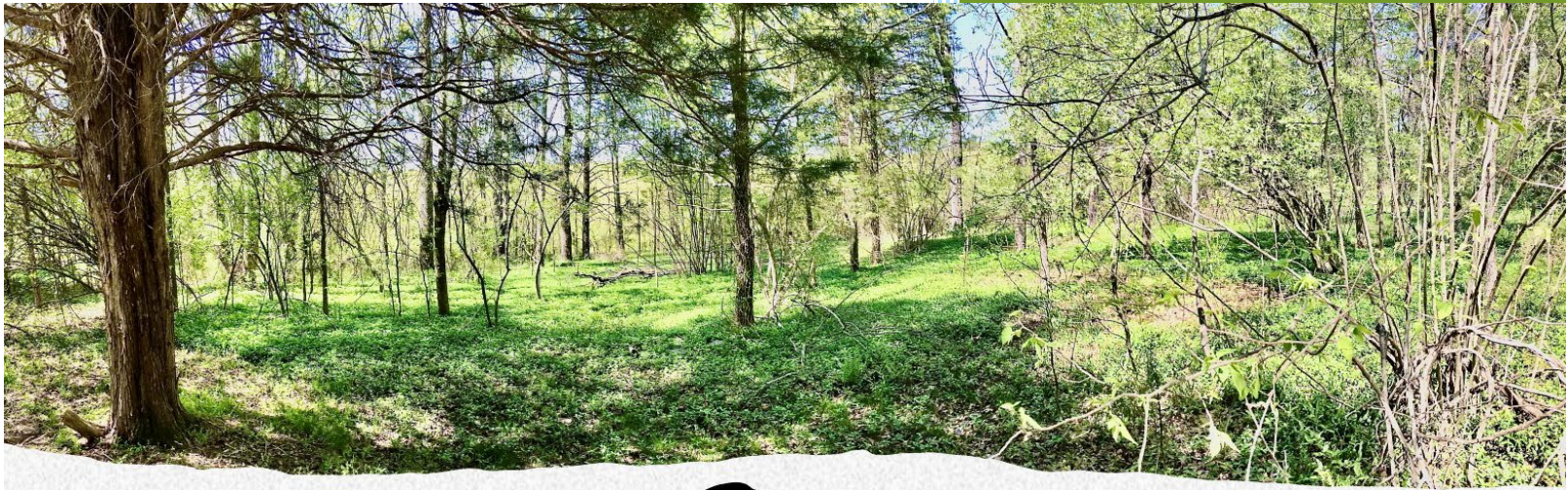


The Greenfield Project Research Report



- The Greenfield Project -

*"We may know not all their names, but we can at
least say we know they are here"*

Author: Gary Crone

5/12/2023

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The Greenfield Project strongly holds, that while we may know not the names of the African Americans buried on Fawn Lake property, we should at least afford them the same level of respect and remembrance as all others buried here by having the cemetery surveyed and registered with the state and local Historical Resources.

For more information on The Greenfield Project contact:

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571-212-8533

Acknowledgments

A fundamental shift took place in the Fawn Lake Community of April 4, 2023, when an archeologist along with a local amateur historian and genealogist combined to research and locate an African American cemetery located on what was once the Greenfield Plantation in Spotsylvania County that is now part of the Fawn Lake Community Association property. Prior to the survey, the enslaved cemetery was hiding in plain sight. It is located near the existing dam, next to the plantation owners' family cemetery. The family cemetery has headstones and a fence surrounding it. The enslaved cemetery is unmarked with no physical evidence of its existence.

This project has been a cooperative effort with interested individuals from the county, state, and National Park Service all coming together to assist in locating historical documents, searching government data bases, and helping me to interpret results.

Fortunately, a descendant of the plantation owners, Pat Sullivan, also took the time to keep the memory of the enslaved cemetery alive. Pat's copious writings about the Greenfield Plantation served as a beacon for further research on the cemetery. His preservation of a drawing of the plantation buildings, images of the enslaved cemetery and availability for collaboration made this project possible. It has always been Pat's wish that the enslaved cemetery be protected with the same level of respect afforded his family's ancestors who lay at rest in the family cemetery.

Also, thank you to Jim O'Donnell, who as a member of the Board of Directors, served an instrumental role in helping the project gain Fawn Lake support to allow the survey of the cemetery. Two others from our community, Syd Mapp and Bianca Falcone, were instrumental in helping the archeological survey stay on track and helping with research and strategizing on how to keep this project moving forward when it appeared stalled.

A great deal of thanks also goes out to Dove Tail Cultural Research Group, and two of their archeologists, Mike Carmody and Kerri Barile. Their guidance support and professional expertise was indispensable in conducting the archeological survey and in helping us navigate the process of getting our cemetery registered with the state and Spotsylvania County data bases.

We may never know the names of those buried in the Greenfield African American cemetery, but thanks to the numerous people who cared, we can at least now say we know they are there, and their grave sites protected.

Gary Crone, Director, The Greenfield Project

May 14, 2023

Spotsylvania, Virginia

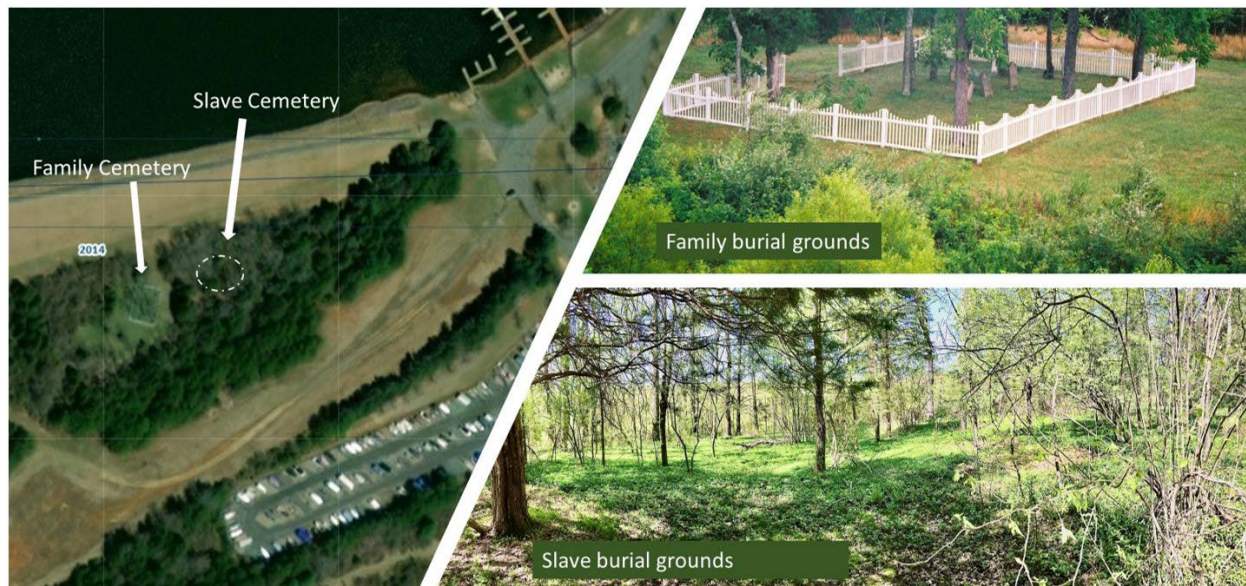
1 PURPOSE OF THE GREENFIELD PROJECT

1.1 PURPOSE:

The purpose of The Greenfield Project is to identify and preserve the site of the Greenfield Plantation African American slave cemetery located on Fawn Lake Community Association commons area property near the Fawn Lake dam.

1.2 GOAL

The goal is to record the location of the cemetery and grave sites within the Virginia Cultural Resources Information System and the Spotsylvania County Cemetery Registry to ensure the cemetery is remembered and protected in its present condition. The project had the permission of the Fawn Lake HOA to conduct a geological survey to identify the location of the cemetery and record the findings with the state.



2 BACKGROUND

This project consists of volunteer homeowners in Fawn Lake who share a common belief that the site of the unmarked Greenfield plantation slave cemetery on Fawn Lake property deserves the same level of respect and recognition as the existing Greenfield family cemetery. Fawn Lake is a planned gated community existing of one- and two-story homes located on what was formally portions of Civil War battlefields and the Row/Estes Greenfield Plantation. Within Fawn Lake, the National Park Service has identified Civil War era trench lines along the main road leading into the community for preservation and the Greenfield plantation family cemetery is fenced and

maintained. However, few people know the enslaved cemetery exists. Considerable historical information is available as to the existence of the unmarked slave cemetery, however the exact location, dimensions of the cemetery, number of burials, actual burial locations, and names of the people buried in the cemetery are currently unknown.

It is currently unmarked with no physical evidence of its location. Through considerable research, however, The Greenfield Project has identified the location of the cemetery. The site location is based on local observation and georectifications from a map of the plantation buildings in a 1937 WPA report derived from a family member who lived on the plantation in the 1800's, a 2011 photo by a living family member who recalls where his father told him the cemetery was located, and Spotsylvania County GIS images from 1953-1995 that clearly show the location of both the family and enslaved cemetery.

In April 2023, an archeological survey confirmed that the enslaved cemetery was in the area identified by The Greenfield Project's research.

3 ABOUT THE CEMETERY ITSELF

There is a small patch of common periwinkle just beyond the Fawn Lake dam shaded by some old Eastern Red Cedars and hidden amongst the sweet gum and autumn olive. It is just a small place. But it is unlike any other spot in Fawn Lake.



Figure 1 Location of the Greenfield Plantation African American Cemetery

Below the periwinkle, out of sight and out of mind are the unmarked graves of the Greenfield Plantation slaves. Probably 20-30 people. Some old. Some young. And some just infants, like Isabella and Rosetta who we know died at Greenfield and who are listed in the Spotsylvania Death index as slaves owned by Elizabeth and Absalom Row.

The Greenfield African American cemetery was an active burial ground for more than a hundred years. For some time after the civil war, it was still in use. When a former slave living nearby died, they were sometimes brought to the parlor for viewing in the old plantation house by invitation of their former owners then laid to rest in the old slave cemetery as it was known. This custom ended sometime prior to 1905.

The Row family sold their plantation in 1905, except for the family cemetery and an easement to the cemetery, to a farmer. The farmer leveled all the plantation buildings and cleared the land for cultivation except for two small patches. One patch was where the family was buried and the second spot nearby, was the old slave cemetery.

The land eventually passed hands until it became the development called Fawn Lake in the 1990s. After the Fawn Lake dam was built the two spots protected by the farmer eventually grew together as one and the area became part of the open land of Fawn Lake behind the dam.

