

HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION



FOR THE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF THE PEA RIDGE ROAD CEMETERY (31CH1405)

**2572 Pea Ridge Road and 2199 New Elam Church Road
New Hill, Cape Fear Township
Chatham County, North Carolina**

PREPARED FOR:

Bradford Bailey
Wake Funeral and Cremation
600 Gathering Park Circle #101
Cary, North Carolina 27519

December 2023

RGA Technical Report No. 2023-235NC



RICHARD
GRUBB &
ASSOCIATES

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Principal Investigator:

Olivia Heckendorf, MA

Author:

Olivia Heckendorf, MA

Prepared by:

Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc.
525 Wait Avenue
Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587

Prepared For:

Bradford Bailey
Wake Funeral and Cremation
600 Gathering Park Circle #101
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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT BACKGROUND

On behalf of Cove Creek Property, LLC and LMM Investments, LLC, Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. (RGA) has completed this historical investigation to inform the request to relocate the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery (31CH1405) at 2572 Pea Ridge Road and 2199 New Elam Church Road, New Hill, Cape Fear Township, Chatham County, North Carolina (Figure 1.1–1.3). This report details the results of the historical background research and documents steps taken to identify the decedents' next-of-kin.

The Pea Ridge Road Cemetery overlaps the intersection of two irregularly shaped parcels (PINs 5214 and 5234) owned by Cove Creek Property, LLC (2572 Pea Ridge Road) and LMM Investments, LLC (2199 New Elam Church Road). The two parcels are bounded by Pea Ridge Road to the west and New Elam Church Road to the west, approximately 1 mile east of Jordan Lake. Cove Creek Property, LLC; LMM Investments, LLC; and Shaddox Creek, LLC, own a total of six contiguous parcels in the immediate area (PINs 5231, 5214, 5234, 5257, 5215, 5213). Plans for a residential subdivision on these six parcels are still being developed and no site plan is available at this time.

This report was prepared to inform the request to relocate the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery before the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. Cove Creek Property, LLC and LMM Investments, LLC are requesting approval from the Board of Commissioners to relocate the graves within the subject cemetery to New Elam Christian Church, 3290 Pea Ridge Road (PIN 62352), as allowed by North Carolina General Statute 65-106 Removal of Graves (Appendix A). The purpose of the request is to accommodate the development of the Cove Creek Property, LLC and LMM Investments, LLC residential subdivision. All expenses related to the disinterment and reinterment of the graves will be borne by Cove Creek Property, LLC and LMM Investments, LLC.

The author of this report meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications for History and Architectural History.

1.1 Environmental Setting

The Pea Ridge Road Cemetery (31CH1405) at 2572 Pea Ridge Road and 2199 New Elam Church Road lies in Cape Fear Township of eastern Chatham County, approximately 9 miles southeast of the Chatham County seat of Pittsboro and 6 miles west of the Town of Apex in Wake County. The cemetery lies at the corner of the 84.19-acre parcel at 2572 Pea Ridge Road (PIN 5214), owned by Cove Creek Property, LLC, and the 44-acre parcel at 2199 New Elam Church Road (PIN 5234), owned by LMM Investments, LLC (Figure 1.4). The cemetery is sited near the top of a heavily wooded high knoll with the land sloping downwards to the southeast toward Shaddox Creek. The ground is covered with leaf litter and pine duff. There are no visible paths or access roads that lead to the cemetery. The cemetery's boundary is unmarked. Four uninscribed fieldstones (three headstones and one footstone) mark three potential burials. One burial lies on the property at 2572 Pea Ridge Road, and two burials lie on the property at 2199 New Elam Church Road.

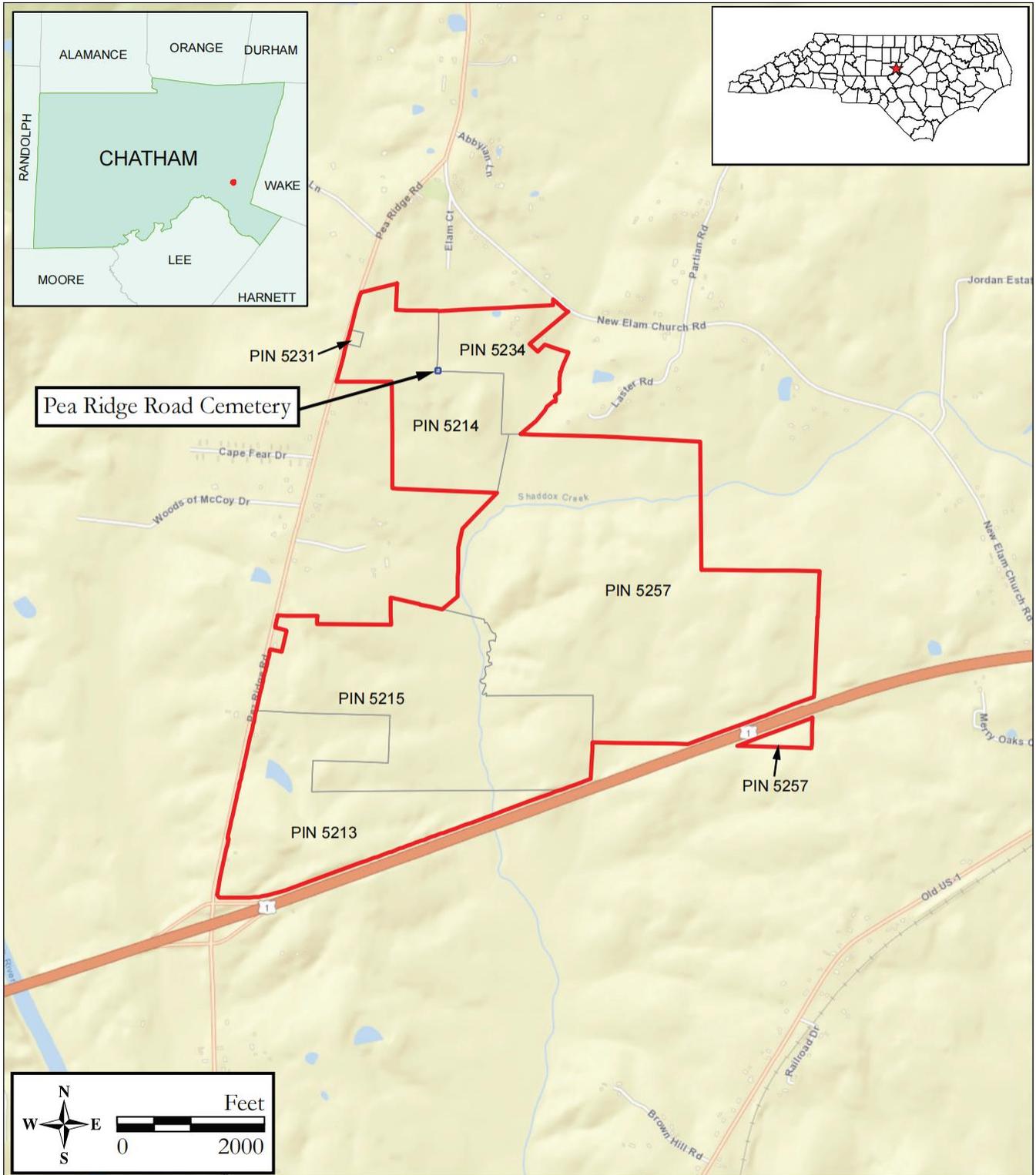


Figure 1.1: Street map showing the location of the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery (World Street Map, ESRI 2022a).

