c.1825) his real estate was divided among the members of his family. The property remained in the Bowie family until 1914, when Donald MacAlpine Bowie conveyed approximately 90 acres to H. M. Martin.<sup>2</sup> Martin, in turn, conveyed 10 acres of the 90 acre parcel to Frank H. Jackson in 1916,<sup>3</sup> and, in 1920, the same ten acres were conveyed to Richard C. and Bertha T. Birney, who later founded the pet cemetery on the site. The property remained in the Birney family until 1946, when it was sold to  
(cont.)

<sup>1</sup> History of Montgomery County, Maryland, p.30.

<sup>2</sup> Montgomery County Land and Will Records: Division of the real estate of Dr. John Bowie, 1825-1826, Judgment Record, folio 218, Circuit Court; EBP 11/479, November 15, 1873; TD 27/63, September 10, 1903; 240/480, March 20, 1914.

<sup>3</sup> Montgomery County Land Records, 254/70, January 3, 1916.

Dr. Edgar Ruebush, a veterinarian and President of Aspin Hill Inc.<sup>4,5</sup> It was acquired in 1961 by S. Alfred Nash, a local embalmer, and, in May of 1988, approximately 8 acres were conveyed to the present owner, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), who renamed the cemetery the Aspin Hill Memorial Park.<sup>6</sup> A covenant on the property specifies that it will continue to be maintained and operated as a pet cemetery, and can be used as an educational and animal care facility.<sup>7</sup>

The Birneys used the property for both residential and commercial purposes, establishing a kennel to breed and board dogs on what was formerly a farm. It was named Aspin Hill Kennels, supposedly after a similar facility in England, and the cemetery was named after the kennel (not the surrounding area), hence the variation in the spelling of Aspin. The Birneys initially specialized in breeding Boston Terriers, eventually expanding to include "Scotties" and miniature Schnauzers.

The Birney's kennel was highly regarded in the field, and a number of their dogs won awards at dog shows in the 1930s. As a contemporary article noted, the kennel was

"Recognized as one of the oldest boarding kennels in Washington and vicinity and the only authorized animal hospital south of New York...established 18 years ago, these famous kennels attract nationwide attention for their prize-winning dogs."<sup>8</sup>

The pet cemetery itself came into being soon after the opening of the kennel, when the Birneys used the site to bury their own animals and those of their friends. Once news of the facility spread, they began to get requests for burial sites from people looking for a suitable place to inter a cherished pet.

The date given for the establishment of the pet cemetery is 1921. One report has it that the cemetery was modeled after "Le Cimetiere des Petits Chiens" (the Cemetery of the Little Dogs) established just outside Paris in the mid-eighteenth century by a Parisian nobleman.<sup>9</sup> Another claims that the Birneys were inspired by a visit to a pet cemetery in Hartsdale, New York, the first opened in the nation, in 1902.

An undated cemetery brochure (which evokes the cemetery's original rural setting by describing it as "situated...midst the beautiful rolling hills of Montgomery County, Maryland") notes that:

"Aspin Hill Cemetery for pet animals was opened to the public in 1921 in response to an urgent and insistent demand for a fitting

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, 294/492, July 14, 1920.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, 1033/159 January 9, 1946.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, 8280/178, April 25, 1988.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, 8280/185, April 25, 1988.

<sup>8</sup> Montgomery Independent, "Aspin Hill Dogs Are Noted Champs", 1938 (Files, Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery).

The Washington Post, July 24, 1986, "Pet Cemetery's Rezoning Opposed", Maryland 5.

place of this kind near the Nation's Capital, where the owners of faithful pets could feel assured of a permanent well-kept resting place for their real friends.

The Cemetery is the fulfillment of a need that pet owners and lovers of animals have felt for many years. It is the only accredited cemetery of its kind in the south and is rapidly becoming nationally known; visitors from many distant states inspect it annually. Authorities on the subject now credit it as one of the most attractive in the United States, and because of its proximity to Washington, the Nation's Capital, it is destined to become, in time, one of the noted canine cemeteries of the world."<sup>10</sup>

The cemetery has been documented extensively over the years in newspaper and magazine articles, both locally and nationally. Typical of the earlier articles was one which appeared in "American Motorist" for December, 1930, describing it as "the fourth largest cemetery for animals to be found anywhere...news of the cemetery is spreading fast, and cars bearing tags from many states stop at the entrance."<sup>11</sup> A 1952 Times Herald article describes it as the largest in the country.<sup>12</sup>

Articles about the cemetery illustrate the prominence it achieved. A story in the Baltimore News for August, 1936, commented that "...it is one of the first points of interest to which sightseers from all over the country are piloted when they visit the National Capital."<sup>13</sup> Some articles even called it "the nation's pet cemetery".