Presently, the location of the plantation owner's family cemetery is marked and maintained, while the slave cemetery remains unidentified, unmarked, and unprotected. In 2002, members of the community decided to fence in the family cemetery and initially maintained it. By this time the exact location of the slave cemetery was lost, and the stone grave markings scattered—all physical evidence of the cemetery erased and the burial sites all but forgotten.

4 HOW DID WE FIND THE ACTUAL CEMETERY SITE?

The slave cemetery remains unidentified, unmarked, and unprotected. Genealogist and Fawn Lake resident Gary Crone, working with local archeologists, a great, great grandson of the former plantation owners and county historical experts, narrowed the likely location of the cemetery to a site roughly 60 feet in diameter on a relative bearing of 60 degrees and 180 feet from the center of the fenced-in family cemetery.

Archeologists consulted in 2021 who visited the site, believe the identified location is precise enough to ensure a survey will reveal the location of the cemetery. The site location is based on local observation and georectifications from a map of the plantation buildings in a 1937 WPA report derived from a family member who lived on the plantation in the 1800's, a 2011 photo by a living family member who recalls where his father told him the cemetery was located, and Spotsylvania County GIS images from 1953-1995 visibly showing the location of both the family and slave cemeteries.

The cemetery appears to be in a small grove covered canopy with purple periwinkle ground cover and a large Eastern Red Cedar at the southwest corner. The cemetery apparently was never fenced, and the burial area appears to be more oval in area than rectangular, sitting on a low rise in the topography. There are overhanging scrub Autumn Olive and Sweetgum encroaching the

site. The site is accessible via a dirt road near the marina parking lot and path through a thinly wooded area leading to the cemetery site or by a short path from the family cemetery.

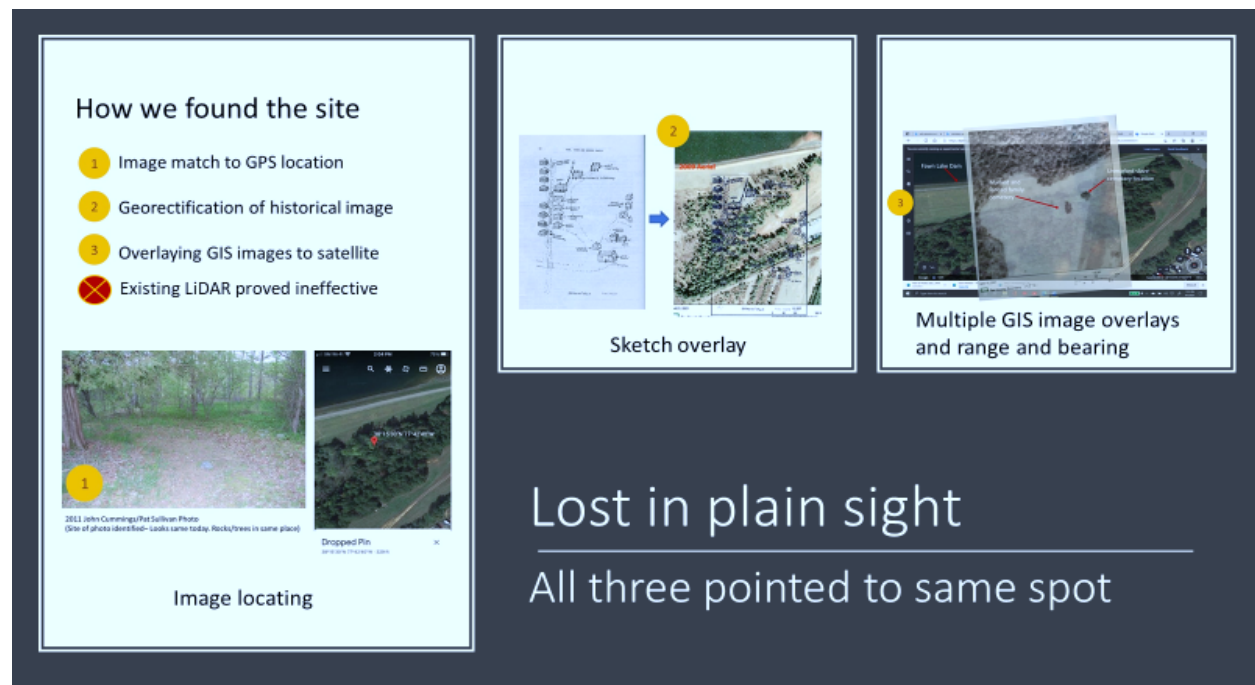


Figure 2 Methods used to find the cemetery

As relayed by a local archeologist versed in locating unmarked African American cemeteries, when an archeologist is searching an overgrown area for unmarked African American cemeteries, they often look for periwinkle to guide them. It is sometimes said that the slaves planted periwinkle to keep the wild boar from disturbing the shallow graves. Others claim it is the presence of the bodies themselves usually buried without coffin or sometimes wrapped in cloth that changes the soil's chemistry that attracts the periwinkle and makes it grow. In either case it is a pleasant alliance.

Due to the lack of physical evidence beyond the presence of the periwinkle, a professional archeological survey was conducted in 2023 to locate and prescribe the exact site of the African American slave cemetery. The survey was accomplished with minimal to no disturbance of the ground by use of a penetrometer. Permission from the HOA was needed and obtained before an archeological survey can be undertaken to locate and delineate the cemetery and grave sites. No permits are needed. The results of the archeological survey is included under the research section of this report.

5 RESEARCH DOCUMENTATION

Linked below is a set of very well sourced blogs by well-known Spotsylvania historian Pat Sullivan who's 3d great grandfather owned Greenfield Plantation during the Civil War. Collectively, they provide a good oral history of the location of the slave cemetery, sources for a sketch of the

plantation buildings and cemeteries and source of a photo of the slave cemetery location taken in 2011 depicting where Pat Sullivan identified the location of the slave cemetery.

[Sketch of cemetery and picture of fenced family cemetery](#)

[Blog on Greenfield Plantation](#)

[Blog on slaves at Greenfield](#)

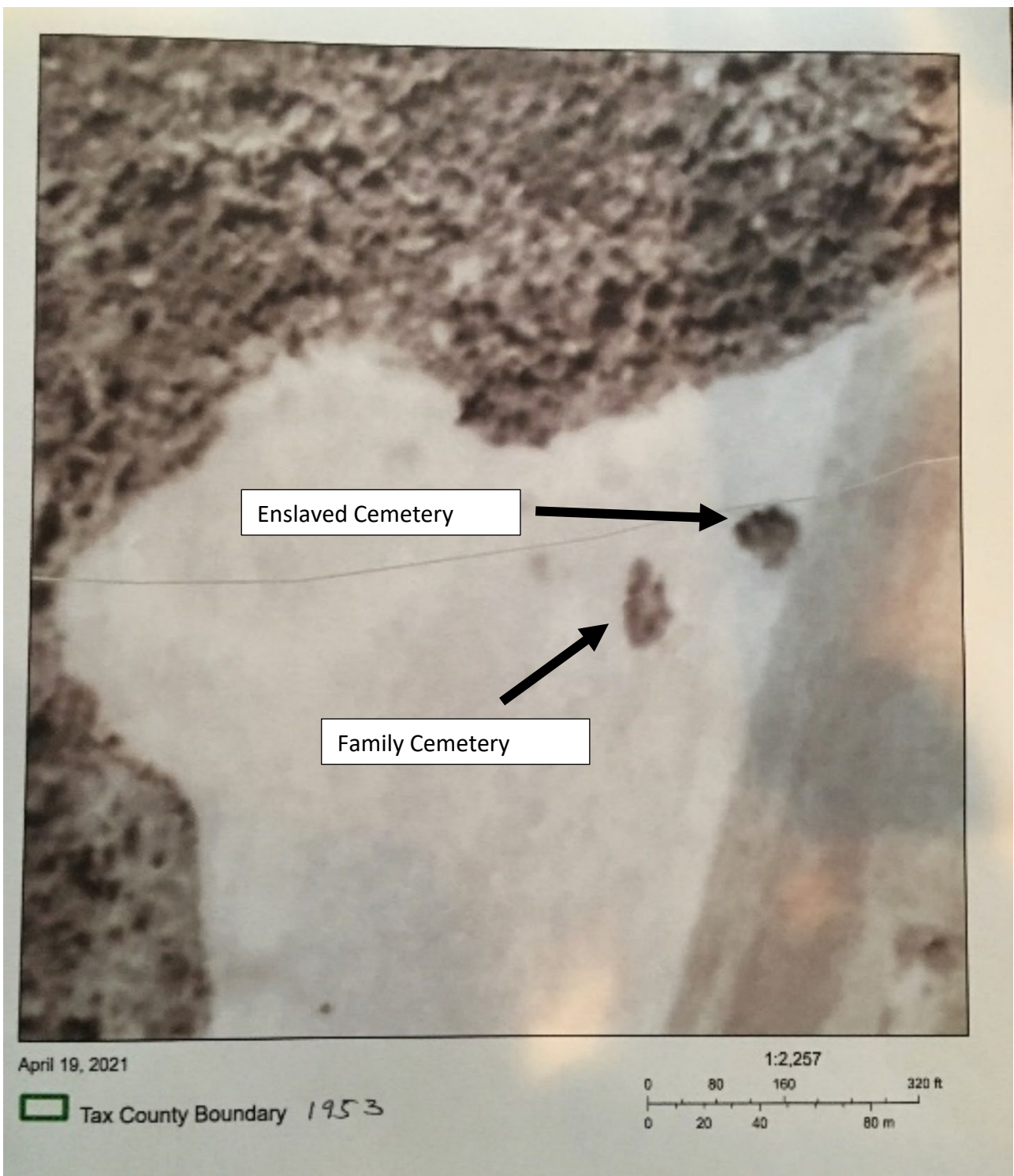
[Blog info about family cemetery co-located with slave cemetery](#)