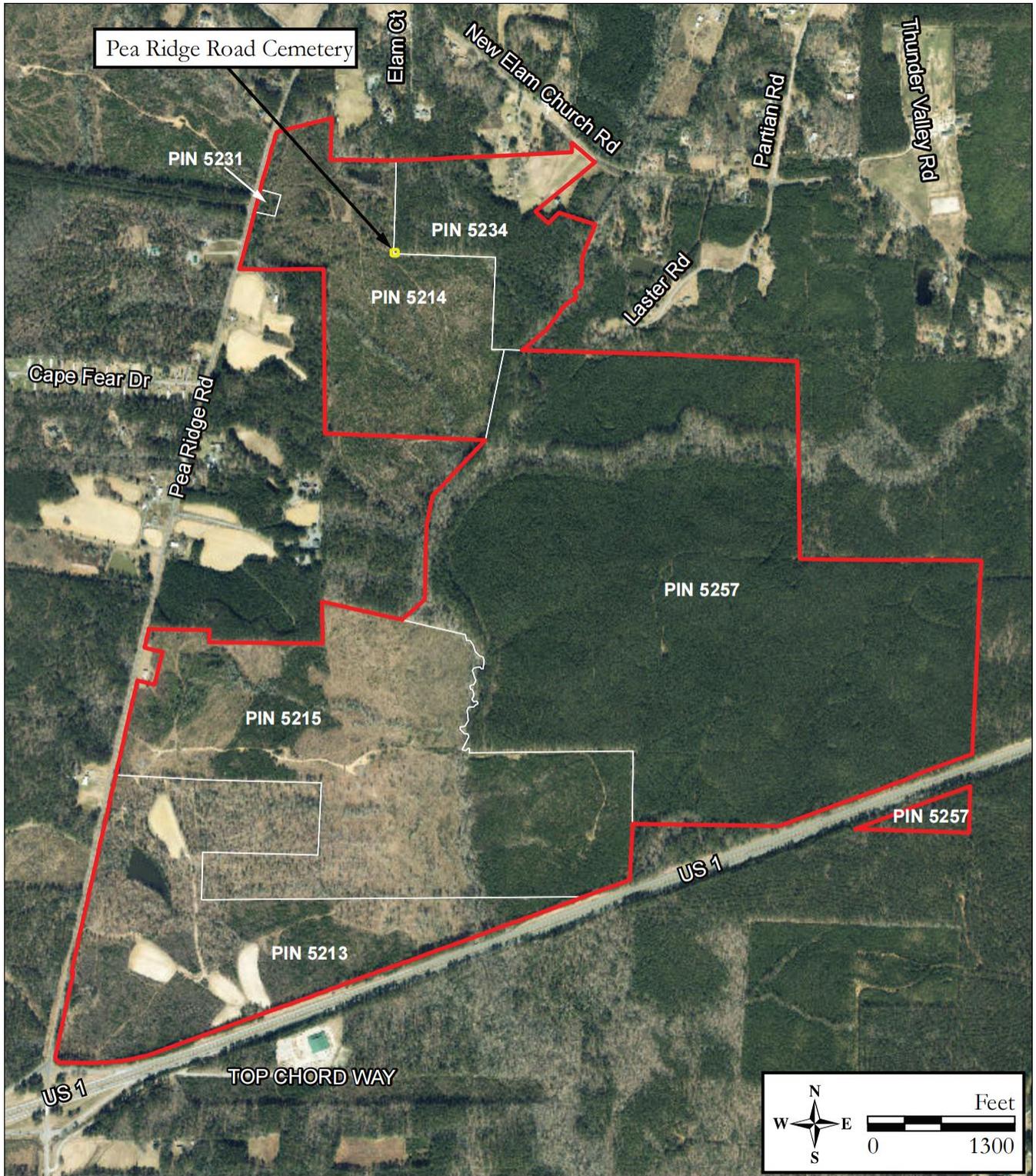


Figure 1.2: Aerial map showing the location of the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery (World Imagery, ESRI 2022b).

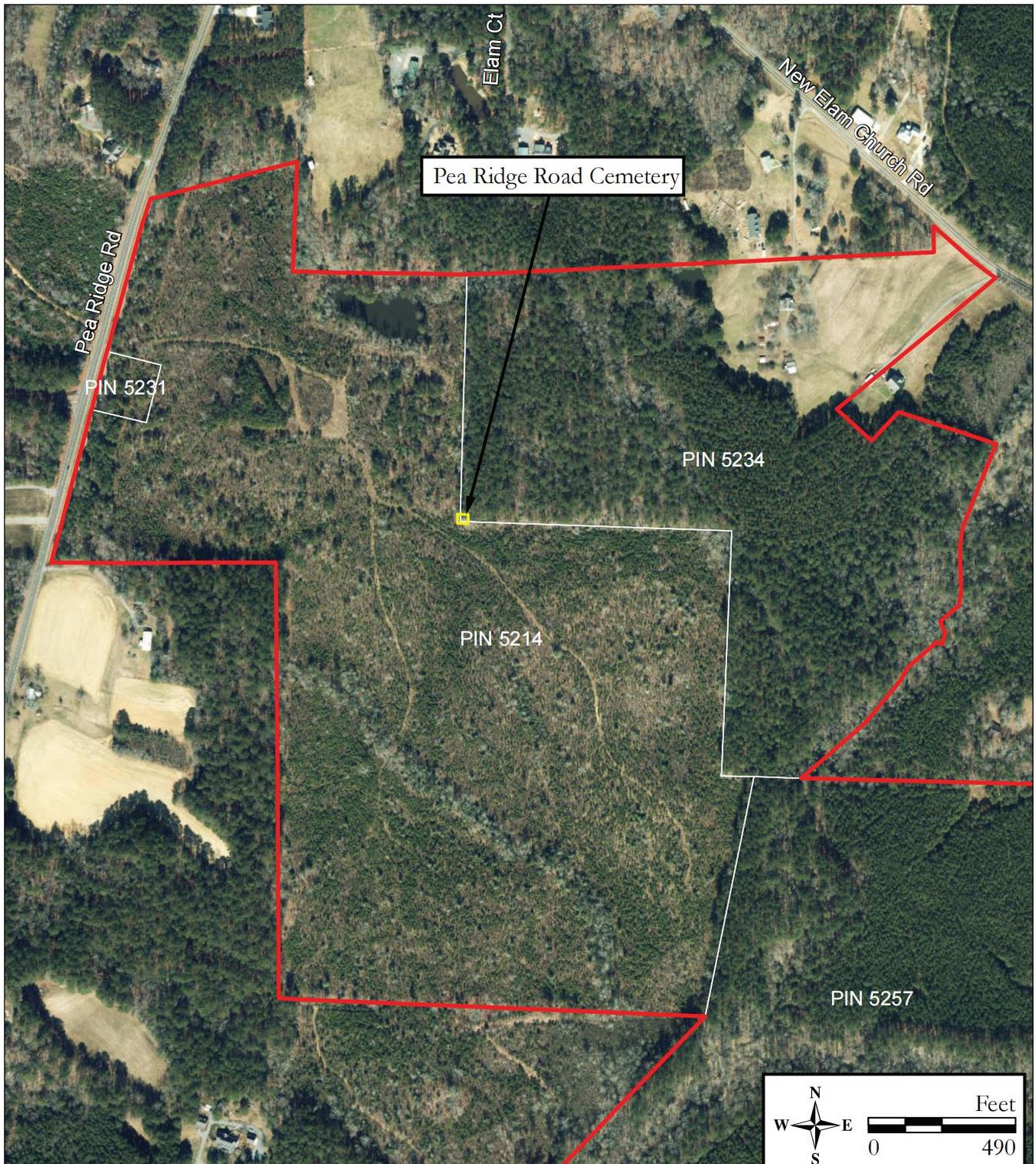


Figure 1.3: Aerial view of the parcels which the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery straddles (World Imagery, ESRI 2022b).

