

**INVESTIGATION OF SECTION A OF THE OLD CHAPEL HILL CEMETERY  
CHAPEL HILL, ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**



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and  
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**For: Preservation Chapel Hill**



**Environmental Services, Inc.  
524 South New Hope Road  
Raleigh, NC 27610**

**ESI Project Number AR13-081**

**September 2013**

## INTRODUCTION

Environmental Services, Inc. (ESI), along with its subcontractor, , Seramur & Associates, PC, was contracted by Preservation Chapel Hill to conduct an investigation of a portion of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery (**Figure 1**), which is located on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH). The Town of Chapel Hill owns the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery and is responsible for its maintenance.

The purpose of the investigation was to identify the locations of unmarked burials in Section A of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery. The investigation area is approximately 0.95 acres in size and consists of open areas, unmarked, and marked graves.

Involved in the investigation were Terri Russ, Alex Sames, Daniel Gaspari, Kyle Markham, and Keith C. Seramur, P.G. The investigation included the use of geophysical survey techniques (Ground Penetrating Radar and Electrical Resistivity) and soil density testing. The locations of potential grave shafts identified as a result of the investigation were recorded in the field using a Total Station. The investigations occurred in August 2013.

## GENERAL HISTORY OF THE CEMETERY

The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery is about seven acres in size. The land was part of a 125-acre grant from the State of North Carolina to the newly established University of North Carolina. George Clark, a student from Burke County who died on 28 September 1798, is the first recorded burial in the cemetery. The original rock wall around the cemetery was built in 1835. The cemetery is divided into six sections (A-B and I-IV) and is estimated to contain over 1,600 interments (**Figure 2**).

The westernmost sections, Sections A and B, comprise the historically African-American part of the cemetery. During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, Section B was set aside for the purpose of burying slaves and freemen. Following the end of the Civil War, the racial segregation of the cemetery continued, extending into Section A beginning during the 1880s. During the current investigation, 133 formally marked graves were noted (excluding likely graves marked with uncarved fieldstones). The earliest recorded burial in this historically African-American part of the cemetery purportedly belongs to Ellington Burnett, who died in 1853. Within Section A, the earliest marked burial currently standing in the cemetery is that of Carol Brooks Pindle, a three year old child who died in 1909. Marked graves include those from the Jones, McDade, Merritt, Weaver, Battle, and Johnson families, among others. The last marked burial in this section of the cemetery occurred in 1986 (J. Winston, 1923–1986).

The cemetery was surveyed in 1973 by Mary Engstrom, with an updated survey conducted by David Swanson in 1987 prior to the deeding of the cemetery from the University of North Carolina to the Town of Chapel Hill. In 1973, there were 143 marked graves within Section A. Five additional graves not previously recorded were noted in 1987; however, 21 of the graves recorded in 1973 were not relocated. An online cemetery (<http://cemeterycensus.com>) lists 150 marked graves in this portion of the cemetery.

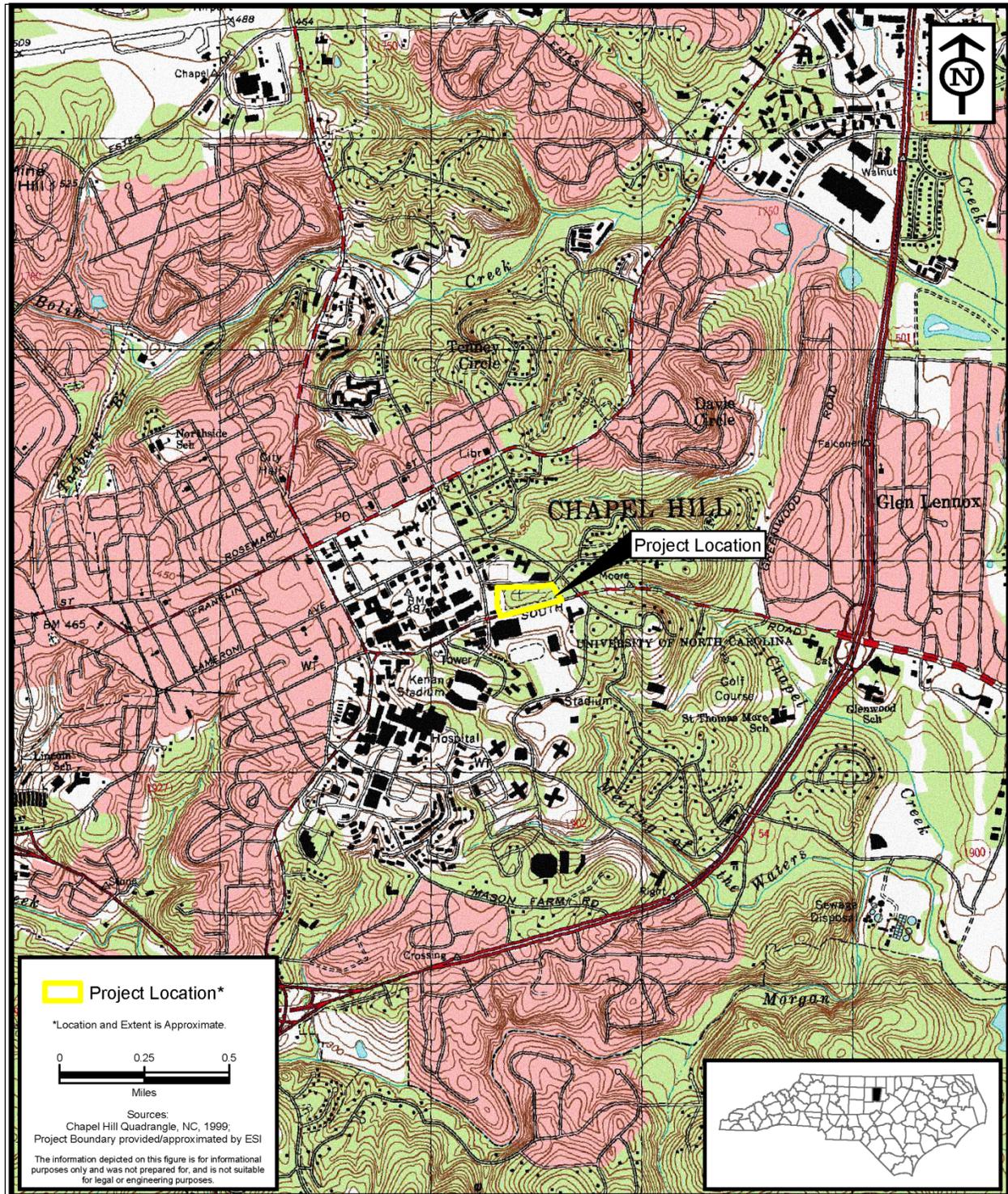


Figure 1: General Project Location

In addition to the 143 marked graves, a total of 246 potential unmarked graves were noted during the 1973 investigation. However, it is not known whether these were identified by the physical features (fieldstones, linear depressions) or historic research.



**Figure 2: Approximate Study Area Location**

Entering the mid-twentieth century, there was concern that the cemetery was reaching its capacity and lacked the ability to expand. Following the 1947 enactment by the State of North Carolina of *An Act Authorizing Municipal Corporations to Acquire, Manage, and Control Certain Lands for Cemetery Purposes, and Authorizing Appropriations for Such Purposes* (North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 65 Article 8 [*repealed*]), the town purchased land for a new African-American cemetery (now known as West Chapel Hill Cemetery). Burials, however, continued in Section A of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery as late as 1986. Episodes of vandalism to the cemetery in 1974 and 1985 resulted in damage to numerous markers in the cemetery, particularly those within Sections A and B. As a result, the town developed a plan to restore broken monuments and improve the cemetery grounds with installation or repair of walking paths, fencing, lighting and landscaping. Proposed improvements included an update to the original cemetery survey.