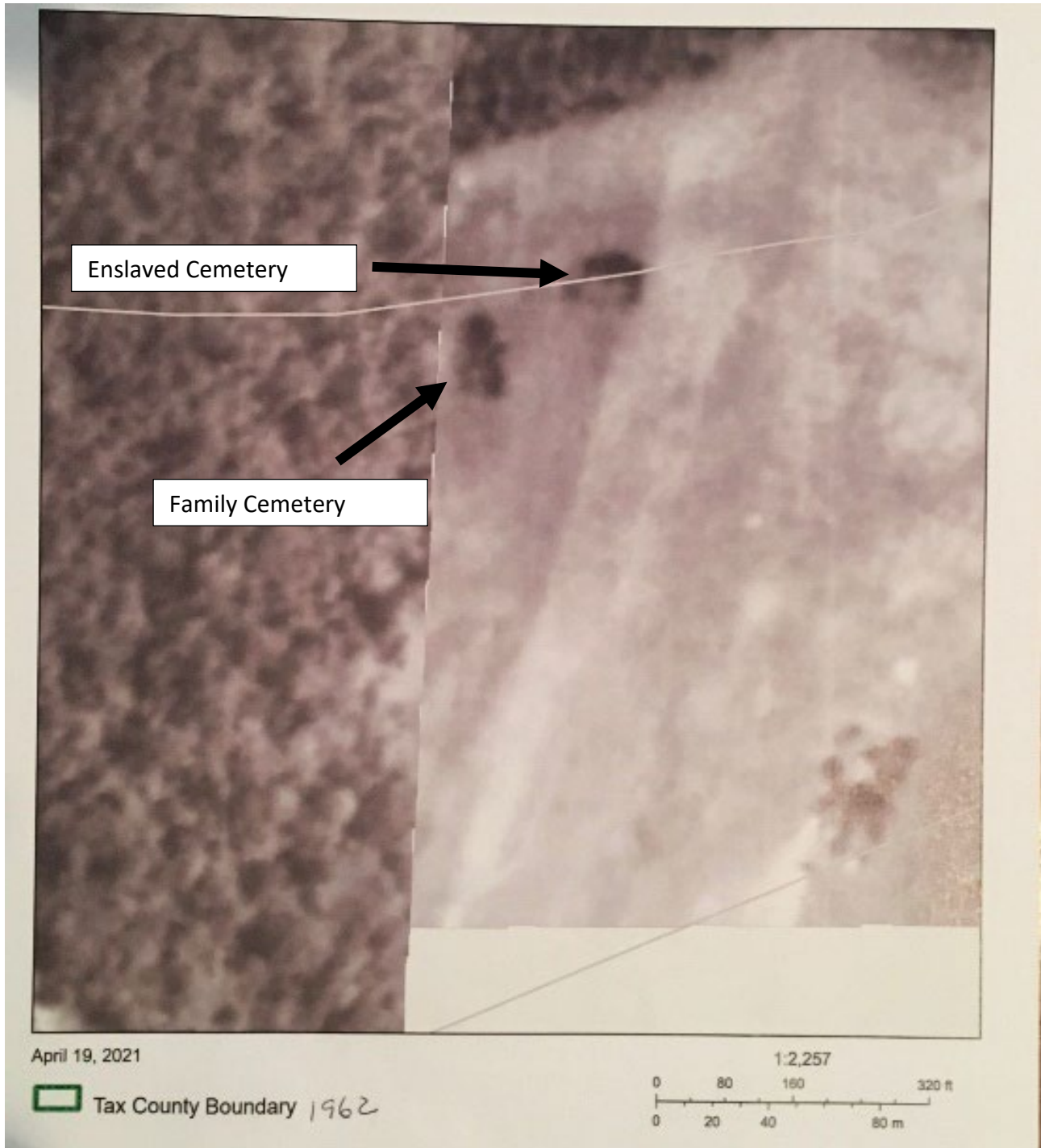
5.1 PROFESSIONALS CONSULTED

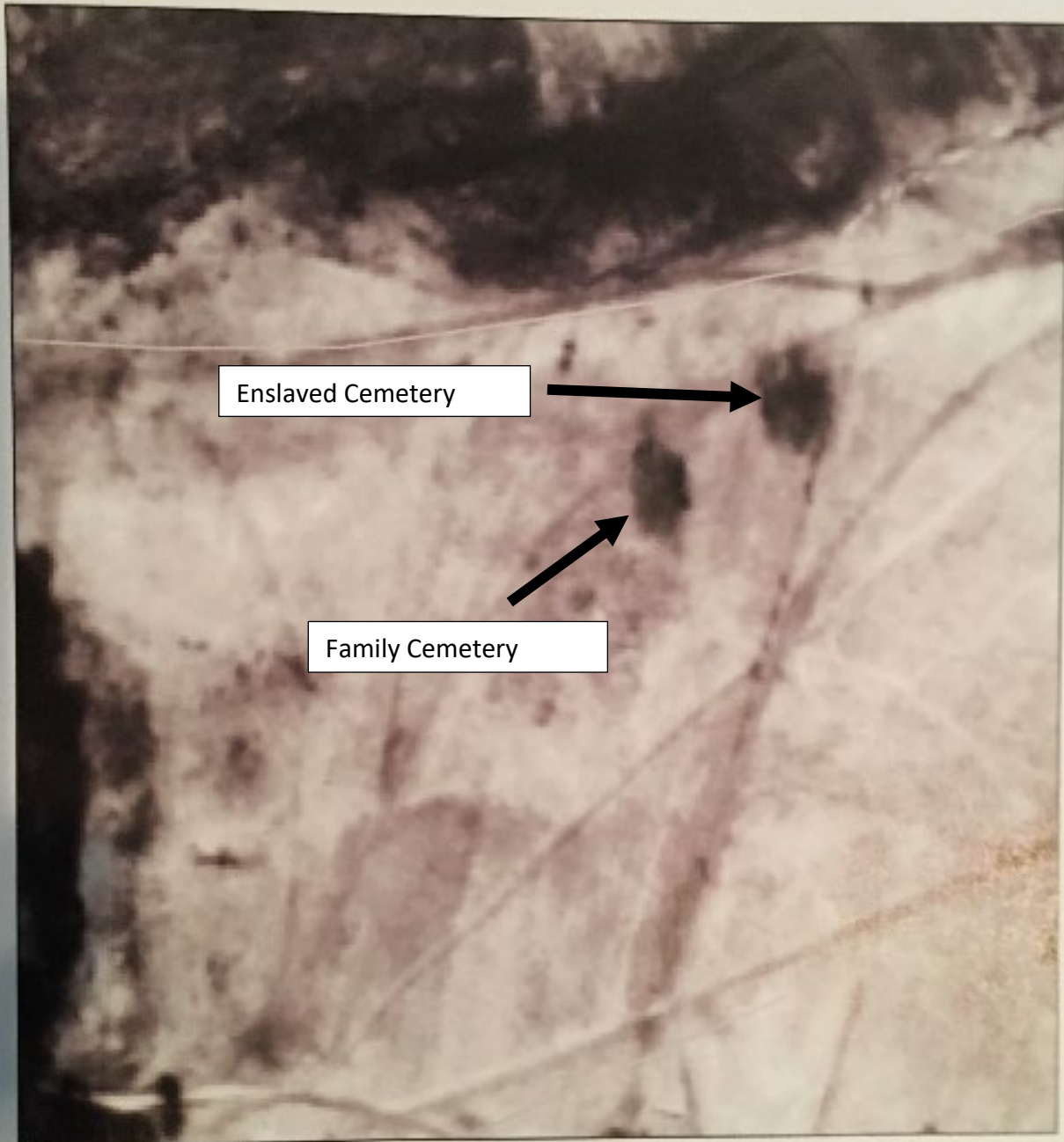
Name	Occupation
Expert Advisors	
Mathew & Paula Turner	GeoModel (GPR)
John Hennessy	NPS, American Battlefield Trust
Dr. Lynn Rainville	Director of Institutional History at Washington and Lee University, Anthropological Archaeologist
Dr. Lauren McMillan	Asst. Prof. Mary Washington Center for Historical Preservation
Dr. Eric Larsen	Archeologist, Germanna Foundation
Varna Boyd	Dovetail Cultural Resource Group
Kerry Gonzalez	Lab Manager, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group
Spotsylvania Government	
Jodi Sacra	Records Room, Circuit Court
Faith Wheeler	Records Room, Circuit Court
Terry Dougherty	Curator, Spotsylvania County Museum
Virginia State Government	
Dr. Elizabeth Moore	Director, State Archeologist
Quatro Hubbard	Archivist
Central Rappahannock Heritage Center	
John Reifenberg	Collection Manager
Local Historians	
Pat Sullivan	Historian/Relative former landowners
John Cummings	Local Historian

5.2 IMAGERY

A set of Spotsylvania GIS images obtained from the Spotsylvania County Museum depicting the location of both the family and slave cemetery is attached below with a separate copy of the family sketch and a recent picture of the slave cemetery site taken by me.