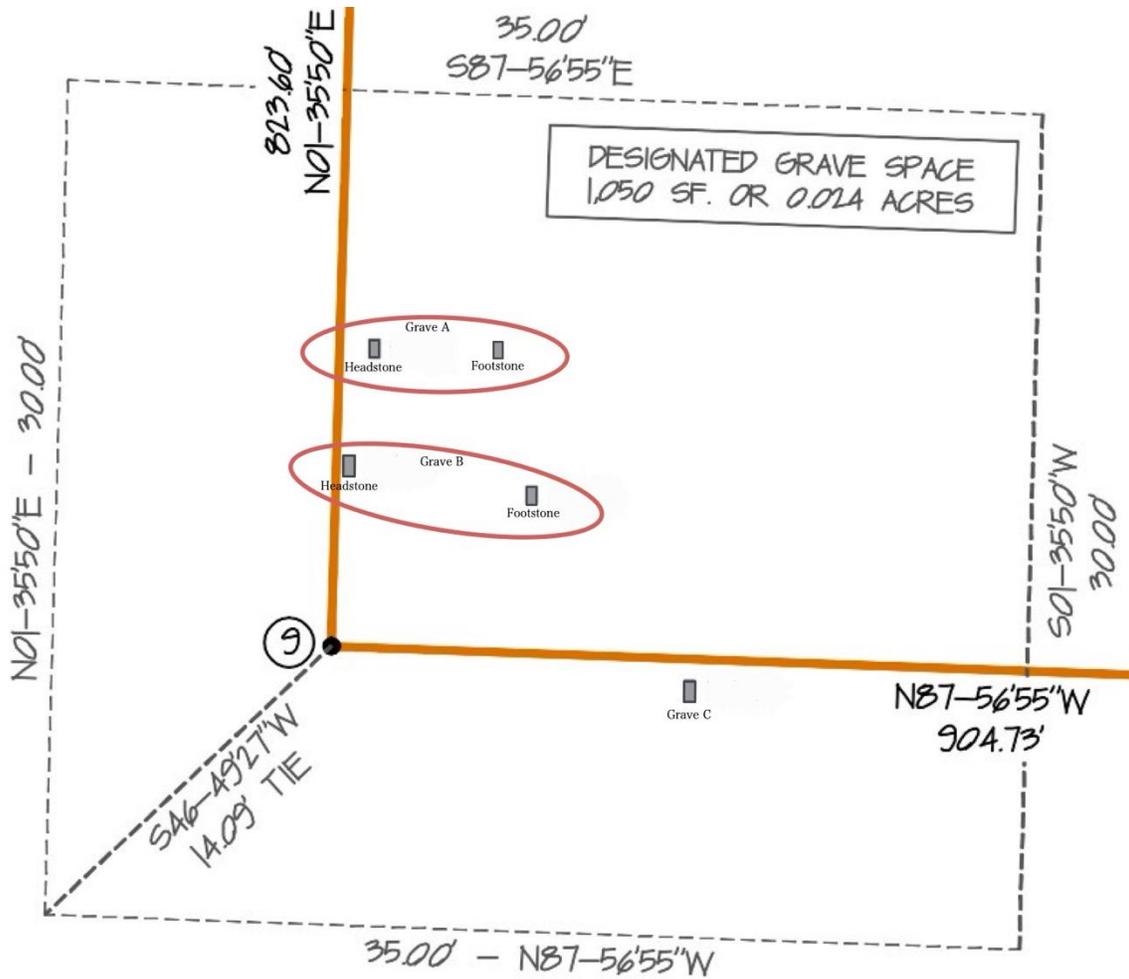


Figure 1.4: Site plan of the visible grave markers within the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery.
 Source: Chatham County Plat Book 2021, page 321.

1.2 Cemetery Context

Burial places and customs reflect the cultural traditions of their communities. Despite regional variations, most cemeteries throughout North Carolina share common features that are a product of European, Christian, and African burial practices, among them the prevalent east–west orientation of individual graves, with the head to the west. Gravemarkers were made of wood, clay, stone, or concrete, and were either handcrafted or commercially produced. Gravemarkers types reflected differences in wealth, literacy, ethnicity, and religion. Unmarked graves may also be present within a cemetery, either because they were never marked or due to the ephemeral nature of the original marker. Graves within a cemetery may also be identified through depressions caused by the collapse of the grave shaft over time. In Chatham County, cemeteries can be divided into three main categories: family or folk cemeteries, church cemeteries, and community cemeteries.

Family cemeteries offered a practical solution for a dispersed, rural population until well into the twentieth century. Transporting a coffin over unimproved roads a substantial distance was not

possible for many North Carolinians, making burial close to home a necessity. Burials on family land also reinforced ties of kinship within a community, as multiple generations would be interred in plots that remained under family ownership. Family cemeteries range from informal plots with unmarked graves to fenced or walled cemeteries containing neat rows of marked graves. The Pea Ridge Road Cemetery is an example of a rural family cemetery.

Many family cemeteries were started on family land and were active for a relatively limited period of time. These cemeteries provided a sacred place on family land where cherished family members were laid to rest near the homesite, so the family could visit and honor them. Some of these cemeteries were active for years but were abandoned when descendants migrated to other areas and the family land was sold. According to Harvard landscape scholar John Stilgoe, in small cemeteries, after families stopped maintaining them, “the few small stones were submerged in leaves and humus, and only a low wall or stand of cedars or mimosas announced the land’s former use,” and “Southern burial was always uncertain because the caretakers were likely to move away, but graveyards were carefully respected whether cared for or not” (Stilgoe 1983:229).

The cemeteries of enslaved people share common characteristics throughout North Carolina and the American South. These cemeteries often were sited on high ground and located near water (Patch 2021:7). Water symbolized the journey from life to death and a source of fertility (Patch 2021:8). Burials were generally organized informally in family clusters and were oriented east–west with the head at the west end, which represented both African and Christian beliefs (Patch 2021:9). Undated and uninscribed fieldstone gravemarkers commonly marked burials. Some gravemarkers and most grave decorations were made of materials at hand and have not survived to the present day due to their temporary nature and their exposure to the elements (Little 1998:36).

Church cemeteries can be found in rural, small town, and urban settings. They are characterized by their proximity to their associated churches, with some dating prior to the construction of the church building. Burials are typically arranged in linear fashion and are oriented east–west. Church cemeteries may contain burials spanning over a century, with new interments continuing into the present.

Community cemeteries became more common in the twentieth century, as improved roads and modern mortuary services gave people who no longer owned ancestral land or were not affiliated with a church a place to bury their dead. These types of cemeteries can be privately owned and managed or be operated by municipalities. An individual or family plot could be purchased, with the assurance that maintenance would be provided in perpetuity, relieving the family of that burden. Like larger church cemeteries, community cemeteries may grow over many decades, following planned layouts defined by circulation patterns and landscaping.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

Historical background research and a pedestrian survey were conducted to complete this investigation. Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. (RGA) completed the pedestrian survey in September 2023. Three headstones, one of which has an associated footstone, were observed during the pedestrian survey. As a result of this survey, the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery was recorded with the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology (OSA) and assigned site number 31CH1405.

2.1 Historical Background Research

Background research was conducted for the following purposes: to locate previously identified historic properties (buildings and cemeteries) on and around the subject parcel; to attempt to identify individuals interred at the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery and to glean personal information about those interred; and to notify next of kin.

Genealogical research was primarily conducted online. Three electronic cemetery databases (www.findagrave.com, www.cemeterycensus.com, and www.interment.net) were consulted and no recorded cemeteries were found on the subject parcel. It is important to note that the Chatham County Historical Association manages and continues to update their database through the Cemetery Census online database. The Cemetery Survey Reports compiled by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s are available through the North Carolina State Archives digital collections. The Pea Ridge Road Cemetery was not recorded as part of these records.