Since it opened in 1921, more than 50,000 animals (and some 29 pet owners) have been buried at the Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery. The oldest gravestone is dated 1920 and the cemetery's records date back to 1922. It is the final resting place for a wide variety of animals besides dogs, including cats, birds, horses, and hamsters. Among the more "prominent" of the dogs buried there are seven that belonged to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover; "Jiggs", the dog from the "Our Gang" movie series, who died in 1938; and Rags, the mascot of the 1st Division, "who risked life and limb in the Meuse-Argonne when he crossed enemy lines to deliver a note to the allied forces in W.W.I."<sup>14</sup> Former President Lyndon B. Johnson's pet dogs "Him" and "Her" were cremated at Aspin Hill before being flown to Texas for burial.

Attractively landscaped, with a large number of mature trees and bushes, the cemetery's grave sites are marked with stones of granite and marble, animal figures (some of them life size), flowers, and religious artifacts. Inscriptions such as "15 years of love, 1963-1978" and "Part of My Heart is Buried Here" reveal the depth of an owner's loss. Although most of those

<sup>10</sup>"Aspin Hill Cemetery for Pet Animals", published by the cemetery; undated.

<sup>11</sup>American Motorist, December, 1930, "Washington's Cemetery for Pet Animals", Katherine H. Wooten, p.46.

<sup>12</sup>"A Quiet Place of Peace for Favorite Animals", Washington Times Herald, September, 1952.

<sup>13</sup>Baltimore News, August, 1936.

Montgomery Journal, December 28, 1979.

buried in Aspin Hill belonged to residents of the area, other states are also represented. Approximately four acres of the eight acre site are used for burials.

In an interesting footnote to its recent acquisition by PETA, Aspin Hill has long been used as a gathering place for animal protection enthusiasts. A Washington Times Herald article reported that animal lovers gathered there in observance of "World Day for Animals", and in support of the establishment of a national "animal day".<sup>15</sup> It has also served as a rallying place for anti-vivisectionists.

Modern-day pet cemeteries (unlike animal burial grounds) offer a full range of funeral services. At Aspin Hill, a chapel is provided for services, which can also be held at the grave site. The buildings on the site include a residence (which was probably erected by the Birney's and is now used as an administrative and animal care facility by PETA), the chapel, and a kennel. All are integral parts of the cemetery site, reflecting the use to which it has been put.

Pet cemeteries have a long history, dating back to the pharaohs of Egypt, who had a cat cemetery at Luxor, and to early Chinese emperors who maintained a dog cemetery at Peking with tombstones of marble, ivory, silver, and gold. It is estimated that there are more than 500 pet cemeteries in the United States alone, and Montgomery County has two, the Aspin Hill facility and a pet cemetery in Rockville. The latter opened in the mid-1980s due to the limited availability of land for grave sites at Aspin Hill.

Pet cemeteries are not a uniquely American phenomena, and the role which they play in American culture has yet to be fully explored, but they obviously fulfill important psychological and emotional needs. An examination of pet cemeteries in Southern California concluded:

"To a great many people their pets are the family, in toto, and thus their status in that sacred structure is inviolable. The companionship of these animals taps the wellsprings of devotion in people, and their intrinsic understanding of their owners -- albeit unspoken -- frequently elevates them to the lofty role of spiritual side-kick..."<sup>16</sup>

In the late 1980s, neighborhood residents waged a strong battle to protect the Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery from development. The "Save Aspin Hill" Committee succeeded in stopping development and in ensuring the cemetery's long-term protection through its sale to PETA, with protective covenants. As the report of the Montgomery County Hearing Examiner stated:

"Inexorably entwined with this request for reclassification of a specific parcel of ground is the fate of the Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery. The cemetery is a unique piece of land in Montgomery

<sup>15</sup> Washington Times Herald, October 1941.

<sup>16</sup> "Uncommon Ground", unpublished report on pet cemeteries in the files of the cemetery; Shawn Welsh and Mark Goldman, 1980.