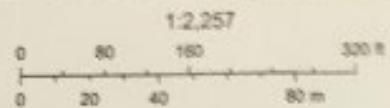


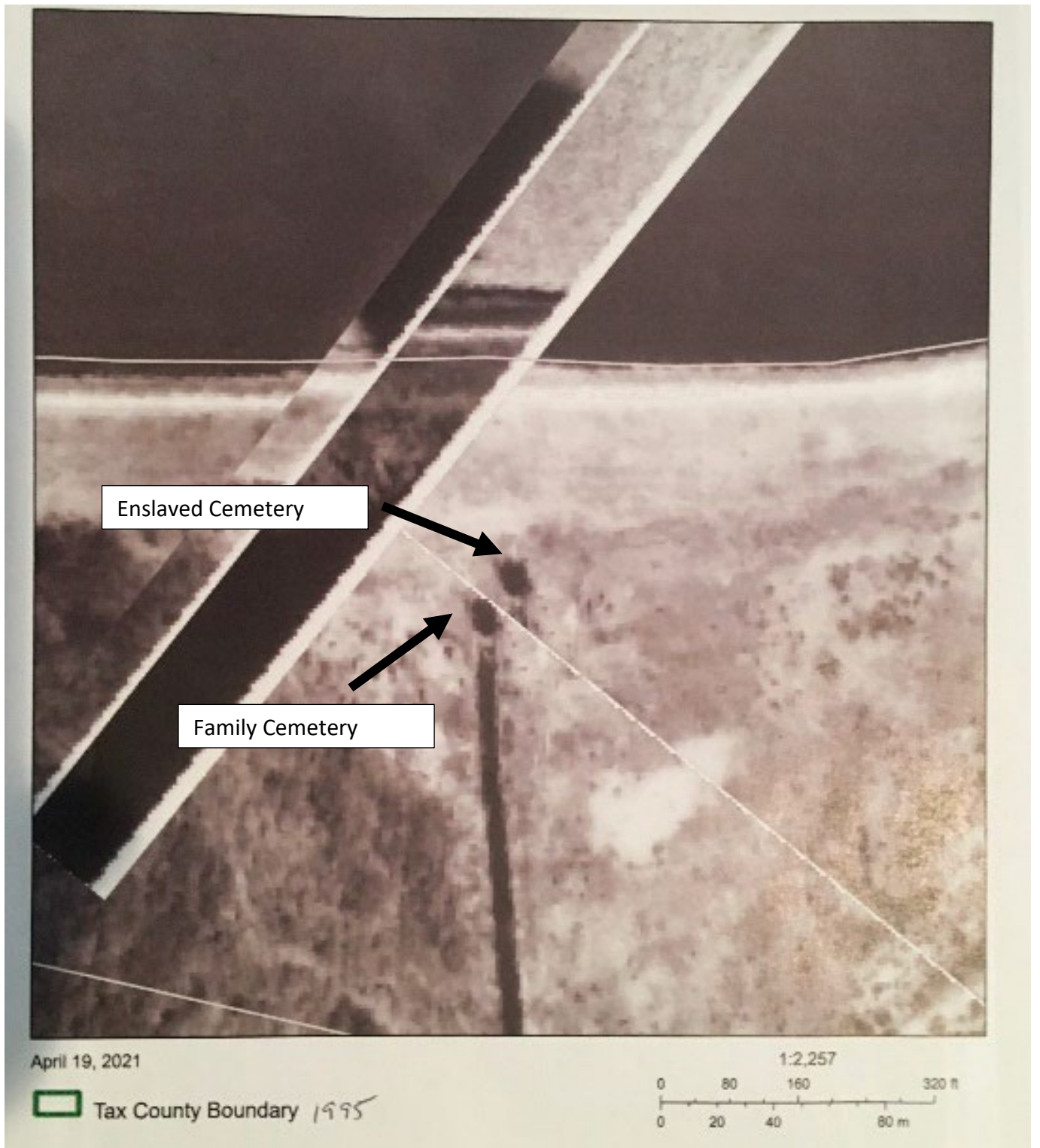


April 19, 2021




Tax County Boundary 1974

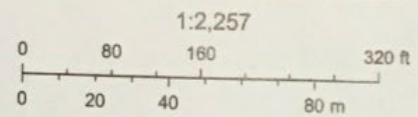




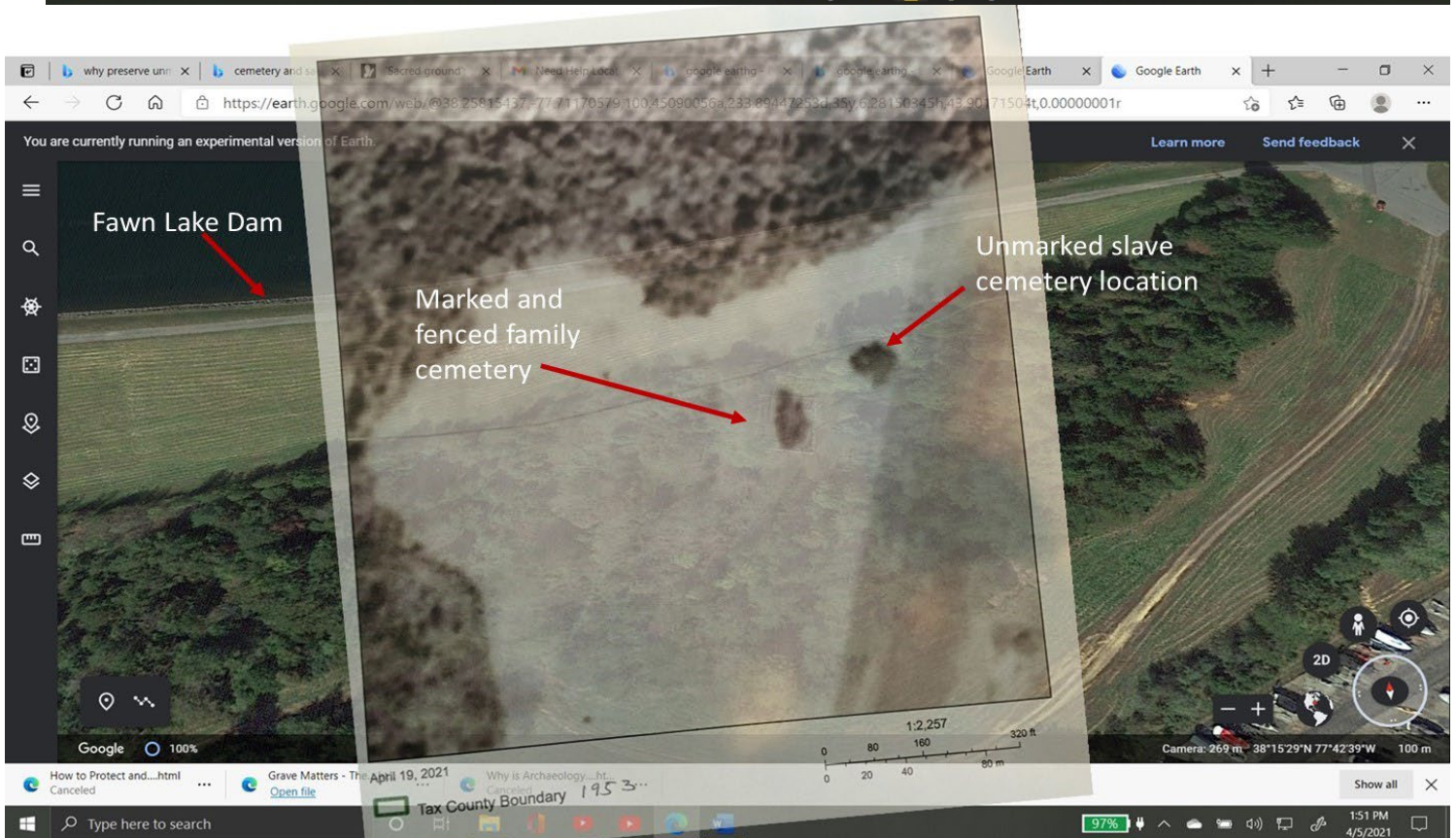
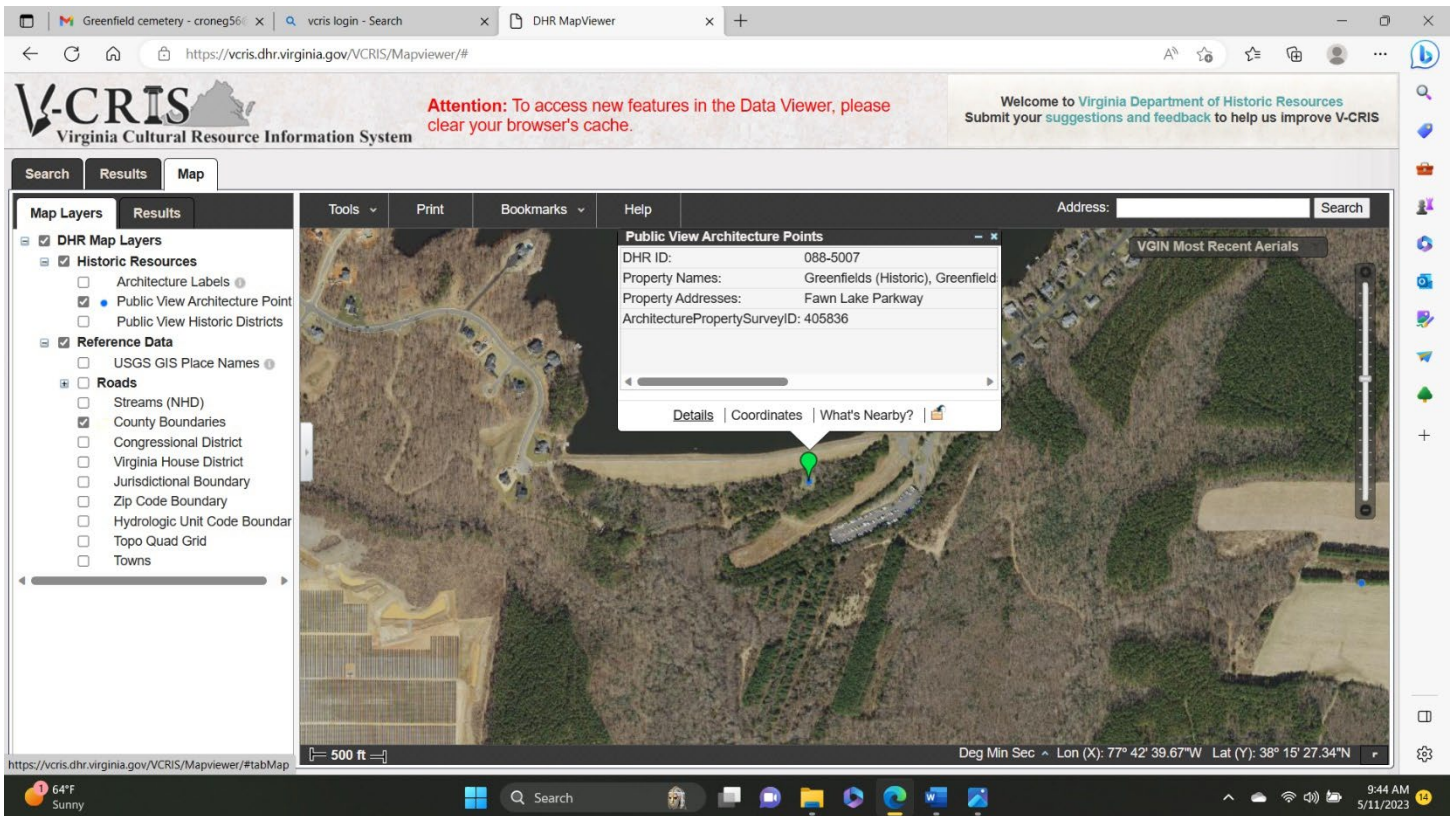