Other sources of information consulted during this investigation included maps and plats, deeds, marriage bonds, U.S. Census data, birth and death certificates, the North Carolina Schedule of Mortality, and newspapers.

3.0 RESULTS OF RESEARCH

3.1 Cemetery Description

The Pea Ridge Road Cemetery (31CH1405), located at 2572 Pea Ridge Road and 2199 New Elam Church Road, is an example of a rural family cemetery that contains folk burials from the nineteenth and/or early twentieth centuries (Figures 3.1–3.4). The cemetery straddles two parcels (PINs 5214 and 5234), both of which are owned by Cove Creek Property, LLC and LMM Investments, LLC. One grave, marked by a single fieldstone, lies on the property at 2572 Pea Ridge Road (PIN 5214; see Grave C on Figure 1.4). Two graves, marked by two footstones and two headstones, lie on the parcel at 2199 New Elam Church Road (PIN 5234; see Graves A and B on Figure 1.4). The exact number of graves within the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery is unknown. The estimated number of burials based on visible gravemarkers is three, but it is plausible that additional graves not visible from the surface are present. All gravemarkers are rough-cut fieldstones. The cemetery is sited near the top of a heavily wooded high knoll with the land sloping downwards to the southeast toward Shaddox Creek. The ground is covered with leaf litter and pine duff. There are no visible paths or access roads that lead to the cemetery. The cemetery’s boundary is unmarked.



Figure 3.1: Overview of the gravemarkers in the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery.



Figure 3.2: View of the headstone and footstone for Grave A.



Figure 3.3: View of the headstone and footstone for Grave B.



Figure 3.4: View of the headstone for Grave C.

3.2 Parcel History/Chain of Ownership

The Pea Ridge Road Cemetery occupies two parcels. One grave (Grave C on Figure 1.4), marked by a single fieldstone, lies on the property at 2572 Pea Ridge Road (PIN 5214). Two graves, marked by two footstones and two headstones, lie on the parcel at 2199 New Elam Church Road (PIN 5234). The cemetery lies on two parcels, so deed research was conducted for both properties and led to the discovery that the Holt family owned many acres of land in the area, including the parcel at 2199 New Elam Church Road.

Historically, the Womble family owned the land at 2572 Pea Ridge Road, and the Holt family owned the land at 2199 New Elam Church Road. Aerial imagery suggests that the parcel at 2572 Pea Ridge Road has been a wooded lot throughout much of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

None of the uninscribed, fieldstone gravemarkers, or potentially unmarked graves, were positively identified to be those of the property owners documented in the following paragraphs.

The Womble Family at 2572 Pea Ridge Road

It was not determined when the Womble family acquired 2572 Pea Ridge Road. The deed for the adjacent property at 2199 New Elam Church Road refers to the “Merriman Womble heirs,” which indicates that George M. Womble’s father owned the property in the late nineteenth century and his grandfather, Nial Womble, in the mid-nineteenth century (Chatham County Register of Deeds [CCRD] 1902, Deeds, E-F:506; 1845, Deeds A-H:162). George M. Womble likely inherited the property from his father upon his death in 1901.

Nial Womble was born circa 1793 in North Carolina and spent most of his life farming (United States Census Bureau [U.S. Census] 1850, 1860a). He married Susannah Lambeth in October 1819 and they had at least nine children together, including Francis Marion, also known as Merriman Womble and

George M. Womble's father (North Carolina State Archives [NCSA] 1819). Nial Womble died around 1867 and the property at 2572 Pea Ridge Road was transferred to his son, Francis Marion Womble (CCRD 1867).

Throughout his tenure as landowner, Nial Womble and the Womble family enslaved a number of individuals. According to census records, Nial Womble enslaved three people in 1840: two unnamed boys and one unnamed girl, all under the age of 10 (U.S. Census 1840). Nial Womble does not appear in the 1850 slave schedule, and in 1860 he enslaved one unnamed 25-year-old man (U.S. Census 1860b).¹

Francis Marion Womble married Esper Ann Drake on April 7, 1859 (NCSA 1859). The couple resided in Chatham County for the entirety of their lives and had at least eight children born between the years 1860 and 1877. Francis Marion Womble is not listed in the 1860 slave schedule as an enslaver. Upon Francis Marion Womble's death in January 1901, George M. Womble took control of the parcel at 2572 Pea Ridge Road. According to historic aerial photographs, the parcel has been largely wooded throughout most of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century (Nationwide Environmental Title Research [NETR] 1955, 1973, 1998, 2020).

Many members of the Womble family are buried at New Elam Christian Church, including George M. Womble and his wife Maude Odell Hearn Womble and Francis Marion Womble and his wife Esper Ann Drake Womble. The burial locations for Nial Womble and his wife Susannah Lambeth Womble are unknown.

The Holt Family at 2199 New Elam Church Road

William P. Holt is descended from several generations of Holts who called North Carolina home. William P. Holt's grandparents, Richard Holt (1775–1839) and Elizabeth George Holt (1780–1855), lived most of their lives in Chatham County. Early records of the family are scant. The 1820 U.S. census is an early document that places the Holt family in Chatham County and identified eight household members ranging in age from under 10 to 44 (U.S. Census 1820). No enslaved people were part of the household in 1820, according to the census. The household number remained the same in 1830 with eight people between the ages of under 5 and as old as 59 (U.S. Census 1830). No enslaved people were part of the household in 1830 or 1840. The couple had at least nine children: Squire, Rigdon, Cynthia, George, Richard, John, Mary, Thomas, and Partin.

Rigdon Holt was the father of William P. Holt. Born circa 1805 in North Carolina, he married another North Carolina native, Dicey Womble (1797–1879) in 1828 (NCSA 1828). The couple had at least four children: Mary F., Welley C., William P., and Richard B. Holt. At the time of 1850 census, the Holt family lived in the Lower Regiment of Chatham County and included Ridgon, Dicey, Mary F., William P., Willie C., and Richard B. Holt, cousin to William P. Holt (U.S. Census 1850).

Between 1850 and 1860, William Holt married a woman named Matilda whose maiden name could not be determined. The 1860 census recorded many Holt family members living under the same household with William P. Holt as the head (Table 3.1; U.S. Census 1860a). The household included William P. Holt's parents Rigdon and Dicey. Rigdon Holt did not appear in either the 1850 or 1860 slave schedules as an enslaver.

¹ The U.S. Census Slave Schedules note the name, race, and age of enslaved individuals listed by the "owner." The Slave Schedules do not typically provide the names of the enslaved.

Table 3.1: Members of the Holt household at the time of the 1860 U.S. census.

Name	Age	Occupation	Relationship to William P. Holt
William Holt	28	Farmer	-
Matilda Holt	25	-	Wife
R. B. Holt	23	Farmer	Cousin (son of Squire Holt)
Rigdon Holt	53	Farmer	Father
Richard Holt	51	Farmer	Uncle (married to Gillie Holt)
Mary Holt	35	-	Sister
Dacey Holt	62	-	Mother
Gillie Holt	51	-	Aunt (married to Richard Holt)
Enoch Holt	25	-	Cousin (son of Richard and Gillie Holt)
Emiline Holt	17	-	Cousin (daughter of Richard and Gillie Holt)

In 1870, William and Matilda Holt lived in New Hope Township, along with their white domestic servant Catherine Mills and Catherine’s son James (U.S. Census 1870). A decade later, the household consisted of William P. and Matilda Holt, along with a 30-year-old woman named Margaret Mims (U.S. Census 1880). Between 1880 and 1890, Matilda Holt died and was buried at an unknown location. William P. Holt married Margaret Mims on May 1, 1890 (NCSA 1890). Together, they had one daughter, Mattie Holt, born in February 1891.