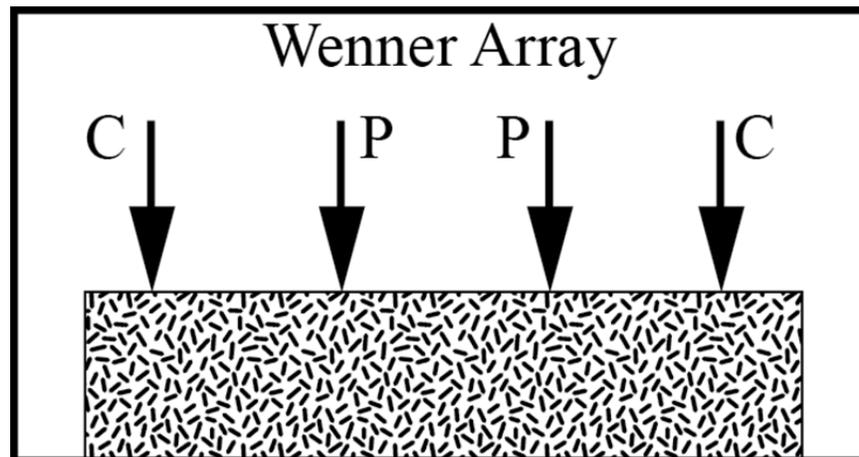
Additional acts of vandalism in 1991 resulted in damage to over 30 grave markers. Through funds raised by the Preservation Chapel Hill and matching grants awarded to the town, a condition assessment of grave markers was undertaken, and an application for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Places* (National Register) was completed.

The cemetery was listed in the National Register in 1994 based on both its association with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of history (*Criterion A*) and as it contains grave markers and other construction elements that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, possesses high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity (*Criterion C*; Baten and Little 1994). The cemetery's significance was recorded as spanning the period from 1798 to 1944.

## PROJECT METHODOLOGY

The goal of the project was to identify the locations of unmarked graves within Section A. Given the size of the study area and the fact that this portion of the cemetery has had a history of vandalism and grave marker disturbance, it was determined that a combination of geophysical survey (Ground Penetrating Radar and Electrical Resistivity) and soil density testing (e.g. soil probing) would yield the best results.

Electrical Resistivity (ER) utilizes changes in electrical conductivity to detect soil disturbance. The ER system uses four parallel electrodes (Wenner Array) placed into the soil perpendicular to survey transects (**Figures 3–4**). It transmits a current into the ground between the two outside electrodes and measures the apparent resistivity of soil at depths of two to four feet between the two inner electrodes. Disturbed soil, such as backfill in a grave shaft or metallic objects associated with coffin hardware, will produce a low resistivity value. Areas of low resistivity values that have the potential to represent unmarked graves are noted and compared against the results of soil density testing and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). The apparent resistivity values were compiled in an MS Excel spreadsheet and used to produce a computer-generated contour map of resistivity values. The locations of potential unmarked graves can be identified on the ER contour map by low resistivity anomalies that line up in a north-south direction (**Figure 5**). A north-south alignment of multiple low-resistivity anomalies is a strong indication that a row of unmarked graves is present.



**Figure 3: Diagram of the resistivity system Wenner electrode array with outer current electrodes (C) and inner potential electrodes (P).**

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) is a geophysical method that transmits pulses of electromagnetic energy (high frequency radio waves) into the earth through a transmitter. The radar waves propagate through the subsurface and are partially reflected back to the receiver when materials with different electromagnetic characteristics (dielectric properties) are encountered below the surface. The GPR detects changes in dielectric properties of subsurface materials. When different layers within a soil profile are disturbed or mixed (e.g. excavation of a grave shaft), the dielectric properties of the soil are changed making it possible for the GPR to detect these areas as anomalies.



Figure 4: Running Electrical Resistivity transects across Section A of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery. White flags mark likely grave locations.

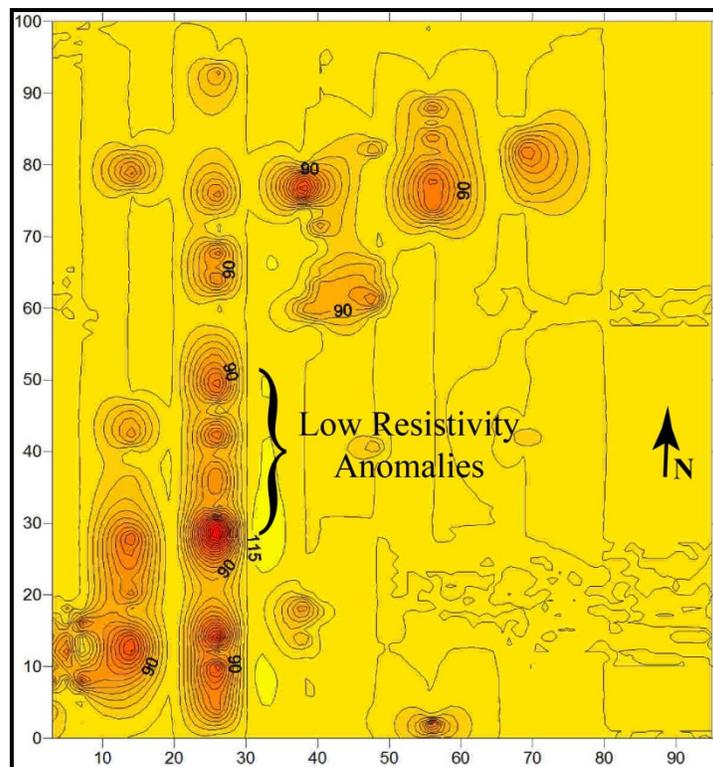


Figure 5: Contoured ER data from Grid 4 in Section A of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery. Note the low apparent resistivity anomalies (red) oriented north-south along rows of burials.

The study area was divided into five main grids (Grids G1-G5; **Figures 6–7**). The GPR survey was completed using a Geophysical Survey Systems SIR-3000 Single Channel GPR Data Acquisition System with a 400 MHz antenna. The GPR survey data was collected along survey lines spaced at 1-foot intervals across the grid. Radan© software was used to process the geophysical data and produce a three-dimensional (3-D) block diagram of each survey grid. The software can be used to generate a horizontal slice through the 3-D block diagram. The software allows us to select the depth of the horizontal slice as well as the thickness of the block from which the reflections are projected onto a horizontal plane.



**Figure 6: Setting up grids for GPR and ER survey transects.**

GPR anomalies were interpreted from two different horizontal slices through the 3-D model. In the first slice the horizontal plane is set to a depth of 2.0 feet and the thickness was set at 0.5 feet. This slice shows all the reflections along the horizontal plane between a depth of 1.75 and 2.25 feet. The second slice was set to a depth of 3.0 feet with a thickness of 1.8 feet. This horizontal slice shows all reflections between depth of 2.1 and 3.9 feet. The 2-foot slice is used to look for a contrast between the residual soil (saprolite) and the excavated soil in the upper part of the grave shafts (**Figure 8**). The 3-foot slice is used to observed evidence of a thick section of soil backfill in the lower part of the grave shaft (**Figure 9**). The 3-foot slice would also image evidence of a grave vault or coffin remains.