April 19, 2021

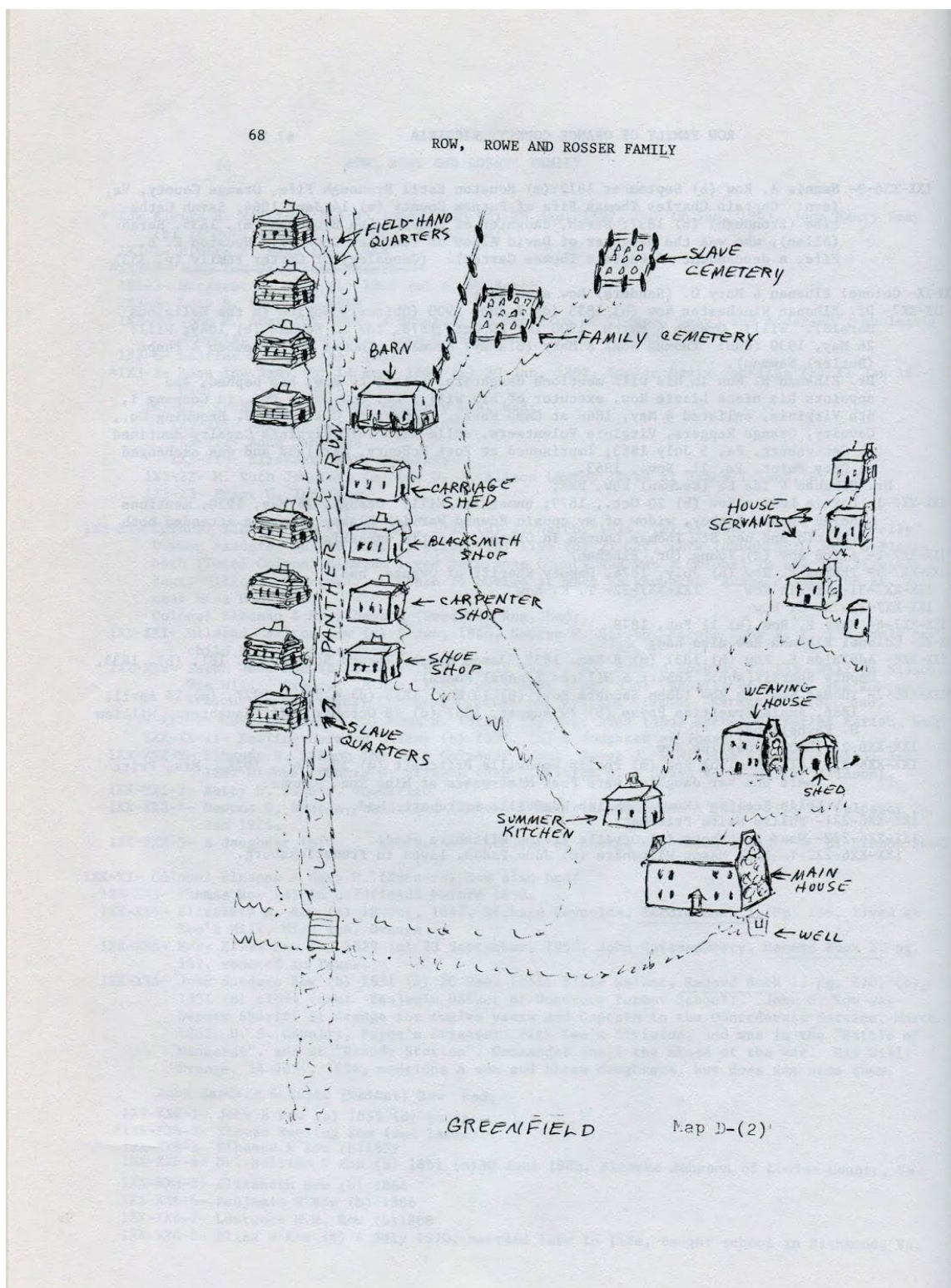
 Tax County Boundary 2007



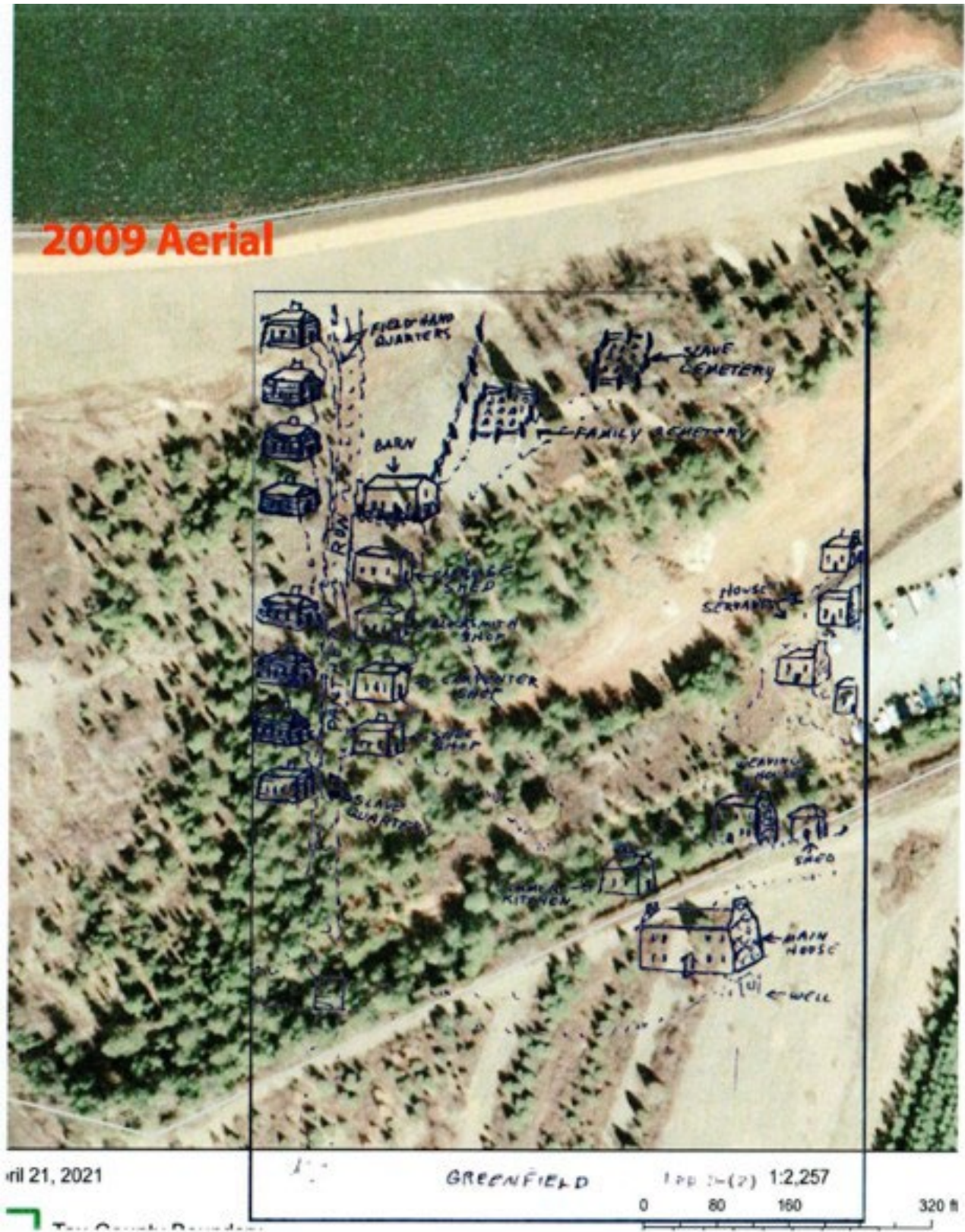
The Family Cemetery was already in the V-CRIS data base. The second image is the 1953 GIS image geolocated over a current google satellite image.



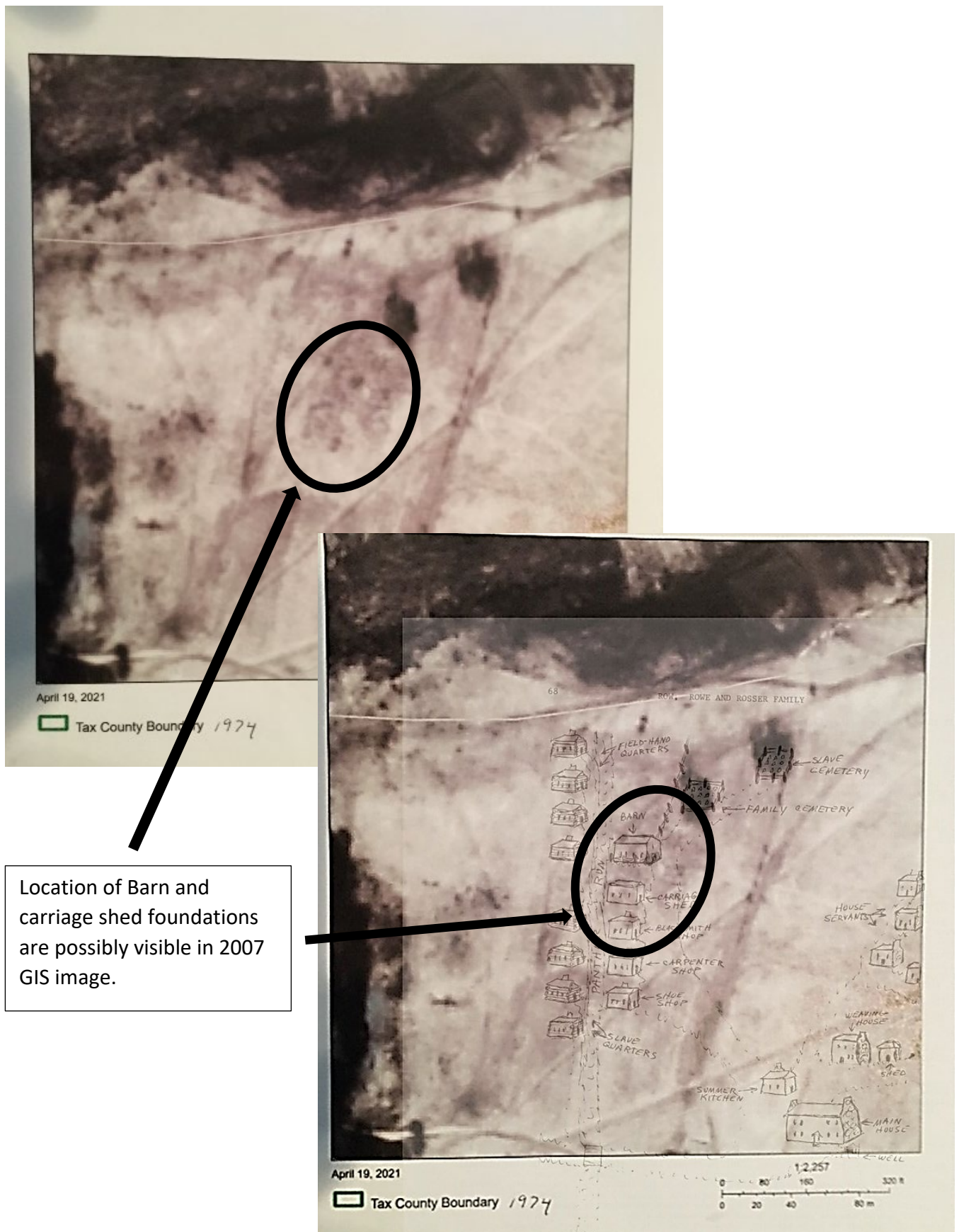
Mabel Row Wakeman, great aunt of the author, left detailed descriptions of what Greenfield looked like. She provided WPA researcher Mildred Barnum with the basis of her report on Greenfield in January 1937.