In 1902, William P. and Margaret Mims Holt sold the 50-acre parcel of land (2199 New Elam Church Road; PIN 5234) to Young Wilson. The burial locations for many of the older Holt generations are not known. No deed records or research conducted using online archives could confirm whether members of the Holt family are buried in the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery.

Alan “Boe” Goodwin provided additional information regarding the subject cemetery and his Holt ancestors. He recalled his grandfather took him to visit the cemetery when he was a child and remembers being told that a “slave cemetery” was located nearby (Alan “Boe” Goodwin, personal communication November 2023). Mr. Goodwin, who is part of the Chatham County Historical Association, confirmed that while some members of the Holt family enslaved people, the Holts that lived on the parcel at 2199 New Elam Church Road did not. Research using census data confirmed this statement. Mr. Goodwin relayed a Holt family story that wealthier families in the area buried enslaved people on the Holt family land, particularly the Partridge and Smith families. Census records from 1840, 1850, and 1860 confirm Partridge and Smith families living in the same area as the Holt family.

From November 1902 to February 1913, Young Wilson owned the property at 2199 New Elam Church Road (CCRD 1902, Deeds, E-F:506). He and members of his family are buried at Ebenezer United Methodist Church (Find a Grave 2014). In September 1913, W. A. Drake purchased the property from Young Jones, and Drake subsequently sold the property to D. A. Jones in September 1913 (CCRD 1913, Deeds, F-C:161, F-C:162). The property at 2199 New Elam Church Road remained in the Jones family throughout the remainder of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century.

4.0 PROPOSED RELOCATION OF THE PEA RIDGE ROAD CEMETERY

Cove Creek Property, LLC and LMM Investments, LLC are proposing to develop a residential subdivision on six parcels in New Hill, Cape Fear Township, Chatham County, North Carolina (PINs 5231, 5214, 5234, 5257, 5215, 5213). The purpose of this grave removal is to accommodate construction of the residential subdivision and to provide better protection of the remains by relocating them to New Elam Christian Church Cemetery. Cove Creek Property, LLC and LMM Investments, LLC will bear expenses associated with the disinterment and reinterment of the graves. The three most common planning options for graves in the path of development are: 1) preservation in place; 2) relocation on site; and 3) relocation off site to another cemetery.

4.1 Summary of Due Diligence Efforts

It can be challenging to identify the individuals buried in abandoned family cemeteries, particularly when these cemeteries contain unmarked graves or uninscribed markers; such is the case with the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery. Property records can identify historical property owners who may be associated with the cemetery; however, it is important to note that rural cemeteries in the South may contain the remains of enslaved persons, tenant farmers, or sharecroppers who occupied the land but did not own it.

To identify Holt descendants, a legal advertisement was placed in the *Chatham News & Record* on October 19 and 26 and November 2 and 9, 2023 (Appendix C). This notification was placed to comply with NC GS 65-106 (b) and to identify potential next of kin of the interred and persons with interest in or knowledge about the graves contained within the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery. RGA received one response to the legal advertisement from Alan “Boe” Goodwin, a descendant of the Holt family and a member of the Chatham County Historical Association. In a phone conversation with Ms. Heckendorf, Mr. Goodwin stated he wished the burials to remain in place.

The descendants of Richard Holt and Elizabeth George were identified through searches on Ancestry.com and obituaries through Newspapers.com. In addition, general internet searches and property records were used to obtain descendant addresses. Letters describing the location of the cemetery and its proposed relocation were sent to 43 identified descendants of Richard Holt and Elizabeth George on October 12, 2023, as required by NC GS 65-106 (b) (Table 4.1). Responses to the letter are recorded in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Descendants of Richard Holt and Elizabeth George notified by letter.

Name	Relationship	Response
Margaret Wells Howard	5th Great-granddaughter	None to date
Douglas Clark	6th Great-grandson	None to date
Joni Partin Boyette	6th Great-granddaughter	None to date
Joshua Partin	6th Great-grandson	None to date
Emily Partin Martin	5th Great-granddaughter	None to date
Vicki Barbour McPherson	5th Great-granddaughter	None to date
Andrea Barbour Johnson	5th Great-granddaughter	None to date
Debra Holt Jernigan	4th Great-granddaughter	None to date
Kathy Holt Sorrell	4th Great-granddaughter	None to date
Michael R. Holt	5th Great-grandson	None to date

Name	Relationship	Response
Max A. Coltrane	4th Great-grandson	None to date
Howard Fleming	4th Great-grandson	None to date
Paul Fleming	4th Great-grandson	None to date
Cynthia Fogleman McLean	5th Great-granddaughter	None to date
Jeffrey Fogleman	5th Great-grandson	None to date
Dana Byrd Pasour	5th Great-grandson	None to date
Carla Walker Horn	5th Great-granddaughter	None to date
Rodney Greene	5th Great-grandson	Corresponded via email. Does not support relocation.
Todd Greene	5th Great-grandson	Corresponded via email. Does not support relocation.
Benjamin C. Jones Jr.	4th Great-grandson	Corresponded via email. Jessica Lima (on behalf of her great uncle) requests the deceased be reinterred at New Elam Church Cemetery in New Hill.
Stevie R. Partin	3rd Great-grandson	None to date
R. Wayne Partin	3rd Great-grandson	None to date
Bobbie Jean Holden Mendenhall	3rd Great-granddaughter	None to date
Lloyd A. Holden Jr.	4th Great-grandson	None to date
Brandon L. Holden	4th Great-grandson	None to date
John M. Moore	5th Great-grandson	None to date
Aaron K. Moore	5th Great-grandson	None to date
Syble Gardner Lutterloh	5th Great-granddaughter	None to date
Ethel Annette Gardner Campbell	5th Great-granddaughter	None to date
Bonnie Kay Gardner Kidd	5th Great-granddaughter	None to date
Matthew Foushee	6th Great-grandson	None to date
Robert A. Richardson	4th Great-grandson	None to date
Randy T. Jones	4th Great-grandson	None to date
Monica Brandt Worley	5th Great-granddaughter	None to date
Brandon S. Holt	5th Great-grandson	None to date
Pressley S. L. Stack	5th Great-grandson	None to date
Robert L. Stack Jr.	5th Great-grandson	None to date
Beth Phillips Cox	5th Great-granddaughter	Corresponded via phone. Requested that the graves be reinterred at New Elam Christian Church.
Charles Phillips	5th Great-grandson	None to date
Charles Buchanan	4th Great-grandson	Corresponded via mail. Expressed no preference or opposition.
Katherine Hansen Wootton	4th Great-granddaughter	None to date
Jeanette Elkins	4th Great-granddaughter	Spoke to husband, Michael Elkins on the phone. Requested that the graves be reinterred at New Elam Christian Church.
David E. Matthews	3rd Great-grandson	None to date
Chatham County Historical Association (CCHA)	-	Email correspondence with Boe Goodwin and Beverly Wiggins of the CCHA Cemetery Project. See Appendix C.

The Chatham County Historical Association corresponded with RGA via email and requested additional information about the proposed relocation.

4.2 Proposed Reinterment Location

New Elam Christian Church Cemetery is the proposed site for the reinterment of the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery. New Elam Christian Church Cemetery is located at 3290 Pea Ridge Road, New Hill (PIN 62352; Figure 4.1). The church and its associated are located approximately 0.5-miles north of the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery. New Elam Christian Church is associated with the Holt family and other members of the family are interred at this location. Descendants also expressed New Elam Christian Church Cemetery as their preferred relocation for reinterment of the graves at the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery. As required by state law, the removal and reinterment of the graves shall be performed by a funeral director licensed by the State of North Carolina (see Appendix A). The removal and reinterment of the graves will be scheduled so that the Chatham County Environmental Health staff will observe the removal of the remains. The funeral director or their designee will file a disinterment/reinterment form with the Chatham County Register of Deeds after the work is completed. Cove Creek Property, LLC and LMM Investments, LLC will place an engraved group gravemarker at the reinterment site, as required by New Elam Christian Church.