The ER electrode array is flexible and data can be collected around head stones and small landscaping obstructions. The ER grids were continuously sampled on a 2-foot spacing across Grids 1, 2 and 3 (**Figure 10**). The GPR antenna is moved across the land surface on a three-wheeled cart. Grids 1, 2 and 3 were subdivided into smaller blocks to collect continuous GPR data across open areas in the cemetery. Continuous geophysical data was collected across Grids

1, 2 and 3 where it was difficult to recognize an organized cemetery layout (see **Figures 8–10**). The graves in Grids 4 and 5 were more clearly laid out into north-south rows. This allowed us to focus our data collection along the rows of burials. ER data was collected along the rows at a 2-foot spacing. GPR profiles were collected along the rows to confirm the presence of grave shafts.

Subsurface anomalies detected by the GPR and ER surveys were marked in the field using survey pin flags. Soil probing using a 5/8-inch steel probe was then conducted around the pin flags. Linear areas of less dense soil aligned roughly east-west encountered by the probing were then marked in the field as potential unmarked graves.

In order to produce graphical plans of the in-field findings, the locations of the GPR/ER survey grid corners, potential unmarked graves, marked graves within the survey grids, and other topographic features were recorded using a Total Station. The two horizontal slices of GPR data and the ER contour map were then integrated with and compared to the Total Station data.

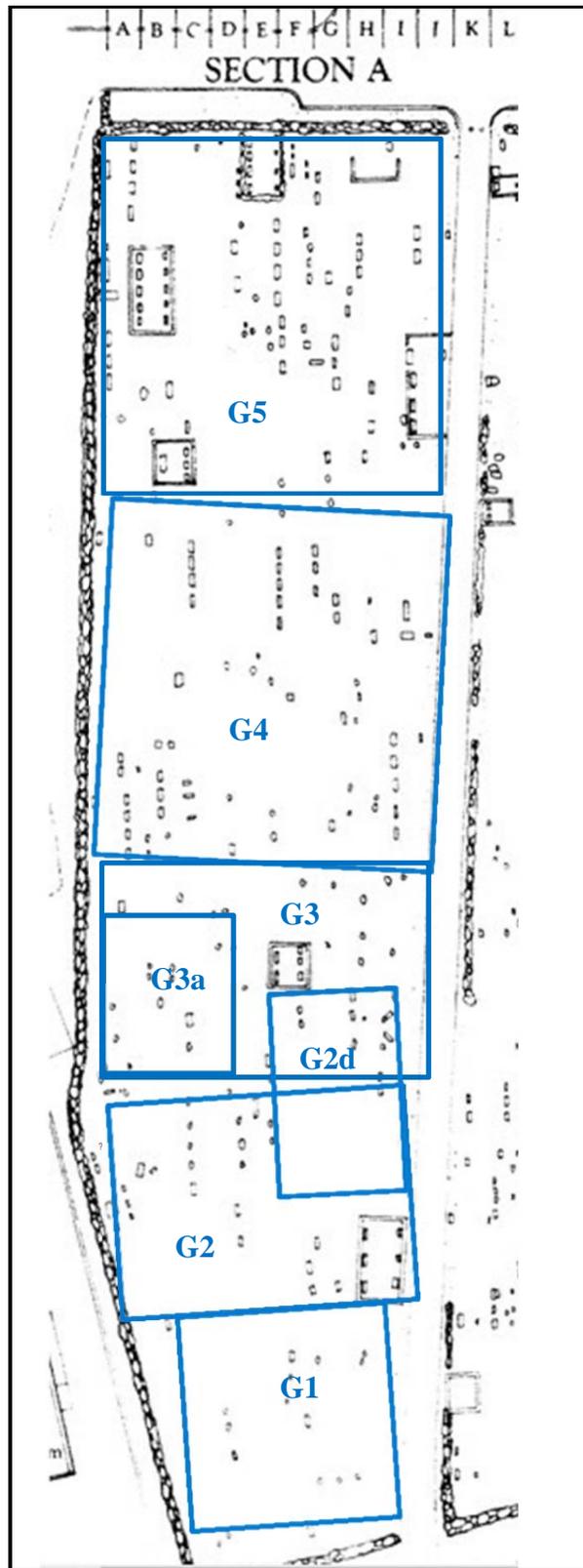


Figure 7: Approximate GPR Grid locations (in Blue) depicted on 1987 cemetery plan.

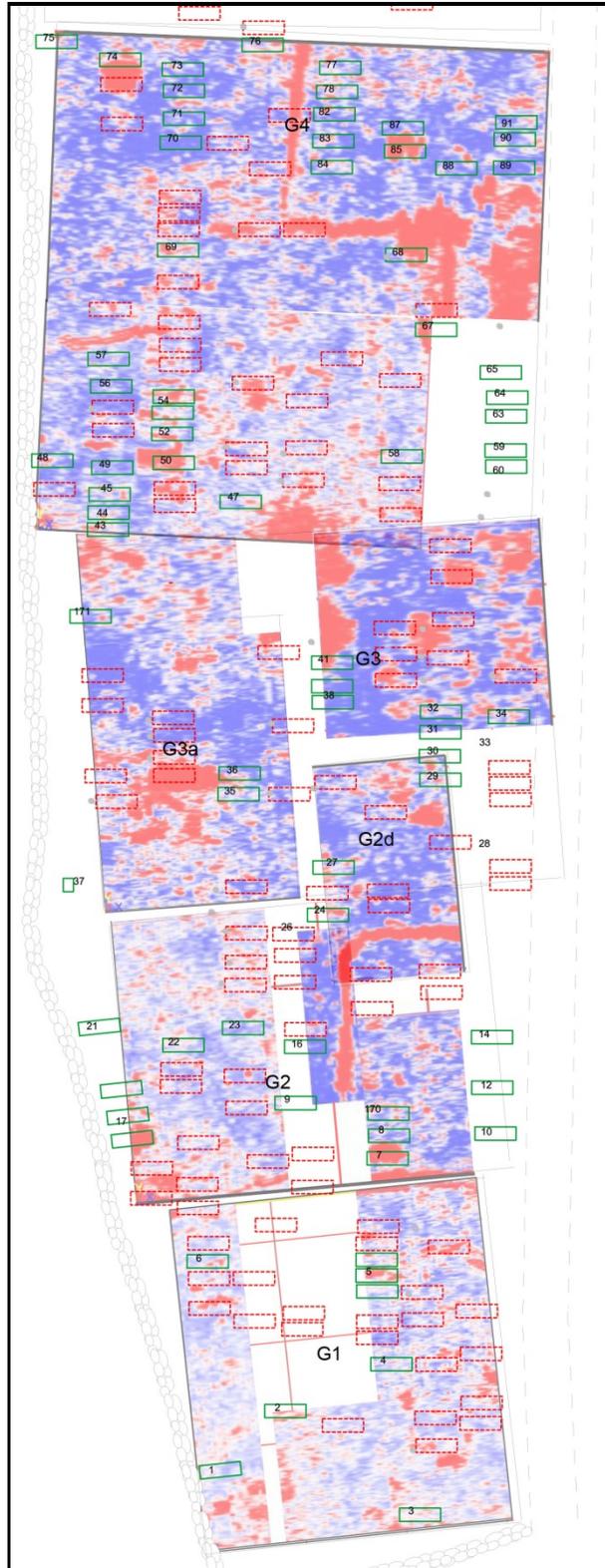
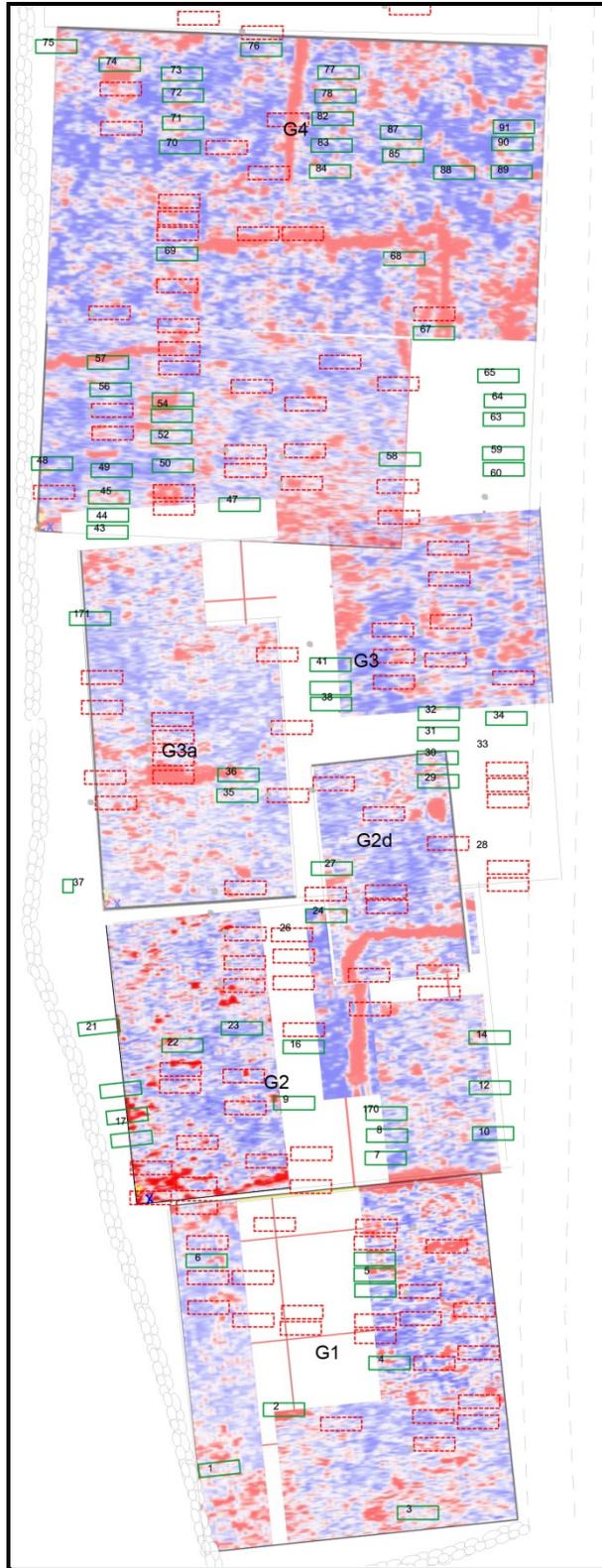