Mabel Row Wakeman map overlay with 2007 GIS image (2009 label is an error).

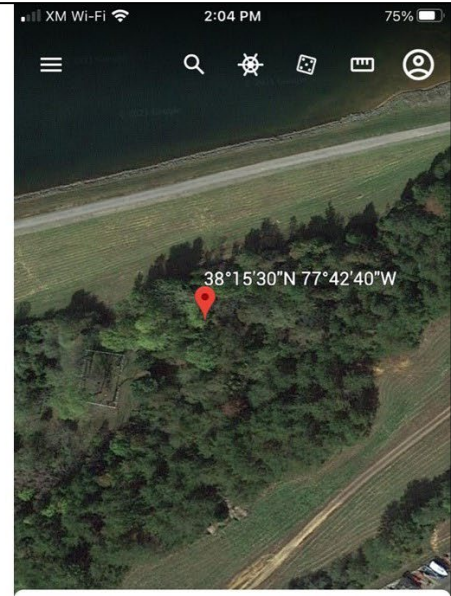


1974 GIS image appears to reveal foundation of Barn and Carriage Shed.





2011 John Cummings/Pat Sullivan Photo
(Site of photo identified— Looks same today. Rocks/trees in same place)



Dropped Pin
38°15'30"N 77°42'40"W · 329 ft

The same red cedar in the 2011 photo taken by planation family descendent Pat Sullivan of the enslaved cemetery appears in same 2021 image of location identified by GIS georectification research. Verifies place family member said cemetery was located.



5.3 ARCHIVED HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION OF VIRGINIA HISTORICAL INVENTORY	
34	COUNTY: <u>Spotsylvania</u>
	CLASS: <u>Etta</u>
	<u></u>
<hr/>	
--- "GREENFIELDS" ---	
<p>This write-up is a part of the Virginia W. P. A. Historical Inventory Project sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission under the direction of its Division of History. Credit to both the Commission and W. P. A. is requested for publication, in whole or in part. Unless otherwise stated, this information has not been checked for accuracy by the sponsor.</p>	
Research made by	
Mildred Barnum,	
Fredericksburg, Virginia.	January 4, 1937.

1. SUBJECT:

"Greenfields".

2. LOCATION:

Entrance through Oakley. To reach Oakley take Route #612 for 2.5 miles southwest of Finchville. House $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from road, west side. "Greenfields" 3 miles northeast of Oakley on private road.

3. DATE:

1795.

4. OWNERS:

1795, Ed. Herndon to Richard Estes, Deed Book "O", page 422. Estes Exors. to Absalom Row, 1832. Deed Book "DD", page 422. Absalom to Nancy Row. Will Book "U", page 491.

5. DESCRIPTION:

The house was a frame building, part of it two stories high and part one story. The arrangement of the rooms in the house was very inconvenient. When it was built the family had plenty of servants and did not consider convenience but those who lived there after the war found it made the work harder.

The flower garden was well known in its time for its size and beauty. It had in it most of the old fashioned flowers and shrubs. This garden was between the house and what was known as the "well yard". The latter was what might be termed the public square of the plantation because anyone coming to "Greenfields" on pleasure or business entered by the well yard. It was also the center of the plantation business. On one end was the well. On the side the kitchen, back of it, the garden and the old carriage block. This consisted of three large locust blocks of different heights. On the opposite side were the shops, carpenter, blacksmith and shoemaker. The fourth side was, of course, the entrance.

The plantation also had its smokehouse, dairy, weavers house and ice-house. The latter was on the opposite side of the house and near a stream where they had made an artificial pond. They cut ice from this in the winter and stored it in the ice house. This was a pit dug in the ground with a roof built over it. Such ice houses are common enough even to-day, in the remote sections of the state.

As in all old places, the kitchen was in one corner of the yard, some little distance from the house. This one was of log construction, with living quarters for the cook in the second story. Farther from the house and hidden by some trees were the slave quarters.

Mrs. Wakeman has in her possession several interesting relics from "Greenfields".

1. Richard Estes' old flint lock. This must be at least six feet long

and still has the old flint in it.

2. An old quilt nearly a hundred years old. This is beautifully made in a very elaborate pattern. The prints are quite different from those of to-day. It is said that some of them came from England.

3. An old doll, also a hundred years old, "Miss Fanny Augusta Kale". the doll's body is rag with some sort of composition head. The face is one of the quaintest, yet prettiest, I have ever seen on a doll. She is dressed in the style of the Ante Bellum period. The fingers on her hands are very small and quite long.

Another thing not in her possession now, but seen by her was an old night light. This was described as being a wooden affair something like a button, about three quarters of an inch in diameter with one hole and a tiny wick about an inch long. The composition of the wick was not known but it did not seem to be string. The holder and wick were set in a vessel containing some sort of oil. It would burn all night and give just enough light to see to move around the room.

6. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The place was settled by Richard Estes and passed to his descendants, the Rows.

A few little incidents of life there were told by Mrs. Wakeman.

One of the Estes girls went on a visit to Lynchburg one summer and wrote home that the thing she missed most of all was the ice. This was before the days of artificial ice even in the cities.

All of the outbuildings where provisions were kept were under lock and key and the mistress of the place presented a very business like appearance as she bustled about with all those keys.

The linen closets at "Greenfields" must have been well stocked for it is said that one of the brides of later years did not have to replenish her linens until she had been married seventeen years.

Inscriptions found on tombstones at "Greenfields".

"In memory of Richard Estes, who departed this life August 5, 1832, in the 74 year of his age."

"In memory of Catharine Estes who departed this life December 22, 1822 in the 63 year of her age"

"In memory of Elizabeth Estes who died March 26, 1838, in the 54 year of her age."

7. ART:

8. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Informant: Mrs. Samuel Wakeman, Brockroad, Virginia.
Court Records, Clerk's Office, Spotsylvania County, Virginia.

SP-34

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING CALLED FOR IN 3686
S-A. of BULLETIN 3400

Name of Building "GREENFIELDS".

EXTERIOR

1. Building Plan Square with two shed rooms. Cellar (X)
2. No. of stories: (2) Attic classed as 1/2 story.
3. Material: Brick () Frame (X) Stone () Log ()
4. If brick, state what bond: Flemish () English () Common () Other ()
5. Kind of roof: Hip () Gabled (X) Gambrel () Lean-to () Deck ()
6. If church, describe or draw sketch of roof on reverse side.
7. Roof Material: Slate () Shingle (X) Metal () Tile ()
8. Chimneys: Number (3) Brick (X) Stone () Location 2 at end, 1 center.
9. Weatherboarding: Beaded (X) Plain ()
10. Cornices: Plain or Elaborate Material
11. Windows: Number () Size and number of panes
12. Shutters: Describe:
13. Dormers: Number, and Shape of roof None.
14. Porch: Square.
15. Type of Entrance:
16. Columns: Doric () Ionic () Corinthian () Square ()

INTERIOR

17. No. of Rooms: (9) Large (6) Small (3) Approx. ceiling height.
18. Stairway: Open String (X) Closed String () Describe: Very steep.
19. Cellar: Describe Three rooms.
20. Doors: Style and type of wood
21. Walls: Panelled, papered or painted Plastered.
22. Interior Cornices
23. Hardware: Locks and hinges Old locks with brass knobs.
24. Floors:
25. Mantels: 3 carved mantels, painted black.
26. Misc: This is incomplete as it was filled out from memory and some details were not remembered. The house is entirely gone now.
27. Present condition, and state if spoiled architecturally by remodelling:
28. Does occupant seem to appreciate old architectural features?

Your Name Mildred Barnum.

"GREENFIELD"

"Greenfield," in the wilderness of Spotsylvania County, was the plantation home of Richard Estes (1758-1832). It is said that he was a soldier of the Revolution. It is possible - he was 18 years of age in 1776. At least, he was a contemporary of the patriots.

Richard Estes' rifle has been preserved. It is a long, heavy, hand-bored flint-lock, the kind used to trade with the Indians. The trading value was a stack of furs as high as the gun was tall. Richard Estes must not have traded his, or perhaps the Indians could not provide enough furs. Fourteen inches are said to have been cut from the barrell, and it is still six feet long. It is in the possession of his descendent, Mabel Row Wakeman (Mrs. S. T.) of Remington, Virginia

Richard Estes died August 5, 1832 at the age of 74. He is buried at "Greenfield" with his two wives, Catherine (1759-1822), and Elizabeth (1784-1832). The grave stones of Richard and Catherine are identical in design. That of Elizabeth is similar, but a small rosette carved on the other two is lacking on hers. On Elizabeth's stone the name is spelled Estis. On the others it is Estes. The stones are engraved on the back side, away from the graves, contrary to the present custom.

The evidence is that all of Richard Estes' children were by his first wife, Catherine. Her maiden name is not known. His last will seems to have been written in 1796 or 1797. In it he mentions his "7 legatees". Two daughters were born after this date, and perhaps he never changed his will. In this will, Richard Estes named as executors his sons, Ambrose, Richard, Berkeley and George Washington Estes.

When "Greenfield" was sold to Absalom Row September 26, 1832, Richard and George signed the deed. Berkeley, born in 1797, settled in Missouri. An account of his death is from a newspaper clipping found in the old Row family Bible: "Died at his residence near Columbia, Missouri, at four o'clock a.m., Thursday, July 29, 1869, of paralysis, Mr. Berkeley Estes, aged 72 years, for 40 years a citizen of Boone." Perhaps Ambrose, too, "went west." Also, perhaps it was because of them, that, after the Civil War, some of the nephews and nieces from Virginia established their homes in Missouri.

Mary (Polly) Estes was born June 4, 1789, and married William Carter December 23, 1828. She separated from her husband, and returned to Greenfield to live. Mary owned her own carriage, horses, driver, and a negro boy to run her errands. She was a part of the "Greenfield" establishment in its most prosperous years. Mary died February 4, 1863, and is buried near her parents.