County which possesses special characteristics such as its age, the number of pets buried within its confines, the number of humans buried there reflecting the love of a master for an animal, the material reflections of love felt and earned, and the peace and aura of tranquility of this special place. It is at one time both a monument to the interred and to the love felt by pet owners."<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Hearing Examiners "Report and Recommendation for Zoning Application No. G-513", Montgomery County Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings, June 22, 1987, p.37.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:27-17

Montgomery County Land & Will Records.  
Newspaper Articles (see footnotes)  
"Uncommon Ground", Welsh and Goldman, 1980.  
Interview with Gary Baverstock, Manager, Aspin Hill Memorial Park, April 1991

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 7.79 acres

Quadrangle name Kensington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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## Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the property are the lot lines which define parcel 719, south of Aspen Hill Road, west of Georgia Avenue and north of Wendy Lane, and which are boldly delineated on the accompanying tax map.

## 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	Lois Snyderman/Susan Escherich, Historic Preservation Consultants		
organization	date	June 1991	
street & number	8804 Spring Valley Road	telephone	(301) 654-6423
city or town	Chevy Chase	state	Maryland 20815

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

15.80 Ac.

M:27-17

N 612  
Pt. Parcel A

P 658

Aspen Hill Road

N. J. & S. S. Ely

Plat 795

5.47 A

N 6

PT. PA

"A"

P 688  
.60 Ac.

\*  
Aspin Hill  
Pet Cemetery

P 719

7.79 Ac.

ROUTE 97  
Georgia Avenue

P 716

1.88 Ac.

LANE

LOYOLA

ATHANIA ST.

WENDY

LANE

P 840

HARMONY

PALMIRA

Board of Education

Case 4351

6.66 Ac.

HILL

DAUPHINE STREET

LYDIA ST.