Figure 8: 2.0-foot slice of GPR reflections for Survey Grids 1–4.



**Figure 9: 3.0-foot slice of GPR reflections for Survey Grids 1–4. The large, linear features in red likely indicate underground trenches or water lines.**



Figure 10: Contour maps of apparent electrical resistivity for survey grids. Low resistivity anomalies are shown in red to contrast with higher background resistivity shown in yellow.

## RESULTS

A total of 165 unmarked burials or potential burials were identified during the investigation based on the soil probing, ER, and GPR investigations. Each burial or potential burial was flagged in the field and their locations recorded with a total station. Some of the burial locations are associated with uncarved fieldstones or visible depressions in the soil. Others were detected as subsurface soil disturbance, with no visual indicators of the presence of a grave. **Figures 11a and 11b** shows the locations of both marked and unmarked graves within and immediately adjacent to the study areas.

The GPR survey grids crossed numerous marked graves ranging in age from the early twentieth century to present. Modern graves produce a very strong anomaly on the GPR record that represents a grave vault and/or coffin. Older graves from the early 20th century do not produce a strong anomaly on the GPR record. The wooden coffins associated with these older graves have decayed and soil in the grave shaft has caved-in, filling the base of the grave shaft. In some cases it is possible to pick up a reflection from the bottom of the grave shaft.

GPR data is initially reviewed as horizontal slices through the 3-D block diagrams produced from each grid. Older unmarked graves will be represented in the GPR data as linear, transparent (or blue, reflection-free) areas oriented east-west and similar in size to a grave. This data is compared to the low resistivity (red) anomalies on the ER contour maps. Our strongest evidence is when the data from both geophysical systems indicate the presence of unmarked graves (**Figure 12**).

### Soil Density Testing (Probing)

The soil density testing focused on areas where the anomalies had been detected by GPR and/or ER surveys. Soil probing was conducted at and in the vicinity of the location of each of the flagged anomalies to determine if the location represented a potential grave shaft.

The changes in soil density across the Chapel Hill cemetery can be subtle. The soil in the shaft of older graves has had time to compact to a density similar to undisturbed soils. Soil in the Piedmont can become very hard during hot, dry weather. As such, soil density varied considerably across the survey area. Some marked grave shafts had dense, compact soil not typical of disturbed soil, while other marked grave shafts had typical soft, low-density soil. Unmarked graves confirmed by the soil density testing were flagged in the field. The locations of both marked and unmarked graves in each section of the cemetery were recorded with a total station.