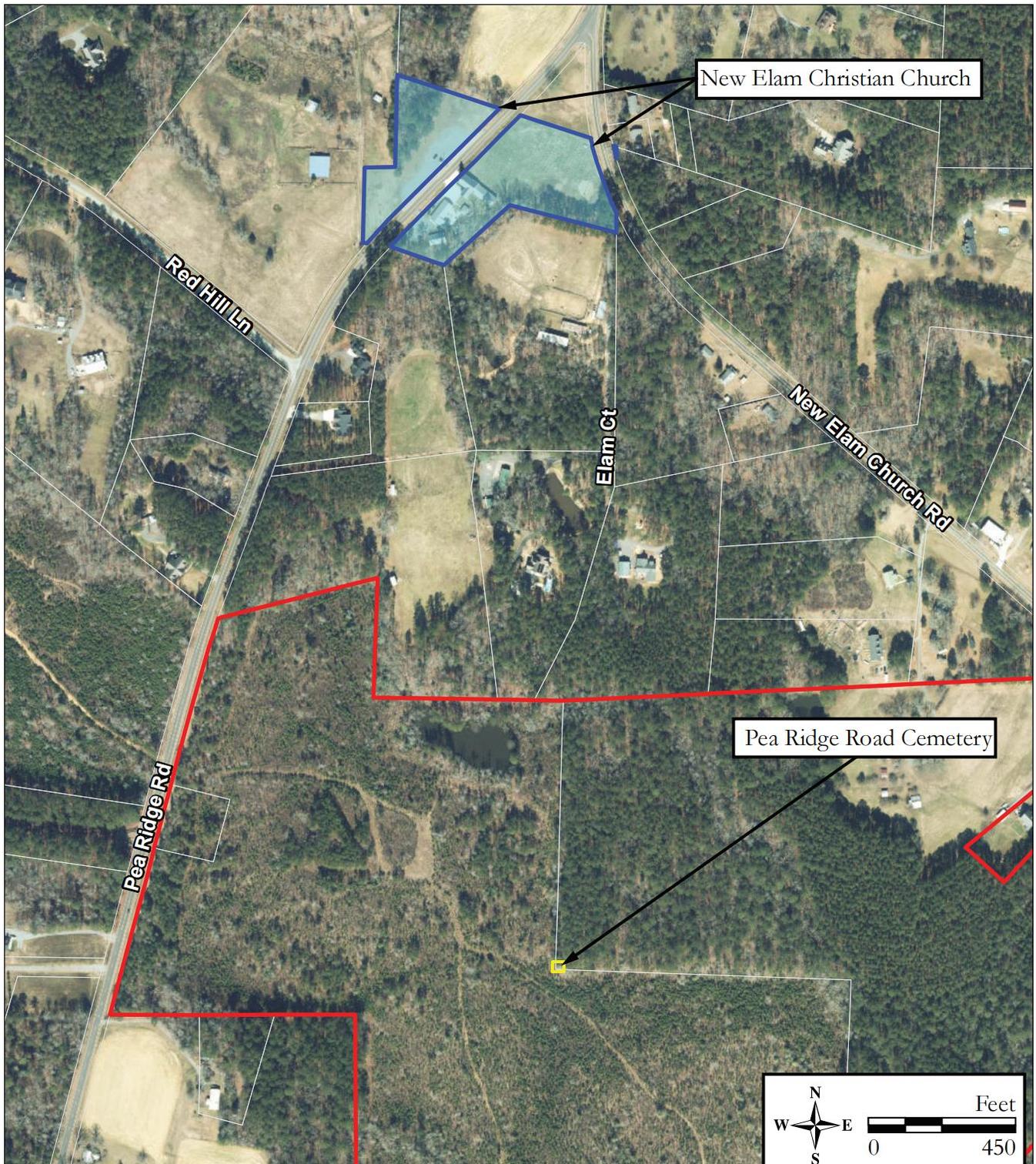


Figure 4.1: Aerial map showing the location of the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery and New Elam Christian Church and Cemetery (World Imagery, ESRI 2022b).

5.0 SUMMARY

This technical report was prepared by Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. (RGA) on behalf of Cove Creek Property, LLC and LMM Investments, LLC. Cove Creek Property, LLC and LMM Investments, LLC are planning to develop a residential subdivision on six parcels in New Hill, Cape Fear Township, Chatham County, North Carolina (PINs 5231, 5214, 5234, 5257, 5215, 5213). This report provides documentation for Chatham County Board of Commissioners to consider this request to relocate the graves within the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery which spans two parcels at 2572 Pea Ridge Road (PIN 5214) and 2199 New Elam Church Road (PIN 5234), owned by Cove Creek Property, LLC and LMM Investments, LLC, to New Elam Christian Church in New Hill, as allowed by North Carolina General Statute 65-106 Removal of Graves.

This report summarizes the historical background research conducted at the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery, which lies on the proposed development site. The report also documents efforts to identify and notify next of kin.

The identities of those interred in the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery are unknown. Based on historical background research, it is plausible that the cemetery contains members of Holt family, or enslaved people, sharecroppers, or tenant farmers.

Conclusions:

- The identities of those buried in the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery are unknown.
- Letters to 43 descendants of Rigdon and Dicey Holt were mailed on October 12, 2023. To date, six responses to the letters were received and are summarized in Table 4.1. The Chatham County Historical Association also expressed interest in the project.
- The legal advertisement ran in *The Chatham News & Record* on October 19 and 26 and November 2 and 9, 2023. The affidavit will be included as an Appendix to this report once it is received.

6.0 REFERENCES

Chatham County Register of Deeds (CCRD)

- 1845 Deed Book A-H, Page 162, Daniel Oive to Nial Womble, July 2, 1845. Accessed via CCRD website, November 7, 2023.
- 1867 North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665–1998. Probate file for Nial Womble, 1867. Accessed via Ancestry.com, November 6, 2023.
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- 1913 Deed Book F-C, Page 161, Young Wilson to W. A. Drake, February 1, 1913. Accessed via CCRD website, November 6, 2023.
- 1913 Deed Book F-C, Page 162, W. A. Drake to D. A. Jones, September 8, 1913. Accessed via CCRD website, November 6, 2023.
- 2021 Plat Book 2021, Page 321, D. McQueen Campbell, III, October 11, 2021. Accessed via CCRD website, November 6, 2023.

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APPENDIX A: North Carolina General Statute 65-106

Part 4. Removal of Graves.

§ NC General Statute 65-106. Removal of graves; who may disinter, move, and reinter; notice; certificate filed; reinterment expenses; due care required.

(a) The State of North Carolina and any of its agencies, public institutions, or political subdivisions, the United States of America or any agency thereof, any church, electric power or lighting company, or any person, firm, or corporation may effect the disinterment, removal, and reinterment of graves as follows:

- (1) By the State of North Carolina or any of its agencies, public institutions, or political subdivisions, the United States of America or any agency thereof, when it shall determine and certify to the board of county commissioners in the county from which the bodies are to be disinterred that such removal is reasonably necessary to perform its governmental functions and the duties delegated to it by law.
- (2) By any church authority in order to erect a new church, parish house, parsonage, or any other facility owned and operated exclusively by such church; in order to expand or enlarge an existing church facility; or better to care for and maintain graves not located in a regular cemetery for which such church has assumed responsibility of care and custody.
- (3) By an electric power or lighting company when it owns land on which graves are located, and the land is to be used as a reservoir.
- (4) By any person, firm, or corporation who owns land on which an abandoned cemetery is located after first securing the consent of the governing body of the municipality or county in which the abandoned cemetery is located.