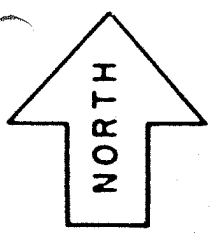
P 955

2.015 Ac.

P 952

RALPH

KILBURN LANE



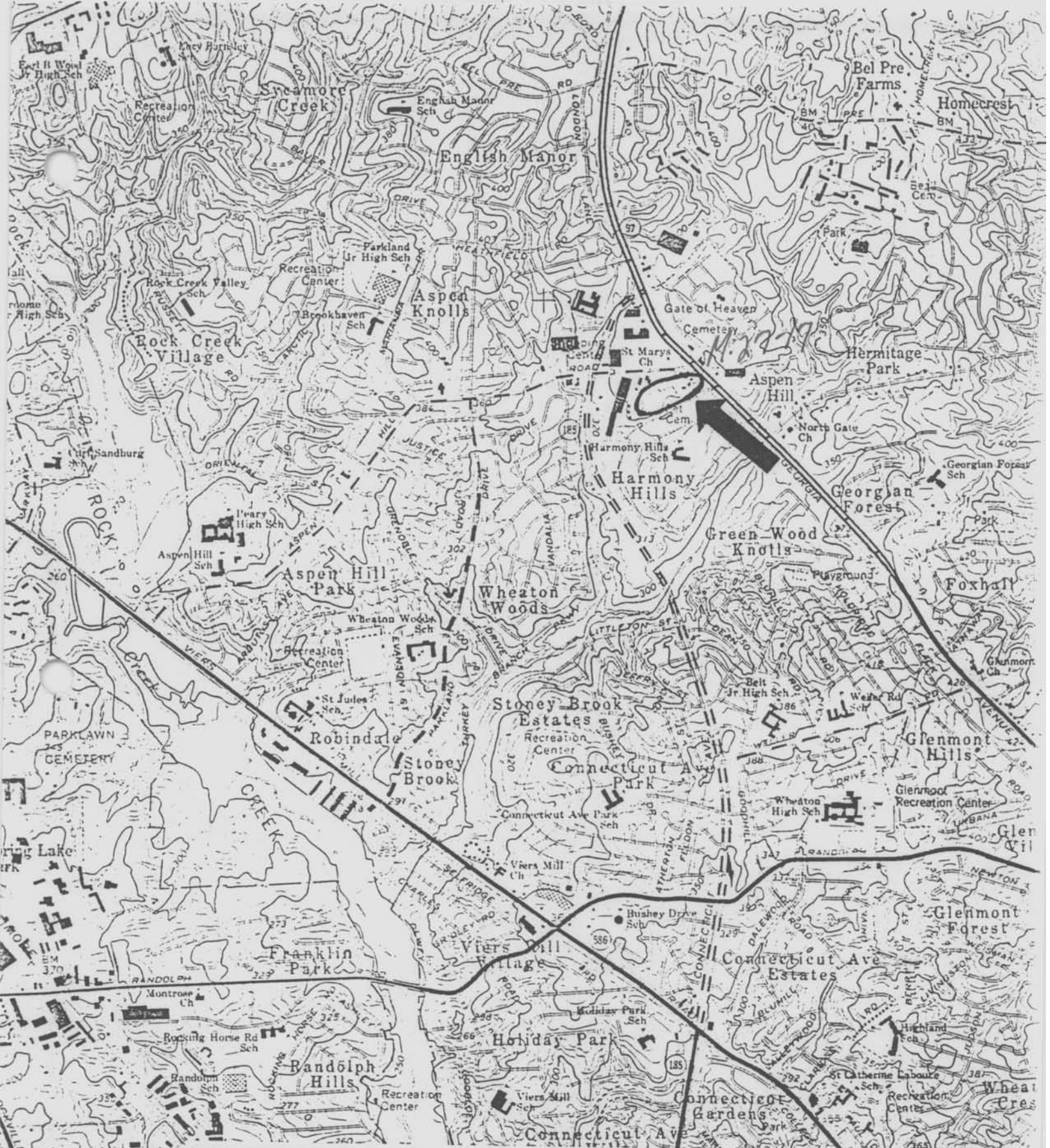
DIST. CURRENT TO

13 | 1 - 1 - 91

SCALE 1" = 200'