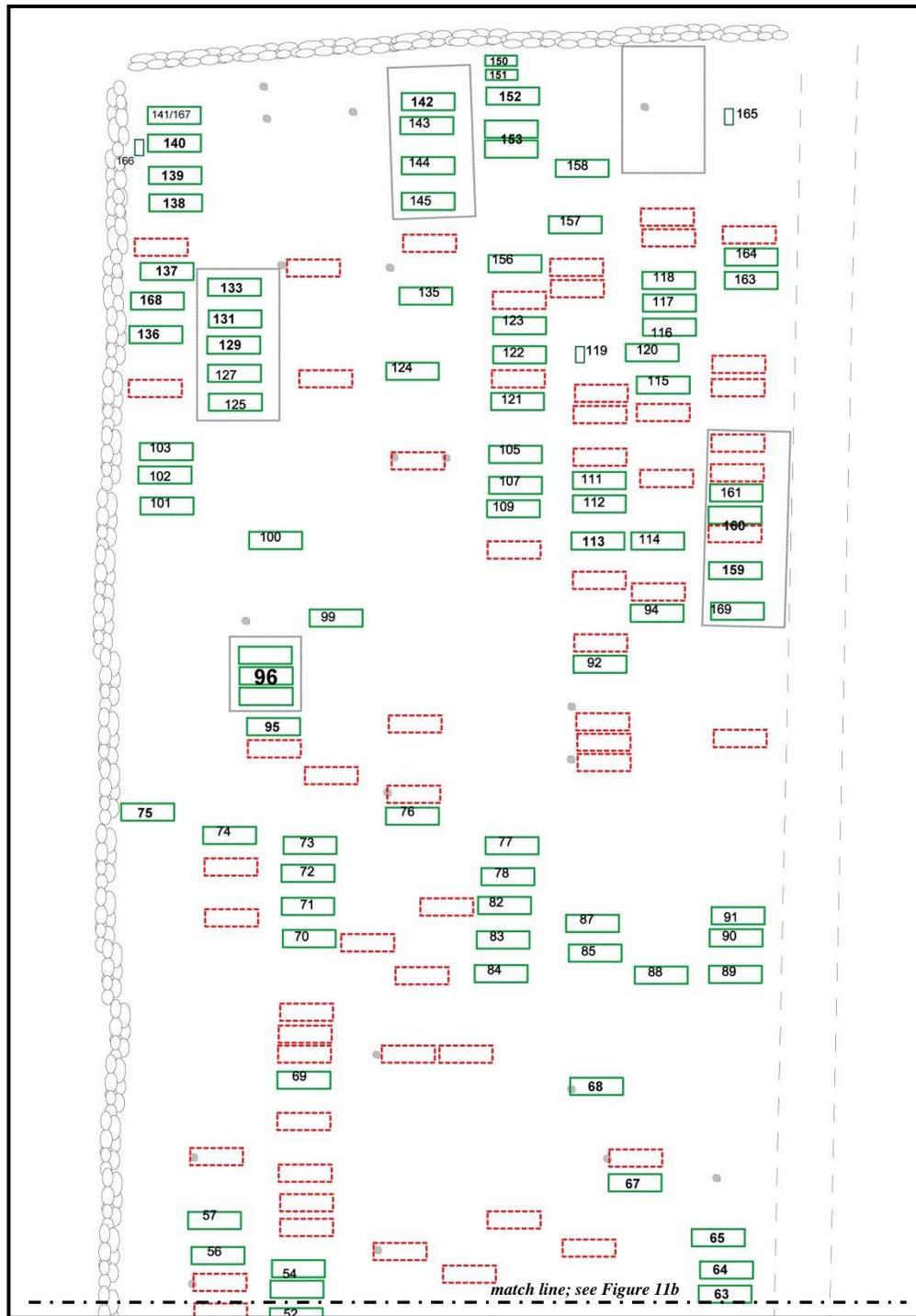
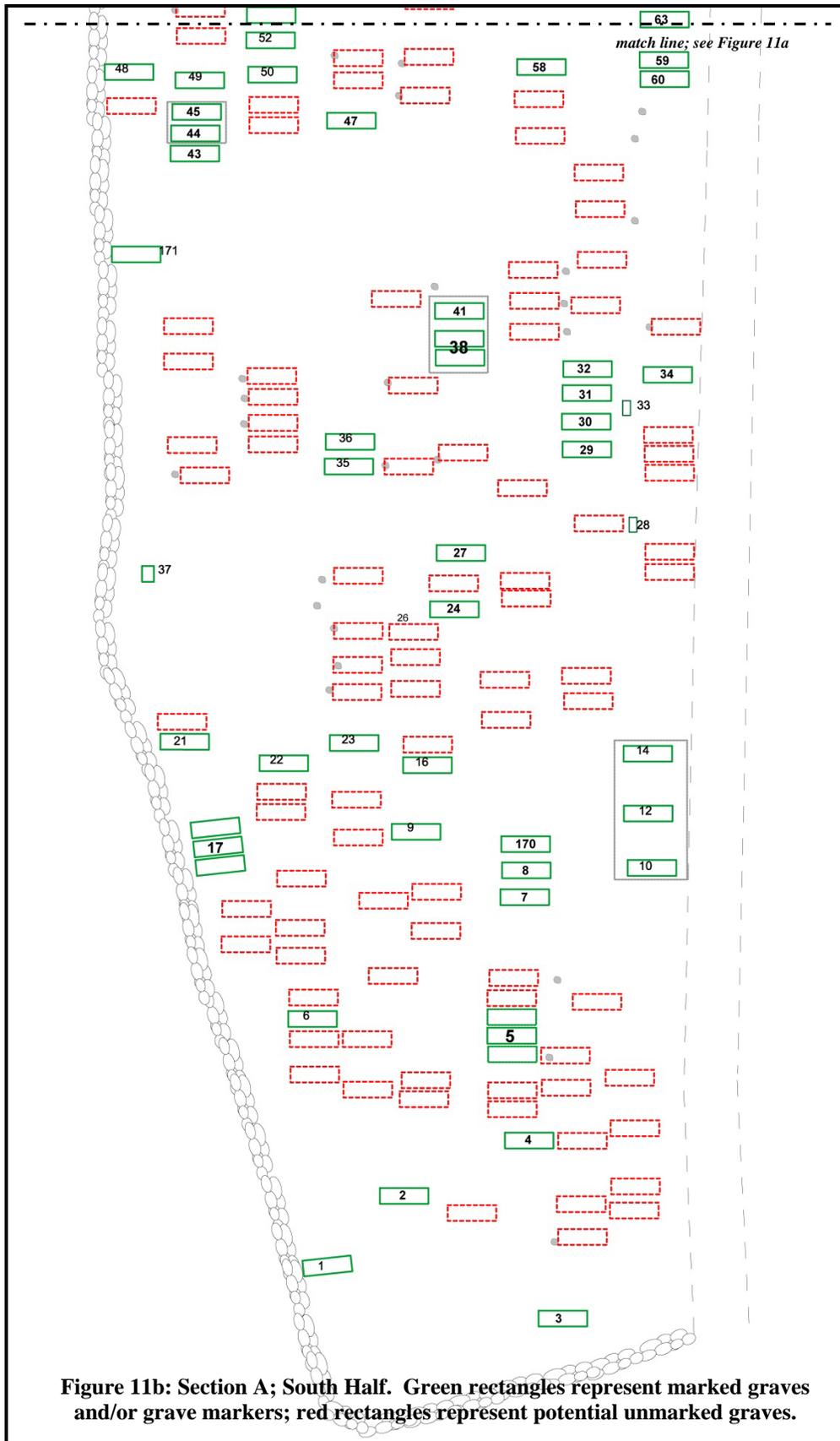


Figure 11a: Section A; North Half. Green rectangles represent approximate locations of marked graves and/or grave markers; red rectangles represent potential unmarked graves.



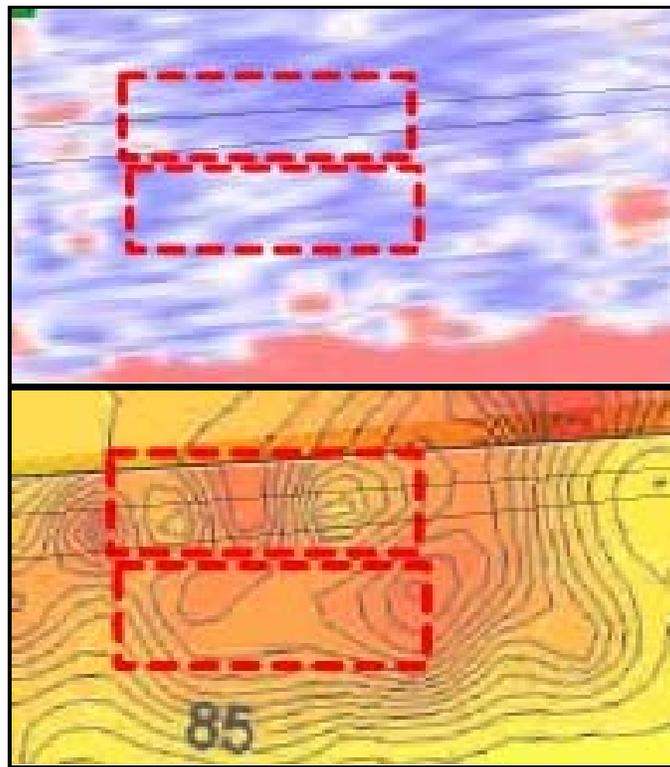


Figure 12: Example of two unmarked graves identified in Grid 2. The excavated grave shafts appear as a blue reflection-free area on the 2.0-foot GPR slice (top). The disturbed soil in the grave shafts produces a red low resistivity anomaly on the ER contour map (bottom).