(b) The party effecting the disinterment, removal, and reinterment of a grave containing a decedent's remains under the provisions of this Part shall, before disinterment, give 30 days' written notice of such intention to the next of kin of the decedent, if known or subject to being ascertained by reasonable search and inquiry, and shall cause notice of such disinterment, removal, and reinterment to be published at least once per week for four successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where such grave is located, and the first publication shall be not less than 30 days before disinterment. Any remains disinterred and removed hereunder shall be reinterred in a suitable cemetery.

(c) The party removing or causing the removal of all such graves shall, within 30 days after completion of the removal and reinterment, file with the register of deeds of the county from which the graves were removed and with the register of deeds of the county in which reinterment is made, a written certificate of the removal facts. Such certificate shall contain the full name, if known or reasonably ascertainable, of each decedent whose grave is moved, a precise description of the site from which such grave was removed, a precise description of the site and specific location where the decedent's remains have been reinterred, the full and correct name of the party effecting the removal, and a brief description of the statutory basis or bases upon which such removal or reinterment was effected. If the full name of any decedent cannot reasonably be ascertained, the removing party shall set forth all additional reasonably ascertainable facts about the decedent including birth date, death date, and family name.

The fee for recording instruments in general, as provided in G.S. 161-10(a)(1), for registering a certificate of removal facts shall be paid to the register of deeds of each county in which such certificate is filed for registration.

(d) All expenses of disinterment, removal, and acquisition of the new burial site and reinterment shall be borne by the party effecting such disinterment, removal, and reinterment, including the actual reasonable expense of one of the next of kin incurred in attending the same, not to exceed the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

(e) The Office of Vital Records of North Carolina shall promulgate regulations affecting the registration and indexing of the written certificate of the removal facts, including the form of that certificate.

(f) The party effecting the disinterment, removal, and reinterment of a decedent's remains under the provisions of this Part shall ensure that the site in which reinterment is accomplished shall be of such suitable dimensions to accommodate the remains of that decedent only and that such site shall be reasonably accessible to all relatives of that decedent, provided that the remains may be reinterred in a common grave where written consent is obtained from the next of kin. If under the authority of this Part, disinterment, removal, and reinterment are effected by the State of North Carolina or any of its agencies, public institutions, or political subdivisions, the United States of America or any agency thereof, any electric power or lighting company, then such disinterment, removal, and reinterment shall be performed by a funeral director duly licensed as a "funeral director" or a "funeral service licensee" under the provisions of Article 13A of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.

(g) All disinterment, removal, and reinterment under the provisions of this Part shall be made under the supervision and direction of the county board of commissioners or other appropriate official, including the local health director, appointed by such board for the county where the disinterment, removal, and reinterment take place. If reinterment is effected in a county different from the county of disinterment with the consent of the next of kin of the deceased whose remains are disinterred, then the disinterment and removal shall be made under the supervision and direction of the county board of commissioners or other appropriate official, including the local health director, appointed by such board for the county of the disinterment, and the reinterment shall be made under the supervision and direction of the county board of commissioners or other appropriate official, including the local health director, appointed by such board for the county of reinterment.

Due care shall be taken to do said work in a proper and decent manner, and, if necessary, to furnish suitable coffins or boxes for reintering such remains. Due care shall also be taken to remove, protect, and replace all tombstones or other markers, so as to leave such tombstones or other markers in as good condition as that prior to disinterment. Provided that in cases where the remains are to be moved to a perpetual care cemetery or other cemetery where upright tombstones are not permitted, a suitable replacement marker shall be provided.

(h) Nothing contained in this Part shall be construed to grant or confer the power or authority of eminent domain, or to impair the right of the next of kin of a decedent to remove or cause the removal, at his or their expense, of the remains or grave of such decedent. (1919, c. 245; C.S., ss. 5030, 5030(a); Ex. Sess. 1920, c. 46; 1927, c. 23, s. 1; c. 175, s. 1; 1937, c. 3; 1947, cc. 168, 576; 1961, c. 457; 1963, c. 915, s. 1; 1965, c. 71; 1971, c. 797, s. 1; 1977, c. 311, s. 1; 2001-390, s. 3; 2007-118, s. 1.)

APPENDIX B: Legal Advertisement and Next-of-Kin Notification

Chatham News + Record

CLIPPING OF LEGAL
ADVERTISEMENT
ATTACHED HERETO

NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Before the undersigned, a Notary Public of said County and State,
duly commissioned, qualified and authorized by law to administer
oaths, personally appeared Florence Turner

_____ who

being first duly sworn, deposes and says: that he (she) is

Accounts Receivable Clerk

(Owner, partner, publisher, or other officer or employee authorized to make this affidavit)

of the Chatham Media Group, LLC., engaged in the publication of
a newspaper known as, Chatham News+Record, published, issued,
and entered as second class mail in the Town of Siler City, in said
County and State; that he (she) is authorized to make this affidavit
and sworn statement; that the notice or legal advertisement,
a true copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the
Chatham News+Record on the following dates:

October 19; 26 2023

November 2, 9 2023

and that the said newspaper in which such notice, paper,
document, or legal advertisement was published was, at the
time of each and every such publication, a newspaper meeting
all of the requirements and qualifications of Section 1-597 of the
General Statues of North Carolina and was a qualified newspaper
within the meaning of Section 1-597 of the General Statues of
North Carolina.

This 9th day of November, 2023

Florence Turner

(Signature of person making affidavit)

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 9th

day of November, 2023

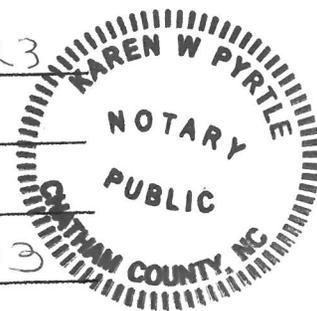
Karen W. Pyrtle

Notary Public

My Commission expires: June 19th, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the matter of the proposed removal and reinterment
of approximately 3 graves at an unnamed cemetery
that straddles two parcels at 2572 Pea Ridge Road, New
Hill, Cape Fear Township, Chatham County, NC (PINs
5214 and 5234). The cemetery contains three graves
marked by uninscribed fieldstone gravemarkers.
Historically, the Holt family owned the land. Anyone
having information about these graves or the next of
kin, please contact Olivia Heckendorf at oheckendorf@
rgaincorporated.com or 919-238-4569 ext. 405.





October 12, 2023

[NAME]
[STREET ADDRESS]
[CITY, STATE ZIP]

Dear [NAME]:

Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. (RGA) is researching the history of an unnamed cemetery located at 2572 Pea Ridge Road, New Hill, Cape Fear Township, Chatham County, North Carolina (see attached map). This work is being done on behalf of Campbell Property Group, which is in the process of permitting a new residential development. Pursuant North Carolina General Statute Section 65-106 (Removal of Graves), Campbell Property Group will request approval to relocate the graves at a future meeting of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. This meeting is not yet scheduled. In accordance with the process outlined in the General Statute, a 30-day written notice of intention must be given to the next of kin of the deceased (if known) before the disinterment, relocation, and re-interment of any graves occurs.

The deceased will be re-interred at Wake Memorial Park in Cary, Wake County, North Carolina. The costs of the proposed grave relocation will be 100% covered by Campbell Property Group.

The unnamed family cemetery is likely a small family cemetery and is located in a wooded area that straddles two property lines (PINs 5214 and 5234). Historically, the Holt family owned the land. There are three marked graves within the cemetery, all of which are unscribed fieldstones. We are seeking descendants of those interred at the unnamed family cemetery and our research indicates you may be a descendant of Richard Holt (1775–1839) and Elizabeth George (1780–1855).