200 0 200 400 600



**ASPIN HILL PET CEMETERY**

Silver Spring  
Montgomery County

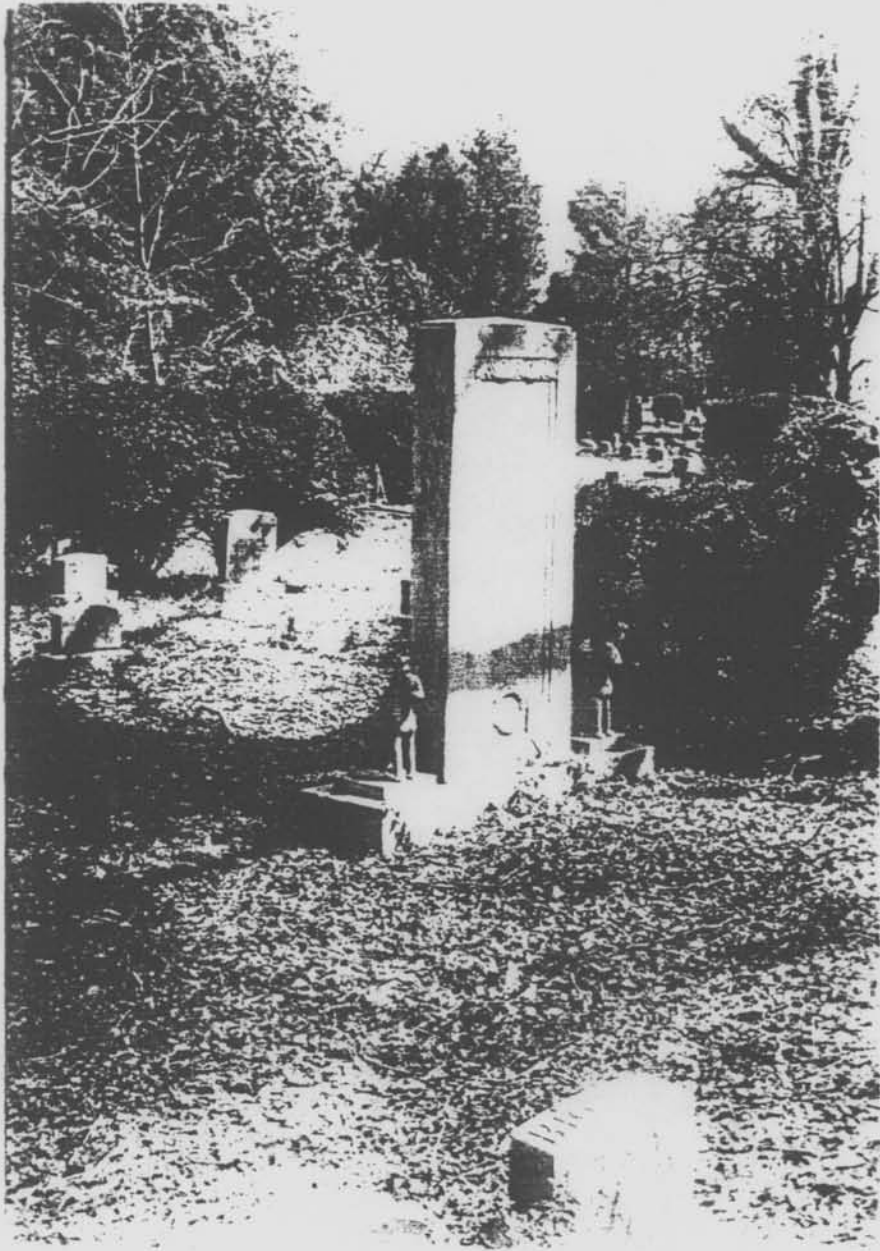
M: 27-17



USGS Map  
7.5 Minute Topographic Series (1:24,000)  
Kensington Quadrangle

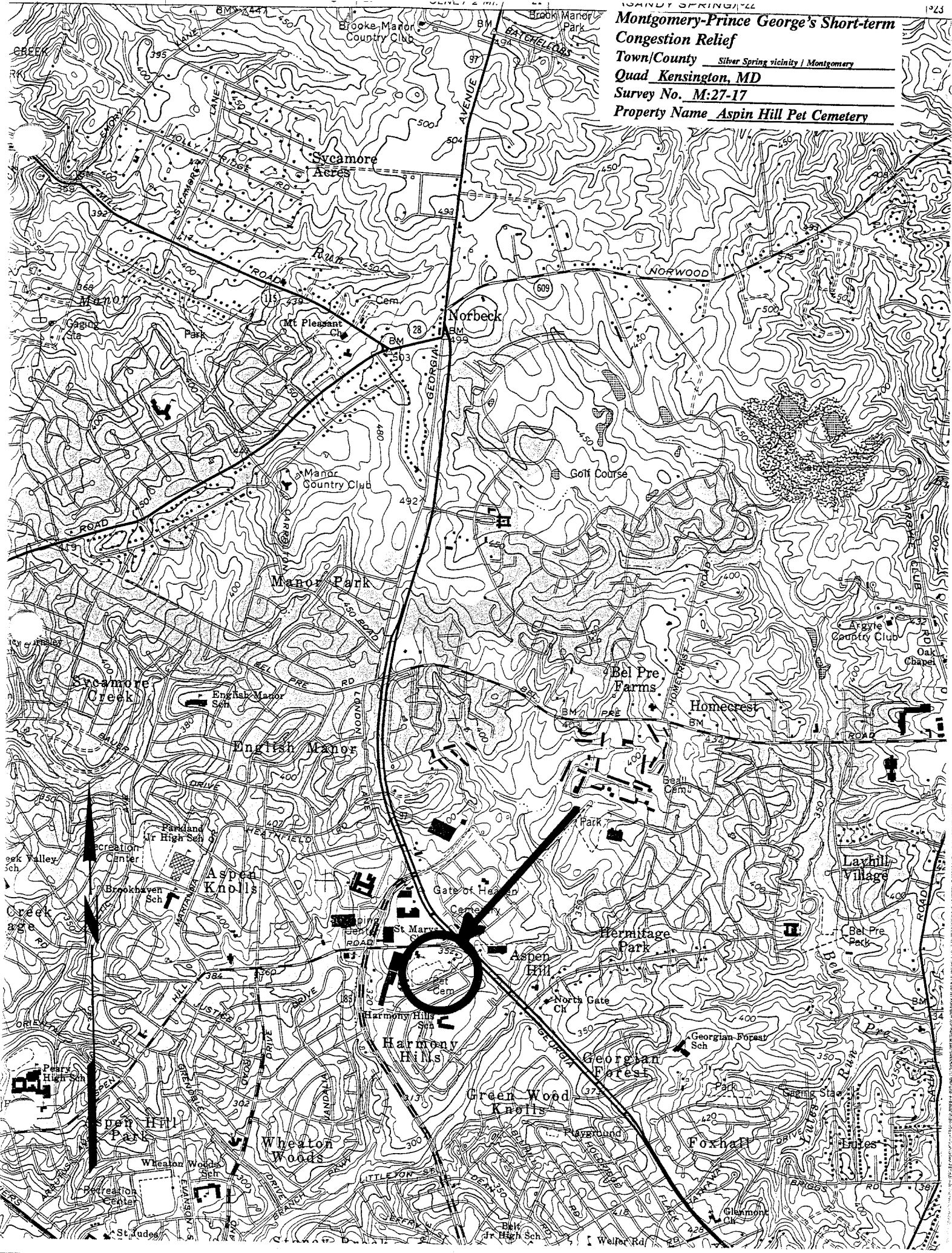
Wheaton Hills  
Monter Villag  
und  
Kensington  
View

Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery



M:27-17

Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term  
 Congestion Relief  
 Town/County Silver Spring vicinity / Montgomery  
 Quad Kensington, MD  
 Survey No. M:27-17  
 Property Name Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery





- 1 M:27-17
- 2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery
- 3 Montgomery Co. Md  
5637271 N 4 N 12
- 4 Sun Jamburino
- 5 4/98
- 6 MA SHPO
- 7 Front elevation
- 8 1 of 27



- 1 M 27-17
- 2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery
- 3 Montgomery Co, Md  
166 0201 N N N 1/2
- 4 Sun Jambardino
- 5 4/98
- 6 Md. JHP's
- 7 Front elevation
- 8 2 of 27



- 1 M 27-17
- 2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery
- 3 Montgomery Co. Md
- 4 <sup>202714462</sup> Jim Tambussino
- 5 4/78
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 NE corner
- 8 3 of 27



1 M. 27-17

2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery

3 Montgomery Co Md

4 Jim Samburg

5 4/79

6 Md. 84PO

7 N elevation

8 4 of 51



1 M-27-17

2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery

3 Montgomery Co. MD  
75-2272 + 11-2

4 Tom Tamburino

5 4/98

6 Md SHPO

7 NW corner

8 5 of 27



1 M:27-17

2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery

3 Montgomery Co. Md

4 Jim Panibusano

5 4/98

6 Md SHPC

7 W elevation

8 617-27



- 1 M 27-17
- 2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery
- 3 Montgomery Co. Md  
360 2271 4444
- 4 Tom Tamburino
- 5 4108
- 6 Md S4PO
- 7 Chapel bldg / animal shelter
- 8 70727



1 Mt 27-17

2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery

3 Montgomery Co, Md

4 Jim Bamburino

5 4/91

6 Md. State

7 Chapel bldg / animal shelter

8 8 of 27



1 11 217-17

2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery

3 Montgomery Co. Md

4 Jim Tamburino

5 4/98

6 Md. SHPO

7 Kennel

8 9 of 27



1 M 27-17

2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery

3 Montgomery Co, Md

360 0271 N N N 2

4 Jim Tamburino

5 4/98

6 Md SHPO

7 Shed #1

8 10 of 27



- 1 M 27-17
- 2 Aspex Hill Pet Cemetery
- 3 Montgomery Co, Md  
356 0271 4 4 4 1 2
- 4 Jim Tamburino
- 5 4/98
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 Kennel
- 8 11 17 27



- 1 M27-17
- 2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery
- 3 Montgomery Co. Md  
356.0271 4 N 14-2
- 4 Jim Tamburino
- 5 4/98
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 Shed #2
- 8 12 of 0-1



LEE  
MISTER  
AGE 16 YRS.  
TRAVELER

MINNIE  
OUR DARLING  
1943-1947

O'DONNELL  
BUM BUM  
1934-1946  
*You'll live in our  
hearts forever  
darling.*

1 M: 27-17

2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery

3 Montgomery Co, Md

356 0271 N N N 12

4 Jim Jamburino

5 4198

6 Md SHPO

7 headstone

8 15 of 27



TREEDER

OUR PAL  
MAGGIE

1927-1943

- 1 M. 2.7.17
- 2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery
- 3 Montgomery Co. Md  
356 0271 H H H H 2
- 4 Jim Jamblund
- 5 4/98
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 Headstone
- 8 16 of 27



1 M 27-17

2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery

3 Montgomery Co. Md  
1560271 N H 22

4 Tom Tamburino

5 4/98

6 Md SHPO

7 headstone,

8 13 of 27



- 1 M 27-17
- 2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery
- 3 Montgomery Co, Md
- 4 <sup>360 022</sup> Tom Tamburino
- 5 4/98
- 6 MD SHRO
- 7 headstone,
- 8 14 of 27