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

According to the 1973 cemetery survey, Section A contained 143 marked graves and 246 unmarked graves (a total of 389 graves in Section A). The 1987 cemetery update recorded five additional previously unrecorded marked graves (resulting in a total of 148 graves) ; however, 21 of the grave markers recorded in 1973 could not be relocated. The published cemetery survey; however, lists 150 marked graves for this section of the cemetery. **Tables 1 and 2** present a summary of graves relocated during the respective surveys, based on reported data.

**Table 1: Graves Recorded During 1973 Survey.**

<b>1973 Survey</b>	<b>No. Graves</b>
Identifiable Marked Graves	143
Unmarked Graves	246
<b>Total Graves Recorded</b>	<b>389</b>

**Table 2: Graves Recorded During 1987 Survey.**

<b>1987 Survey</b>	<b>No. Graves</b>
Identifiable Marked Graves	143
Newly Recorded Graves	5
Missing Graves from 1973 Survey	-21
<i>Total Marked Graves</i>	<i>127</i>
Unmarked Graves	246*
<b><i>Total Graves Recorded</i></b>	<b><i>373</i></b>

*\*Not listed; based on 1973 survey numbers*

Based on the previous investigations, it was expected that the current investigations would record at least 129 marked graves (although a total of 150 marked graves are listed for this section of the cemetery, 21 of these markers were documented as missing during the 1987 survey).

The current investigation recorded 142 marked graves (**Table 3**), 133 of which contained legible inscriptions (see **Figures 11a** and **11b**). Interestingly, one of the 21 markers missing from the 1987 survey (the grave marker of Arthur Barbee) was relocated during the 2013 investigation. Missing markers included the remaining 20 markers also missing during the 1987 survey (**Table 4**). All other previously recorded markers were relocated. **Appendix A** presents a key to the numbered marked graves depicted on **Figures 11a** and **11b**.

**Table 3: Graves Recorded During 2013 Survey.**

<b>2013 Survey</b>	<b>No. Graves</b>
Identifiable Grave Markers Found (prev. recorded)	130
Identifiable Grave Markers Found (newly recorded)	3
Additional Grave Markers Found (illegible but marked)	9
<i>Total Marked Graves</i>	<i>142</i>
Unmarked Graves	165
<b><i>Total Graves Recorded</i></b>	<b><i>307</i></b>

**Table 4: Previously Recorded Graves Missing During 2013 Survey.**

<b>Name (dates)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Allen, Lou (Mrs) (b. - d. 1955)	Also missing from 1987 survey
Baker, Decie (Mrs) (b. - d. 1962)	Also missing from 1987 survey
Baker, Foy H (b.1891 - d. 1951)	Also missing from 1987 survey
Baker, Laura (Mrs) (b. - d. 1960)	Also missing from 1987 survey
Baldwin, Deewitt (b. - d. 1951)	Also missing from 1987 survey
Brewer, Eva (Mrs) (b. - d. 1961)	Also missing from 1987 survey
Brewer, Frank (b. 1920 - d. 1969)	Also missing from 1987 survey

Name (dates)	Comments
Foust, UID (b. - d. 1968)	Also missing from 1987 survey
Foust, Josephine L (Miss) (b. - d. 1963)	Also missing from 1987 survey
Gill, Mary (Mrs) (b. - d. 1961)	Also missing from 1987 survey
Hargraves, Maureen E. (b. - d. 1938)	Also missing from 1987 survey
Harrington, Sallie (Mrs) (b. - d. 1948)	Also missing from 1987 survey
Hopkins, John (b. 1901 - d. 1969)	Also missing from 1987 survey
Jones, Warren (b. 1902 - d. 1970)	Also missing from 1987 survey
Massey, Fannie (b. 1898 - d. 1964)	Also missing from 1987 survey
McDuffie, Katie P (Mrs) (b. - d. 1941)	Also missing from 1987 survey
Quenum, Baby Girl (b. - d. )	Also missing from 1987 survey
Riggsbee, Infant Boy (b. - d. )	Also missing from 1987 survey
Thompson, Cheryl (b. - d. )	Also missing from 1987 survey
Whitted, Martin (b. - d. 1931)	Also missing from 1987 survey

Although the grave for Eva Brewer was not relocated during the 1987 cemetery survey or the current investigations, it is likely that she is interred in a grave located adjacent to her husband, Frank Brewer. Inspection of the area surrounding the likely grave location revealed fragments of a rusted metal temporary funeral home marker with a glass covered paper identification label. Unfortunately, the paper fragments were illegible; however, given the proximity of the grave to Frank Brewer, as well as the use of a double headstone to mark Frank Brewer's grave (the left side of the stone was left uncarved), it is likely that she is interred here. Many of the other marked graves not located during the 1987 survey or current investigation were likely similarly marked with temporary markers which have since deteriorated or have been removed.

Three of the marked graves located during the 2013 survey had not been previously recorded during either of the earlier cemetery surveys. These three grave markers (William Edwards, Annie Jones Merritt, and Frank Weaver) may have been more recent commemorative or replacement markers installed after the 1987 cemetery survey was undertaken.

Nine of the marked graves consisted of illegible/eroded markers or fragments of markers without full inscriptions (**Figures 13–14**). Three of these contained partial inscriptions, and included a footstone inscribed "R.F.B." (likely mis-located from another portion of the cemetery; the grave of Robert Finley Baird is located in another section of the cemetery), a fragment of a cement marker with the initial "B.", and a small fieldstone carved with the initials "A.V.S". The remaining three markers contained no inscriptions or were too eroded to read.

In addition to the marked graves, the GPR and ER investigations identified 165 unmarked graves (30 of which were marked with uncarved fieldstones). A few of the likely unmarked graves were suggested by probing and the presence of fieldstone markers roughly aligned to the existing cemetery grid; however, neither ER nor GPR indicated the presence of subsurface anomalies indicative of grave shafts or burials.

In summary, the investigation of Section A resulted in the identification of at least 165 potential unmarked graves. The term "potential" is used as geophysical survey and soil density testing cannot fully confirm or refute the presence of a grave shaft. Only the removal of topsoil to

expose the underlying subsoil can absolutely determine if a grave shaft is present, but this was not feasible for the present investigation.



**Figure 13: Unidentified Molded Cinderblock Marker**

A cursory investigation of the surnames for some of the families buried within Section A of the cemetery was undertaken in an attempt to determine possible identities for some of the unmarked graves. Although outside of the scope of the current investigation, this preliminary research suggests potential identities for some of the unmarked graves and offers direction for future investigations.

For example, a search of early twentieth century Orange County death certificates indicated that three young children of Charles and Mittie Allen (Esther, Gracie, and Mary Louise) are listed as being buried in this cemetery. Several unmarked graves were detected in the vicinity of the marked graves of Charles and Mittie Allen; it is possible that the Allen children are interred here.

Similarly, the death certificate for Mittie Sellars (1874–1962), the wife of Jesse Kirkland (1863–1930), states that she is buried in the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery. A marker for “J. Kirkland” (listed as #120 in **Figure 11a**) may represent either Jesse Kirkland or his daughter Jessie O’Kelly Kirkland Coleman (1895–1964). Death certificates indicate that both are buried in this cemetery. At least three possible unmarked graves were recorded in the vicinity of this marked grave; one likely belongs to Mittie Sellars.