Frances (Fanny) Estes was born December 26, 1802, and married Jonathan (Nathan) Johnson April 6, 1820. She and her husband maintained a gracious plantation home at "Walnut Hill", near Mt. Hermon Church in Spotsylvania County. They had no children who survived infancy. Frances died February 7, 1871, and is buried beside her husband in the Johnson cemetery.

Sarah Ann Estes was born April 4, 1804, and married Marshall Johnson (brother of Nathan). They lived at the old Johnson home-place near Margo, Virginia. Their children were: Berkeley Estes Johnson, who married Margaret Wise, and who became a successful civil engineer in

Missouri; Richard (Dick), a Confederate Artilleryman, who married Margaret Jerrell, moved to Missouri, and reared a large family; Sarah Ann (Nannie), who married Robert H. Jerrell, (brother of Margaret Jerrell); Armanda, who married Dr. Guelimus Smith, a dentist; Edgar Marshall (Ned), who married (1) Sally Eliot Parish, and (2) Mary Frances Landrum; Joseph Watkins, who never married, but who succeeded his uncle Nathan as owner of "Walnut Hill."

One daughter married Anthony Kale, a Swiss candy maker. After a long, adventurous trip from Europe by sailing ship, Mr. Kale settled in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and established a successful business. A son, John Kale, migrated to Polk County, Texas in 1847. A letter written by him from there June 25, 1847, to his uncle, Absalom Row of "Greenfield" has been preserved. There were four daughters, Kate, Julie, Mary, and one who married a Mr. Taylor.

Nancy Estes married Absalom Row of Orange County, who bought "Greenfield" in 1832 from the heirs of Richard Estes. "Greenfield" became the Row family home for the next 75 years. Absalom and Nancy Estes Row reared a family of five at "Greenfield." (1) Martha Jane, who married James Williams of Lynchburg, and had five children, John, Josephine, Jane, Armanda, and Sally Duncan; (2) Betty, who married a Mr. Rawlings. One daughter of this marriage married Dr. Tribble, Principal of Rawlings Institute of Charlottesville. (3) Sarah, who died a young girl; (4) Nancy Estes Row, who never married, but who inherited "Greenfield" upon the death of her mother; (4) George Washington Estes Row (1843-1883), who lived at "Greenfield" all but three years of his life, but never owned it. He managed the plantation for his maiden sister, Nancy, who out-lived him. He served in Lomax's Calvary during the Civil War.

"Greenfield" is situated between Parker Post Office and old Todd's Tavern, along Panther branch. A Confederate Military map of 1863 shows it as a large oval, with perhaps twice as much open land as at present (1960). Under the stewardship of Absalom Row, and later his daughter, Nancy, "Greenfield" flourished. It abundantly supported the family, a large force of slaves, and many visitors who came to stay for weeks at a time.

The residence was of frame, two stories high, with basement, and shed rooms on the west end. It faced north, and on clear days boasted a view of the Blue Ridge mountains. The dwelling was the front-center of a quadrangle of dependences. On the east was the wood pile, and two-story log weaving room with two porches. This weaving house was in later years used as a residence by Lucius Estes (no relation) and his wife, Molly Pendleton. It was they who welcomed to "Greenfield", Mary Houston of Rockbridge County, when she arrived as a bride in 1875, cold and weary after a long drive from Fredericksburg.

The large garden was in the rear of the weaving house, and storage building, all of frame and with shingled roofs. On the west side of the residence was the ice house and kitchen, with a large chimney and dirt floor. The rear line (south) of the quadrangle was composed of the shoe shop, carpenter's shop, blacksmith shop and stables. The field

hands lived in quarters on a hill near Panther branch. The house servants lived near the dwelling. Mrs. S. T. Wakeman, who remembers "Greenfield" as it was 75 years ago, describes it as "a tiny principality, far away from everywhere, but sufficient unto itself." The description is appropriate.

The Estes of "Greenfield" were stern and dignified. About them was a certain sense of propriety that even the servants were imbued with. Moral and social standards were high. The older servants were known to admonish their young masters for impropriety. The relationship between owner and servant was one of mutual respect. Even after the war, when the negroes had homes of their own, and a former slave died, the body was brought to "Greenfield" to lie in state in the parlor. They "belonged." Their burial ground is near that of their earthly masters.

In May of 1864, after the stalemate in the Wilderness, both Federal and Confederate Troops passed through "Greenfield" to join again in mutual conflict at Spotsylvania Court House. Family valuables were buried, and the horses hidden in the woods. The plantation mules were fastened in a corral. Federal troops attempted to capture these, but they became frightened and escaped. It was weeks before they were all rounded up and returned. The plantation was looted, but the residence spared.

At the time of the fighting in Spotsylvania, Nancy Row, and perhaps other members of the household, refugee in Goochland County, Virginia. The following letter, written by Maria Dobyns of adjoining Oakley plantation tells of those stirring days:

Oakley
June 17th. 1864

My Dear Friend:

A long, long time has elapsed since I heard from you, and no doubt you are anxious to hear from your friends in Spotsylvania.

Many changes have taken place since you left us, and I really think you should feel that it was an interposition of Providence which caused you to leave when you did - for had you remained here no doubt you would be as most of us are now.

When Grant first crossed the river, his cavalry force passed here on it's way back after having met Gen. Rosser up near Craig's. You have no idea what our feelings were when we first saw them, but they were too much frightened to do much then. However, they took William and sent down for Papa. Mama went up just as Gen. Wilson ordered him on a horse. She begged him not to take Papa, and after a considerable time they concluded to leave him. We had no idea our forces were so near us until they rushed up the hill in front of the house. A considerable fight took place in our yard and around the house, shells passing over the house. It was the first time I had ever been so near a fight and of course, was much frightened, but an All Wise Providence saw fit to protect us through it all.

Our artillery was planted by ²Aunt Harriett's house and on that hill in front of our yard. We stood and watched the shelling during the evening from our windows and did not feel afraid, but had a shell been thrown from the enemy's guns I imagine we would not have been so composed.

Two of our loved soldiers are buried in our garden, one only lived about an hour after he was brought here. We also had a ³Yankee Major here who was wounded just by our barn. Sister saw him when he fell from his horse. He was moved to Mr. Buchanan's the next day. Three weeks ago Captain Jordan was brought here from the hospital. Poor thing! The ball passed through his arm, completely shattering the arm, and then into his side. His arm had been amputated just below the shoulder. I dressed his wounds twice every day and I never in all my life saw one who complained so little. Never did one murmur escape his lips. His suffering was very great and after having been here several days, he concluded to have the ball taken from his side. We sent for surgeons, who came and took it out. It had become fastened in his ribs. Extracting the ball made him very sick indeed. A few days after, Dr. Daily came and brought his son, who had been shot through the lung, the ball passing through his body. He is now a little better but still a great sufferer. Dr. Storry and Harrison are here everyday and night with him. I fear he will never recover from his wound.

Last Tuesday we were all very quiet, nursing the sick, when Mr. Dick Todd called to me and said the Yankees were advancing. Before we could get the horses off they came dashing up to the house. Papa fortunately made his escape to the woods. They came, searched the meat house, took all we had from us, and asked for flour. I started up to Mr. Buchanan's for a guard, but found it useless to go, as they were not sending out any. They broke open the house and searched it from top to bottom at least fifty times, broke open every door, but the parlor, took every grain of corn and left us without one dust of flour. Nearly all of our meat, every fowl we had, both carriages, all of the horses, played destruction generally.

Our cattle were in the field and I heard them bawling. I asked a Yankee who had come of his own accord to try and protect us to go with me. We started and I was driving the cows to the house when I met a whole regiment. I succeeded in getting them into the yard and I saw a few sheep they had not killed, so I went immediately with the same Yankee and while driving them to the house several fired into them, but I know they did not dare shoot me and I got them up in the dairy and succeeded in keeping them through the night. Several cursed us and, in fact, I believe they were the worst that ever lived. Dr. Bailey, who was here at the time, says he knew that there was more than one thousand in the house. They got here Tuesday morning and did not leave till twelve o'clock Wednesday. We hadn't one mouthful to eat till Wednesday four o'clock. I did not miss it, but I know the sick did. They threatened to take the Captain off, but did not fortunately. He left yesterday. We hated so much to give him up. All became so much attached to him.

Dr. Storry has been very kind indeed to us. He has provided us with all we have to eat since they left. They tore up the Chancellor's clothes, destroyed almost all they had, and as far as we can hear, nearly all have fared just alike. I have not been able to hear from Mrs. Todd, presume she fared as we did. There is nothing before us now but starvation, but I trust a just God will protect us.

George was here last Wednesday. He was looking very well. His brigade was then at Waller's Tavern. Miss Nanny, when you write or speak to him about religion he seems very much concerned indeed, and from his conversation, I trust he is a converted boy. He gave me a penknife he captured together with a watch from Gen. Custers, Adj. General.

The Yankees even tore off the plastering of Dr. Pulliam's cellar, thinking something had been hid, took money of Lucie's and his clothes, together with everything else. Lucie is with the Doctor. It is perfectly useless to try and tell what they have done, for we are constantly finding that they have taken things we did not miss at first, and left us only 7 towels. Also robbed the servants of their provisions and clothing.

Fondly yours,

Maria Dobyns

¹The man, "William" was a slave. The Northern soldiers had persuaded the other slaves to desert their master, Leroy Dobyns.

²Aunt Harriett's home was the home of one of the slaves.

³The Yankee Major referred to was Major Darlington. He was sitting on his horse in the barnyard at "Oakley" when John Cooper, a Confederate sharpshooter shot him from a cherry tree beside the road on top of Keller's hill.

Nancy Row (affectionately known as Aunt Nan) kept "Greenfield" in good repair for her lifetime. At considerable cost, she imported Peruvian guano to maintain soil fertility. One year a disastrous storm destroyed the crops, and much of the family fortune melted with the hailstones. Life became hard at "Greenfield", and the property deteriorated.

G. W. E. Row married (1) Annie Daniel, who had two children, Annie and Absalom Row II. Annie died as a child, and Annie Daniel, her mother, died as a young woman. Absalom II was reared by his Aunt Nancy. G. W. E. Row then married (2) Mary Elizabeth Houston of Rockbridge County and a kinsman of Gen. Sam Houston of Texas fame. (Some of the Houston silver remains in the Row family.) By this marriage were four children: (1) G. Houston Row (1877-1889) who died single, (2) Alexander, who died young, (3) Mabel, who married Samuel Tilden Wakeman, and (4) Horace, who married Fanny Kent.