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
OUR DEAR AND BLESSED FOLK

TRILL BOOTH

MAMA	SANDY
MARIE	JOHN
MUTT BOSS	CHARL
MICHELLE	TERRY
WELDEN	BECKIE

LITTLE MISS MARY

THEIR LOVE MADE EVERY DAY A FEEL

RAGS

WAR HERO

1ST DIVISION MASCOT

WW I

1916 ~ 1936

- 1 M 27-17
- 2 Aspen Hill Rd Cemetery
- 3 Montgomery Co Ala  
356 0291 N N N N 2
- 4 Jim Tamburino
- 5 4/98
- 6 Md. State
- 7 "Rags" headline
- 8 17 of 27

ROVER

1920 — 1934

SCOTT

1 M:27-17

2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery

3 Montgomery Co. Md

356 0271 N N M-12

4 Jim Sam Lowens

5 4/32

6 Md SHPD

7 headstone - featuring ROVER - 1923 1934

8 18 of 27



1 M27-17

2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery

3 Montgomery Co Md

356 0271 N N N 22

4 Tom Lambrosino

5 4198

6 Md SHPO

7 headstones

8 1906-21



MCCATHRAN

SKIPPY

1926 — 1935

God gave a Pol to me

1 M. 27-17

2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery

3 Montgomery Co. Md

360 0271 N N N S

4 Jim Tamburino

5 4/98

6 Md SAPO

7 headstone, "McCallister-Skippy" 1926-1935

8 20 of 27



1 M27-17

2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery

3 Montgomery Co., MD

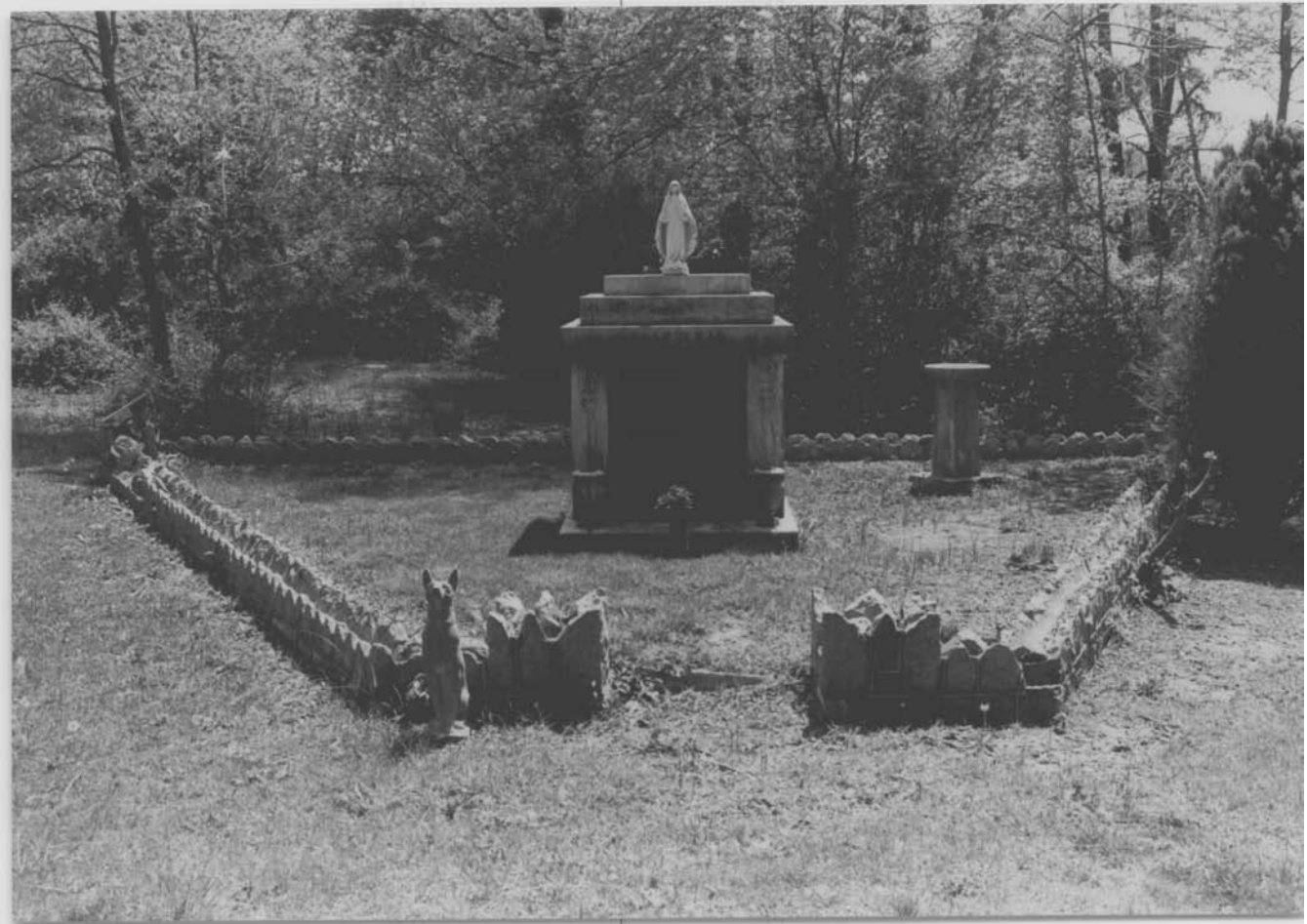
4 <sup>356 0271 N.H.N.</sup> Tom Tamburino