If you believe you may have family interred at this unnamed cemetery or have any questions about the proposed relocation of the cemetery, please contact me at heckendorf@rgaincorporated.com or 919-238-4569 ext. 405. Letters can be sent to the following address:

Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc.
525 Wait Avenue
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Thank you,

Olivia Heckendorf
Architectural Historian
RGA, Inc.

Approximate Location of the
Unnamed Cemetery



Figure 1: Uninscribed fieldstone headstone and footstone.



Figure 2: Uninscribed fieldstone gravemarkers in the unnamed cemetery.

APPENDIX C: Correspondence

Re: Pea Ridge Road Cemetery

CCHA Cemetery Survey <cemeterysurvey@chathamhistory.org>

Mon 11/20/2023 7:37 PM

To: Ellen Turco <eturco@rgaincorporated.com>

Cc: Boe Goodwin <bagooodwin33@yahoo.com>; Olivia Heckendorf <oheckendorf@rgaincorporated.com>; brad@wakememorialpark.com <brad@wakememorialpark.com>; Timo, Melissa <melissa.timo@ncdcr.gov>; Kimberly.Tyson@chathamcountync.gov <Kimberly.Tyson@chathamcountync.gov>; SyRobbins@gmail.com <SyRobbins@gmail.com>

You don't often get email from cemeterysurvey@chathamhistory.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Ms. Turco--

The Chatham County Historical Association would like to comment on the proposal to remove graves from the Pea Ridge Rd. cemetery, but would like to be informed by the results of the field reconnaissance survey and a site visit. Will you please request from your client permission to release your report to us and arrange for our volunteers to be shown to the site prior to their submission? If the report will be available from the OSA prior to their submission, please let us know when it is available.

In the meantime, it would be helpful if your client would allow you to release the following information to us:

The precise location coordinates for the cemetery, Chatham County parcel number on which it is located, and number of graves identified (using what methodology?).

Thank you for your assistance.

Beverly Wiggins
CCHA Cemetery Project

On Mon, Nov 6, 2023 at 1:17 PM Ellen Turco <eturco@rgaincorporated.com> wrote:

Ms. Wiggins:

Olivia Heckendorf forwarded me your email regarding the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery.

Our client is in the process of requesting permission from the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to relocate the graves at the Pea Ridge Road Cemetery. NC General Statute GS 65-106 (attached) outlines the procedures. My firm is preparing the background documentation to inform the request. Our report is not complete at this time, and I do not have any additional information on the development plans at the site.

This cemetery has not been previously documented and recorded with the Office of State Archaeology (OSA). As part of our work, we will deposit a Cemetery Site Form with the OSA. The

form will be submitted to OSA regardless of whether the graves are approved for relocation. This information, and a report documenting the relocation if approved, can be requested from the OSA. I have cc'd the OSA cemetery specialist, Melissa Timo, here.

I will ask our client to grant you permission to access the site to document it for the Chatham County Cemetery Survey under NC GS 65 101. I will be back in touch.

I hope the above is helpful. Please reach out if you have additional questions.

Ellen Turco

Principal Senior Historian & NC Branch Manager



Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc.

525 Wait Avenue | Wake Forest | North Carolina | 27587

P. 919-238-4596 ext. 400 | C. 919-219-1489 | eturco@rgaincorporated.com

www.rgaincorporated.com



DBE/WBE/SBE Certified

APPENDIX D: Cemetery Form

North Carolina Cemetery Site Form

Identity

Cemetery name(s): _____

State site number: 31 _____ State Property Office complex number: _____
(CTY) (CO) (COMP)

Other site numbers: _____ Organization assigning other number: _____

Recorded by: _____ Organization name (if any): _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone number(s): _____ Email: _____

Form submitted by: _____ Date submitted: _____

Reason for recording cemetery: _____

If compliance, provide

Tracking number: _____

Compliance project name: _____

Bibliographic reference #s: _____

Location and Ownership

County: _____ City, town, community, or township: _____

Cemetery address (if applicable): _____

Directions to cemetery: _____

Access to cemetery: Restricted (explain): _____
 Unrestricted

Cemetery owner name and address: _____

USGS topographic quadrangle map name: _____

Provide coordinates in Latitude _____ ° _____ ' _____ " Longitude _____ ° _____ ' _____ "

OR Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM)

Datum: NAD27 Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____
 NAD83

*****Please attach a map showing the cemetery's location*****

Description

Public cemetery: _____ Entity name: _____

Private cemetery: Family
 Church (name, denomination): _____
 Fraternal/Organization (name): _____
 Other (explain): _____

Status: in use
 maintained
 neglected
 abandoned

Size of cemetery (approx): _____
Number of graves (approx.): _____

Is the cemetery enclosed? Yes
 No

Type of enclosure: wall
 fence
 hedge
 other: _____

Condition of enclosure: Good
 Poor
 Other: _____

Number of marked grave: _____ unmarked graves: _____ legible markers: _____

Period of use began: _____ Period of use ended: _____

Date of earliest marker: _____ Date of most recent marker: _____

Marker type(s) wood concrete
 limestone ceramic
 granite encased paper
 marble other: _____

If unusual markers present, please describe:

*****Please use the table attached to list the individuals buried in the cemetery and provide transcriptions of any marker inscriptions*****

Cultural Affiliation: Native American Euro American
 African American Unknown
 Other: _____

Are historic or prehistoric artifacts present?
 Yes Describe: _____
 No
 Unknown

Has the cemetery been documented in a cemetery survey? Yes
 No

Publication (please provide publication information and/or web address):

Special/historical significance of cemetery:

Research potential: _____

Recommendations: _____

Any other information pertinent to the cemetery:

Environment and Condition

Topographic situation: _____ Elevation: _____ (feet AMSL) Modern vegetation: _____

Slope range: low _____% high _____% Slope face direction: _____ Soil Type: _____

Soil series name: _____ NRCS soil type code: _____

Distance to water (meters): _____ Nearest water type _____

Drainage basin: _____ Ground visibility: low _____% high _____%

General condition of cemetery:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well maintained and preserved | <input type="checkbox"/> Overgrown, but easily identifiable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marginally maintained | <input type="checkbox"/> Overgrown, not identifiable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not maintained | <input type="checkbox"/> Not identifiable as burial site
(known to exist by oral tradition) |

Explain: _____

Have markers or other aspects of the cemetery been damaged? Yes
 No

Damage caused by (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Development or construction activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animals/grazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Custodial care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farming operations | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial operations | <input type="checkbox"/> Neglect or attrition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

Percent destroyed (estimate): _____ Date destroyed, if known: _____

Is cemetery currently threatened?

- Yes Please explain: _____
 No

OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY USE

National Register Status

- Determined Eligible
- Placed on the Study List
- Approved for Nomination by NRAC
- Currently listed on NRHP
- Removed from NRHP
- Not eligible after evaluation
- Unassessed
- North Carolina Archaeological Record Program

Form reliability

- Complete
- Incomplete
- Unreliable

Criterion

- A
- B
- C
- D

Date Listed: _____

Locational reliability

- Accurate
- Unknown
- Unreliable
- Within 100 meter radius
- Within 500 meter radius
- Within 1 km radius

Form checked by: _____ Date: _____

Please mail completed form, map, and any photographic attachments to:

Rosie Blewitt-Golsch

Site Registrar
Office of State Archaeology
4619 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4619

Or email:

NC OSA Site File

Site.numbers@ncdcr.gov

Please contact Melissa Timo, Historic Cemetery Specialist (melissa.timo@ncdcr.gov or 919-807-6562) or Sam Franklin, GIS Specialist (samuel.franklin@ncdcr.gov or 919-814-6563) with any questions.