**Figure 14: Hand carved marker, Annie Harton (1843–??)**

In addition to the unmarked graves, research also suggests that at least two previously recorded marked graves likely do not contain the remains of the individual named. Although a single grave marker indicates the interment of Luna, Lacy, and Silas Pettiford, the death certificate for Luna indicates that her remains were interred in “White Level”, presumably the White Level Church cemetery near her home in Mebane, Alamance County, North Carolina (**Figure 15**). A visit to this small, rural cemetery revealed several graves with the Pettiford surname, as well as numerous unmarked graves within the Pettiford plot.

The death certificate for Fannie Massie (1898–1964) indicates that she is interred at Chapel Hill Memorial Cemetery; however, the 1973 cemetery census indicated that her grave was located in Section A of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery (**Figure 16**). This grave could not be relocated during either the 1987 or 2013 investigations; however, the Memorial cemetery does not list her grave among its interments.

Given the existence of death certificates, genealogical records, and other documentation of burials within this section of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, future work should be directed towards determining the likely identities of the unmarked graves within Section A of the cemetery.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

4367  
25

**STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

Registration District No. 1-3711 N.E. Register No. 6

1 PLACE OF DEATH  
County Alamance State N.C.  
Township Cheroot town or Village \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Ward \_\_\_\_\_  
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its name instead of street and number)

2 FULL NAME Luna Pettiford  
(Usual place of abode) \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Ward \_\_\_\_\_  
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred 2 yrs. 0 mos. 0 ds. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth) \_\_\_\_\_ yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ mos. \_\_\_\_\_ ds.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 Sex Female 4 Color or Race colored 5 Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) married  
6 Date of birth (month, day, and year) Aug 12 1882  
7 Age 36 years 5 months 25 days \_\_\_\_\_ hrs. \_\_\_\_\_ min.  
8 Occupation of deceased (a) Trade, Profession, or particular kind of work Housewife  
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) \_\_\_\_\_  
(c) Name of employer Her own

9 Birthplace (city or town) (State or country) Person, N.C.  
10 Name of Father James Pettiford  
11 Birthplace of Father (city or town) (State or country) Person, N.C.  
12 Maiden Name of Mother Cliza Pettiford  
13 Birthplace of Mother (city or town) (State or country) N.C.

14 Informant Luna P. Pettiford  
(Address) Person, N.C.  
15 Filed 2/10 1919 by J. E. Sillwell REGISTRAR

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 Date of Death (month, day, and year) Feb. 7 1919  
17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Jan. 1919 to Feb. 1919 and that I last saw her alive on Feb. 7, 1919 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 132 3/4 and the CAUSE OF DEATH\* was as follows:  
Organic Heart Disease  
Myocardial degeneration  
Contributory (duration) \_\_\_\_\_ yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ mos. \_\_\_\_\_ ds.  
(SECONDARY) Pregnancy \_\_\_\_\_ yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ mos. \_\_\_\_\_ ds.

18 Where was disease contracted (if not at place of death)? \_\_\_\_\_  
Did an operation precede death? no Date of \_\_\_\_\_  
Was there an autopsy? no  
What test confirmed diagnosis? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signed) J. M. Thompson M.D.  
Feb 8 1919 (Address) Mellrose N.C.  
\*State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) MEANS AND NATURE OF INJURY, and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL. (See reverse side for additional space.)

19 Place of Burial, Cremation, or removal Date of Burial \_\_\_\_\_  
White Level Graveyard 2/19 1919  
20 Undertaker Rich & Thompson Person, N.C.

MARGIN RESERVE FOR PRINTING

N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFAADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated in full. PHYSICIAN should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, and, if necessary, it should be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

Figure 15: Death Certificate for Luna Pettiford; note interment in the "White Level Graveyard".

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

28926

**CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. 6880 REGISTRAR'S CERTIFICATE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

1. PLACE OF DEATH  
a. COUNTY Orange b. TOWNSHIP Chapel Hill c. LENGTH OF STAY IN PLACE OF DEATH Life  
2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived if institution; residence before admission)  
a. STATE N. C. b. COUNTY Orange

3. CITY OR TOWN Chapel Hill In Place of Death Within City Limits?  YES  NO  
4. CITY OR TOWN Chapel Hill In Place of Residence  
In City Limits?  YES  NO In Farm?  YES  NO

5. FULL NAME OF DECEASED Fannie Massey  
6. STREET ADDRESS OR R. F. D. NO. 306 McDade St.

7. NAME OF DECEASED First Fannie Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last Massey  
8. DATE OF DEATH Month 9 Day 19 Year 64

9. SEX Female 10. COLOR OR RACE N 11. MARRIED  NEVER MARRIED  12. DATE OF BIRTH 5-15-98  
13. AGE (In years last birthday) 66 14. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) Domestic  
15. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY \_\_\_\_\_ 16. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) N. C. 17. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? U. S.

18. FATHER'S NAME John Atwater 19. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME unknown 20. NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE Foy Massey

21. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U. S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give war or dates of service) NO  
22. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 242-46-0596 23. INFORMANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS Charles Booth Chapel Hill, N.C.

24. CAUSE OF DEATH—ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b) and (c).  
PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY  
IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) Infection of colon INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH 48 hours  
ANTECEDENT CAUSES—Condition, if any, which gave rise to above cause (a), stating the underlying cause last.  
DUE TO (b) Generalized Arteriosclerosis 10 years  
DUE TO (c) Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease 5 years  
PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO FORMAL DIAGNOSIS (List in Part I)  
Diabetes Mellitus + Rheumatoid Arthritis

25. ACCIDENT SUICIDE HOMICIDE \_\_\_\_\_ 26. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED: (State nature of injury in Part I or Part II of item 18)

27. TIME MONTH, DAY, YEAR WHEN INJURY OCCURRED \_\_\_\_\_ 28. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
29. CITY OR TOWNSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

30. I attended the deceased from \_\_\_\_\_ and last saw her alive on \_\_\_\_\_  
Death occurred at 5:30 P. on 6/11 1964 at \_\_\_\_\_  
31. SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ (Name or title) \_\_\_\_\_  
32. ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
33. DATE SIGNED 9/21/64

34. BURIAL CREMATION, REMOVAL, etc. DATE 9-22-64 35. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Chapel Hill Memorial 36. LOCATION (City, town, or county) Chapel Hill N. C.

37. DATE REC'D BY LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_ 38. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ 39. FUNERAL DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_  
2-1-64 A. Hamilton Jones Chapel Hill Funeral Home Box 165

This is a legal record and will be maintained as such.

Type or write legibly. Use black ink.

All information to be supplied to the State Board of Health.

The undertaker or person acting in lieu thereof is responsible for filing the completed certificate with the registrar of the district where death occurred.

The physician has an attendance in person or by proxy to state the cause of death and sign the medical certificate.

If there was an autopsy, the medical certificate should be completed by the local Health Officer for the County, if in quest was held.

THIS COPY FOR STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

FORM 8  
Rev. 1-58  
1-63-1508

Figure 16: Death Certificate for Fannie Massey; note interment at Chapel Hill Memorial.