5 4/98

6 Md SUPD

7 Headstone, dog

8 21 of 21



- 1 M 21-17
- 2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery
- 3 Montgomery Co, Md
- 4 <sup>360 0271</sup> Tom Tamburino
- 5 4/98
- 6 Md. 87PO
- 7 Mickey Tombs
- 8 22 of 27



TO OUR  
LITTLE PAL  
MICKEY  
1918 — 1936

1 M: 27-17

2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery

3 Montgomery Co, Md

356 0271 N N N 22

4 Jenni Tamburino

5 4/98

6 Md SHPC

7 Mickey 1918

8 23 of 27



MAY LINDA

IN MEMORY OF  
MAY LINDA  
MY BEST FRIENDS

- 1 M: 27-17
- 2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery
- 3 Montgomery Co. Md  
156 0271 N H N 2
- 4 Jim Tamburino
- 5 4/98
- 6 Md SHPC
- 7 Seat Headstone
- 8 24 of 27



1. M 27-17
2. Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery
3. Montgomery Co. Md  
755 0271 N.N.W. 2
4. Tom Samburano
5. 4/78
6. Md St 48
7. headstones
8. 25 of 27



- 1 M27-17
- 2 Aspen Hill Pot Cemetery
- 3 Montgomery Co, Md  
795 0271 444 12
- 4 Jim Jamburino
- 5 4/92
- 6 Md S4PD
- 7 dog statue
- 8 24 of 27



JIMMY CLAUDINE  
1979 - 1995

KELLY  
1979 - 1995

BRANDY  
1980 - 1995  
VERY GOOD BOY CAT

- 1 M: 27-17
- 2 Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery
- 3 Montgomery Co, MD  
755 0271 441422
- 4 Sam Jamburino
- 5 4198
- 6 Md SHPD
- 7 Roadsters
- 8 2758 27



M: 27/17

Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery  
Mont. Co. MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91

Weg - Mont Co. Hist Pres. Comm

Chapel - Main (N) elev. + west elev



Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery M: 27/17

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91

Neg - Mont Co HPC

Grave marker & view of grounds  
looking S



M: 27/17

Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery

Mont Co. MD

by L Snyderman 4/91

Neg Mont Co Hist Pres Comm

Kernel - east elev



M: 27/17

Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery  
Mont. Co. MD

by L. Snyderman - 6/91

Weg - Mont Co. Hist Pres. Comm

Setting - looking south



Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery M: 27/17

Mont Co. MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91

Neg - Mont. Co. HPC

Grave Marker



M: 27/17

Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91

Pay - Mont Co. Heat Pres. Comm.

Main Bldg (rear) - north + west elev.



M: 27/17

Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery  
Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91

Neg - Mont Co. HPC

Grave marker



Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery <sup>M: 27/17</sup>

Mont Co MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91

Neg - Mont Co HPC

Grave Marker & View of grounds



M: 27/17

Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery  
Monte Co. MD

by L. Snyderman 4/91  
Neg - Mont Co HPC  
Grave Marker



FENTRESS FUME DEFLEUR  
"STAR"

1959 — 1973

LOVELY SOUL, HE LIVES ON  
AND  
IN THE SWEET BYE AND BYE  
WE SHALL MEET AGAIN  
ON THAT BEAUTIFUL SHORE

M: 27/17

Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery

Mont Co MD

by L Snyderman 4/9,

Neg - Mont Co. Hist Pres Comm

Gravestone - "Star"