

Snapshot

Date Generated: February 19, 2014

Site Name: Green Level Cemetery
Site Classification: Terrestrial, open air
Year(s): 18th century--1852
Site Type(s): Cemetery
Other DHR ID: No Data
Temporary Designation: Site 1

Site Evaluation Status

Not Evaluated

Locational Information

USGS Quad: SOMERVILLE
County/Independent City: Prince William (County)
Physiographic Province: Piedmont
Elevation: 180 ft asl
Aspect:
Drainage: Potomac
Slope:
Acreage: 0.820
Landform: Floodplain
Ownership Status: State Govt
Government Entity Name: Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Site Components

Component 1

Category: Funerary
Site Type: Cemetery
Cultural Affiliation: Euro-American
DHR Time Period: Colonial, Early National Period, Antebellum Period
Start Year: 18th century
End Year: ca. 1852—last known grave (plantation survived in some form into early 20th century)
Comments:

Based on the results of probing and marker recovery, the alignment of identified graves and the presence of some depressions, cemetery layout can be estimated, though the exact number of graves and precise historic cemetery dimensions cannot be unequivocally represented. The cemetery is now known to contain at least four rows of graves (see sketch map). The maximum number of identified graves in any row is four, though these rows may include several more interments. The dimensions of the cemetery are conservatively estimated at 80 (north/south) by 100 (east/west) feet, approximately 8000 ft². This represents less than one fourth of the original area set aside for a cemetery. In an 1850 deed transferring the dower portion of the French estate out of the family's ownership, ¼ of an acre is reserved for a graveyard.

A total of eight graves were located and a ninth interment was indicated by a displaced fieldstone marker. In addition, several other graves are considered likely. A handful of unmarked graves may be indicated by depressions though some of these lack distinctive linear form and the ground surface is generally irregular. For each of the known graves, their locations were refined by probing and correlation of in-situ headstone and footstone fragments with displaced and broken stones. Graves are oriented traditionally in an eastward facing direction with headstone inscriptions facing east. Seven graves are of the French family. One is marked with initials "CTT". Another grave is marked by small fieldstone markers at the head and foot.

Bibliographic Information

Bibliography:

No Data

Informant Data:

No Data

CRM Events

Event Type: Survey/Excavation: Volunteer or Avocational

Project Staff/Notes:

Recorded by J. Smith on behalf of Jeff Irwin, Archaeologist (Member and Volunteer for Prince William Conservation Alliance).

Project Review File Number: 2012-1311
Sponsoring Organization: No Data
Organization/Company: DHR
Investigator: Jeff Irwin PWCA
Survey Date: 2/10/2014

Survey Description:

The primary method of locating graves involved probing the area around the marked and suspected grave locations, penetrating the ground surface no more than six inches, in order to locate any grave markers that remain buried in a shallow context. Several marker fragments were identified in probing and were excavated by hand with a trowel or shovel and cleaned with brushes. All markers were found in shallow context. In a few cases, the in-situ basal portions of broken headstones and footstones were found through probing. Headstones and headstone fragments were invariably broken and slightly or dramatically displaced from their original positions. In addition to probing, simple raking of leaf litter aided significantly in the identification of shallow depressions and several small in-situ fieldstone markers.

Displaced and fallen headstones were associated with in-situ footstones or footstone or headstone bases. Stones were matched to bases by examining several pieces of evidence, including: names and initials, style of stenciling or typeface used in inscriptions, stone dimensions, and stone raw material. Where possible headstone fragments were collected and aligned according to potential refits. In cases where stones were broken in more than one piece and could not be repaired, a wooden cradle of pressure-treated lumber custom fit to the headstone dimensions was created and laid on the ground surface above the grave. These frames allow the stones to remain above ground at the general location of their likely primary context. Re-erecting stones could only be accomplished for footstones and was done in a few ways. Where an in-situ base and an unbroken upper portion of a footstone were found, the upper stone could be set on top of the buried base and supported with compacted soil or attached with a wood brace. Bill Olson, a local cemetery expert, has developed these minimally intrusive techniques of exposing, preserving and re-erecting headstones and footstones.

Current Land Use	Date of Use	Comments
Forest	2/10/2014 12:00:00 AM	Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area

Threats to Resource: Neglect
Site Conditions: Unknown Portion of Site Destroyed
Survey Strategies: Observation, Surface Testing
Specimens Collected: No
Specimens Observed, Not Collected: No

Artifacts Summary and Diagnostics:

No Data

Summary of Specimens Observed, Not Collected:

No Data

Current Curation Repository: No Data
Permanent Curation Repository: No Data
Field Notes: No
Field Notes Repository: No Data
Photographic Media: Digital
Survey Reports: No

Survey Report Information:

A Report on the Investigation and Restoration of the Green Level Cemetery at Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area, Prince William County, Va. Jeff Irwin, 205.

Survey Report Repository: No Data
DHR Library Reference Number: No Data
Significance Statement: No Data
Surveyor's Eligibility Recommendations: Not Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
Surveyor's NR Criteria Recommendations, : No Data
Surveyor's NR Criteria Considerations: No Data