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**APPENDIX A:  
Key to Marked Graves in Section A (see Figures 11a and 11b).**

Key	First	Last	Born	Died	Comment
1	William	Edwards	1911	1942	
2	Caroline J.	Durham	1884	1966	
3	Nannie B.	Strowd	1882	1940	
4	Thomas Sr.	Booth	1887	1955	
5	Silas Luna Lacy Melvin	Pettiford Pettiford Pettiford	1876 1882 1919	1955 1919 1937	prob. not buried here
6	Foy	Massey	1898	1947	Spouse: Fannie Atwater
7	Laura W.	Merritt	1900	1976	Spouse: Dexter
8	Dexter	Merritt	1899	1935	Spouse: Laura Weaver
9	Helen Louise	Bynum	1937	1942	
10	Charlie Mattie Hackney	Weaver	1899	1932	Parents: Lewis H. and Lara E. Hackney
12	Lewis H.	Hackney	1854	1937	
14	Lara E.	Hackney	1858	1938	
16	Mary	Atwater	1864	1936	
17	Elease Helen William	Winston Winston Winston	1892 1925 1917	1963 1946 1940	Single Headstone with three footstones
21	Juanita Winston	Mims	1923	1986	
22	William	King	1883	1954	
23	R.L.	Ferrington	1899	1936	
24	Mittie Moore	Allen	1881	1947	Spouse: Charles Allen
26	UID	B.	?	?	broken molded cinderblock
27	Charles	Allen	1861	1923	Spouse: Mittie Allen
28	UID	UID	?	?	footstone only; illegible
29	William W.	Jones	1844	1924	Spouse: Malvina
30	Malvina M.	Jones	1859	1918	Spouse: William
31	Robert A.	Merritt	1926	1964	
32	Annie Jones	Merritt	1898	1979	
33	FAMILY	JONES- MERRITT	na	na	Large Family Monument
34	John	McMaster	1877	1927	
35	Alfred M.	Weaver	1916	1916	
36	Mecio	Weaver	1916	1917	
37	R.F	B.	?	?	Footstone; diff. cemetery sect?
38	Nellie Stroud Toney H (Rev.)	Strayhorn Strayhorn	1850 1850	1950 1934	

Key	First	Last	Born	Died	Comment
41	Nellie H.	Barbee	1902	1917	
43	Mallie	Jones	1896	1943	
44	A.N.	Johnson	1857	1932	
45	Isabella A.	Johnson	1865	1920	
47	B.L.	Tuck	1891	1918	
48	Annie May	Cotton	1906	1922	
49	Arthur	Weaver	1894	1939	
50	B.F.	Hopkins	1857	1924	
52	Glovenia	Hopkins	1868	1936	
54	Lillis Evans Elizabeth	Hopkins Hopkins	1900 1923	1962 1937	
56	James A.	Weaver	1853	1921	
57	Dora	Weaver	1854	1920	
58	Mary J.	Cotton	1859	1915	
59	W.J.	Jones	1855	1916	
60	Minnie	Jones	1856	1936	
63	Sylvia	Jones	1854	1927	Spouse: Jesse
64	Jesse	Jones	1858	1912	Spouse: Sylvia
65	Bessie Lee	Jones	1885	1910	
67	UID	UID	?	?	illegible
68	A.V.	S.	?	?	fieldstone carved with initials
69	Flora	Davis	1903	1948	
70	Martha	Snipes	1854	1928	
71	Eliza	Thompson	1883	1932	
72	Ernest M.	Thompson	1891	1953	
73	Helen King	Thompson	1898	1959	
74	Arthur	Barbee	1885	1935	
75	Cleo Guthrie	Burnette	1898	1951	
76	Annie	Harton	1843	?	
77	Docia	Jones	1884	1944	
78	Elizabeth	Oldham	1905	1926	
82	Thomas J.	Oldham	1908	1924	
83	Julia	Merritt	1848	1923	
84	Eliza	Jones	1861	1927	
85	Rebecca S.	Brooks	1890	1937	
87	Charlie	Brooks	1884	1968	
88	Carol Brooks	Pindle	1906	1909	
89	Gretchen	Snipes	1909	1911	Parents: Bessie & James
90	Bessie E.	Snipes	1891	1953	Spouse: James
91	James	Snipes	1876	1944	Spouse: Bessie

Key	First	Last	Born	Died	Comment
92	Dennis	Merritt	1888	1911	
94	Luther R.	Hargraves	1869	1941	
95	James M.	Harrington	1901	1966	
96	Beatrice M. Cammie C. Evelyn E.	Johnson Johnson Johnson	1917 1892 1921	1938 1932 1934	Single Marker with Footstones for BMJ and CCJ
99	George W.	Flacks	1844	1922	
100	Nathanial Jr.	Jones	1919	1964	
101	George	Weaver	1922	1965	
102	Delia Hackney	Campbell	1864	1946	
103	Louise	Campbell	1904	1924	
105	Thomas Wilson Jr.	Battle	1918	1918	
107	Cora	Battle	1856	1918	
109	Thomas Wilson	Battle	1891	1974	
111	Bert	Freeman	1887	1926	
112	Estella Hargraves	Freeman	1894	1926	
113	Lyda Ruth	Freeman	1910	1926	
114	Della Weaver	Hargraves	1875	1929	
115	Dovard	O'Kelly	1888	1945	
116	Mary L.	Kirkland	1900	1959	
117	Offley	Kirkland	1893	1956	
118	George	Kirkland	1899	1948	
119	FAMILY	O'KELLY- KIRKLAND	na	na	Large Family Monument
120	J.	Kirkland	?	?	footstone only, poss. Jesse
121	Percy	Baker	1913	1966	
122	Minnie	Taylor	1885	1921	
123	Dudley	Taylor	1885	1918	
124	Elcie	Hargrove	1868	1923	
125	Robert	Hackney	1888	1958	Parents: Lewis H. and Lara E.
127	Veora Hackney	Floyd	1880	1950	Parents: Lewis H. and Lara E.
129	Effie	Edwards	1824	Post 1900?	Mother of Lara Edwards Hackney?
131	Blaine A. Eppie G. Lillion A. Lunas N. Nellie L. Sussie Ann	Hackney	?	1885 1886 1890 1889 1888 1899	Single Marker for six children of Lewis & Lara Hackney
132	(Children)	Hackney	?	var.	Single Footstone marking six children of Lewis & Lara Hackney

Key	First	Last	Born	Died	Comment
133	John	Allen	1895	1918	Parents: Charles and Mittie, Wife: Charlie Hackney
135	Charlotte	Hargrave	1847	1924	
136	Cornelia F.	Foust	1875	1933	
137	Sallie	Stroud	1853	1919	
138	Frank	Weaver	1916	1956	
139	Maggie	Stroud	1880	1925	
140	Deplunia	Weaver	1863	1923	
141	Henry	Weaver	1889	1918	two stones for one grave; different dates (see #167)
142	William	McDade	1851	1935	
143	Lawrence	McDade	1886	1912	
144	Viola McDade	Brooks	1885	1915	
145	Fannie	McDade	1861	1964	
150	Reuben R.	McDade	?	?	footstone, see #152
151	Anna Pattie	McDade	?	?	footstone, see #152
152	Joel	McDade	1876	1926	shares headstone with A.P. & R.R.
153	Annie Green	McDade McDade	1851 1848	1935 1935	
156	Maggie	Taylor	1868	1913	
157	E.D.	Battle	1881	1923	
158	Fanny	Battle	1847	1922	
159	Hattie May	Brewer	1914	1926	Parents: Frank and Eva
160	Frank	Brewer	1885	1937	Spouse: Eva (buried in adj. plot?)
161	Robert G.	Jones	1935	1948	
162	Mary L.	Kirkland	1900	1959	footstone
163	Henry	Merritt	1871	1943	
164	Susie H.	Merritt	1878	1966	
165	FAMILY	TAYLOR- WHITTED	na	na	Large Family Monument
166	FAMILY	WEAVER- EDWARDS	na	na	Large Family Monument
167	Henry	Weaver	1892	1918	two markers; diff. birthdates (see #141); Parents: Deplunia and John
168	Sallie	Foust	1901	1924	
169	D.	Brewer	?	?	
170	UID	UID	?	?	illegible
171	UID	UID	?	?	illegible



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