Mabel Row and S. T. Wakeman had one son, Sam, who died in 1944. A daughter, Elizabeth, married A. J. Hergenroeder and lives in Rockville, Maryland, and Armanda who married Claude Ritchie of Remington, Virginia.

G. W. E. Row was given a tract of land adjoining "Greenfield," and named it "Sunshine." He died in 1883, and his son Horace Row (1882-1939) lived here. His widow survives (1960). Their children are: (1) George, who married Ulla Baker; Mary, who married Burruss Catlett; Judy, who married Paul Sullivan; Margaret, who married Rolf Houck; and Nancy, who married Woodrow Humphries.

Upon the death of Nancy Row in 1889, "Greenfield" became the property of her nephew, Absolom Row II, whom she had reared. The place was rented for several years until Absolom II married Julia Rosser. Their youngest child, Maxine, was born there - the last descendent of Richard Estes to be born at "Greenfield." After a few years, the property was sold to Scott Stephens. Absolom Row II moved his family to Strasburg, Virginia, where Absolom III was born. This Absolom now (1960) lives in Alexandria, Virginia, and is official White House photographer.

While Scott Stephens owned "Greenfield", the residence and most of the out-buildings were demolished. None of the original structures remain. Only the fields of old "Greenfield" remain. These fields are now farmed by Onard Houck, the present owner. Long gone are the stewards of the past and the dependencies they used. "Greenfield" has somehow withstood the ebb and flow of humanity for 200 years. It flourished as an ante-bellum plantation, withstood the devastation of war, and became a haven in reconstruction times. Quietly surrounded by miles of forests, it seems patiently waiting the next scene in the drama of its destiny.

J. R. Mansfield
1960

*Grateful acknowledgement is made to Mabel Row Wakeman (Mrs. Samuel Tilden Wakeman) who has provided much of the data for this narrative.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES CITIZEN CEMETERY RECORDATION FORM



Note: This form is for use by members of the general public. Preservation professionals must submit records for approval through V-CRIS.

General Location Information

Cemetery Name(s):	Greenfield Plantation African American Slave Cemetery
County/City:	Spotsylvania County
Address/Location:	Fawn Lake, Spotsylvania VA 22551 (38.25833N; 77.711077W)
Date of Observation:	20 Apr 2021

CEMETERY TYPE

- ☐ Marked with gravestones, monuments, walls, fences, or other elements visible above-ground ☒ Unmarked only; depressions present, possibly indicated by field stones or plants
- ☐ Both marked and unmarked

Photographs

Please attach. Digital photos may be submitted on disk or electronically. Contact DHR Archives for assistance.

Medium: Digital ☐ Print Date Taken: 20 Apr 2021

MAP DATA (Consult DHR Archives Staff for help with obtaining map information)

Please attach a map showing the location of the cemetery. You may provide Latitude and Longitude coordinates if available.

Lat: 38.25833N Long: 77.711077W Source (Google Maps, GPS, etc): Virginia LiDAR Mapping Application

Sketch Map/ Plan Drawing (attach separate pages if desired)



DHR Staff Use: AH DHR ID _____ AH V-CRIS DATE _____ AE DHR ID _____ AE V-CRIS DATE _____

Religious Affiliation: _____

Ethnic Affiliation: *Select all that apply*

- ☒ African Descent ☐ European Descent
☐ Native American/ American Indian ☐ Other- specify: _____

Earliest Marked Death Date: _____ Latest Marked Death Date: _____
Date Established: _____ Date Source: _____

Approximate Number of Marked Burials: *Select only one choice.*

- ☐ 1-5
☐ 6-10
☒ 11-25
☐ 26-50
☐ 51-100
☐ 101+

Approximate Number of Unmarked Burials: *Select only one choice.*

- ☐ 1-5
☐ 6-10
☐ 11-25
☐ 26-50
☐ 51-100
☐ 101+

Enclosure Type: *Select only one choice.*

- ☐ Fence
Hedge
☒ None
☐ Other
Wall

Current Use: *Select only one choice*

- ☒ Abandoned ☐ Memorial Park
☐ Church/Religious ☐ Military
☐ City/Town/Municipal ☐ National
Family Private

Significant Markers and/or Individuals: *(use additional pages if needed)*

☐ Condition: *Select only one choice.*

- ☐ Good
Fair (some damage to markers)
☒ Poor (many markers damaged, fallen, or missing)

Threats: *Select only one choice*

- ☐ Development ☐ Other
Erosion
☐ Neglect
None Known

Marker Type	First Name	Last Name	Birth Date	Death Date	Condition

Marker Types (to be entered above)

Bench	Iron/Metal
Cenotaph	Mausoleum
Chest Tomb	Monument
Cradle Grave	Other
Crypt	Slab/Capstone/Ledger
Fieldstone	Table
Headstone/Tablet	Temporary (Funeral Home)

General Condition Description: Describe the condition of the cemetery as a whole including any damage, if applicable.

This is an unmarked African American slave cemetery dating from prior to 1795 -abt. 1875. It was part of the Greenfield Plantation and is now on undeveloped property of the Fawn Lake Community. It is located near the Fawn Lake Dam. Fawn Lake is a gated community in Spotsylvania County. The cemetery is co-located near the Greenfield family cemetery which is currently fenced and sporadically maintained. The African American cemetery site can be located by a relative bearing of 60 degrees and 180 feet from the center of the existing family cemetery to the center of the slave cemetery site. The location of the African American cemetery is visible on the 1953, 1962, 1974, and 1995 Spotsylvania County GIS photos as well as the nearby family cemetery.

Setting and Landscape Description: Describe the surroundings, landscape features, walls, plantings, etc.

The cemetery is in a small grove covered with purple periwinkle ground cover and within a surrounding hardwood canopy. A large Eastern Red Cedar is at the southwest corner of the grove. There are no marked graves and no indentations or visible signs of grave sites. There are seven small black granite stone pieces still present that may have been markers.

One is in the grove near the entry path from the family cemetery and the other six are arranged in an oval at the base of a small tree. The cemetery does not appear to have been fenced but may have had a field fence running near its eastern boundary at one time based on LiDAR imaging from 2014. The burial area appears to be more circular in area than rectangular, sitting on a low rise in the topography. There are overhanging scrub Autumn Olive and Sweetgum encroaching the site. The site is accessible via a dirt road near the marina parking lot and path through a thinly wooded area leading to the cemetery site or by a short path from the family cemetery. A current image is attached.

Additional Comments: Attach additional pages or documentation, if desired.

This existence of this cemetery is well documented by Row/Estes family members of the former plantation owner and written historical documents pertaining to the Greenfield Plantation. There is also an historical sketch of the Greenfield Plantation buildings that depicts the location of the cemetery consistent with GIS and LIDAR imagery. Greenfield is an historically significant Civil War site and was occupied by both northern and southern forces during the campaigns in Spotsylvania County. According to a 3rd great grandson of the plantation owner Absalom Row, when the plantation was sold by the Estes/Row family in 1905, the farmer who bought the land leveled the buildings to farm the fields and left the site of the family and slave cemeteries untouched. The pastures and cemetery locations are easily visible in county GIS photos from 1953, 1962, 1974 and 1995. Note: the location of the slave cemetery appears untouched from the construction of the nearby dam. About 2002, the development company, NTS, reportedly fenced in the family cemetery and maintained it. GIS photos in 2002 and 2007 show the family cemetery fenced but the location of the slave cemetery is no longer visible and the canopy appears to have been cleared or thinned.

PRIMARY RECORDER INFORMATION You may add information about additional recorders above or on separate pages.

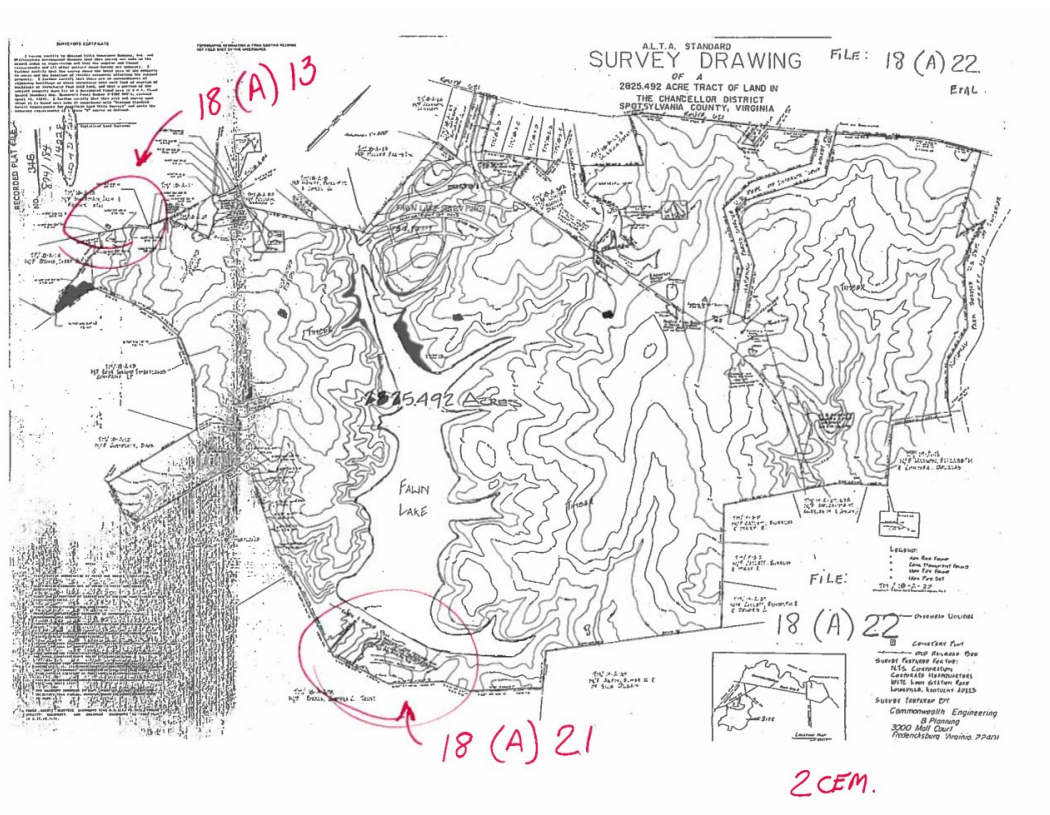
First name: Gary Last name: Crone
 Title: _____ Organization: _____
 Address: 11003 Sheridan Drive
 City: Spotsylvania State: VA Zip: 22551
 Phone: 540-412-2504

Relationship to Cemetery: *Select all that apply*

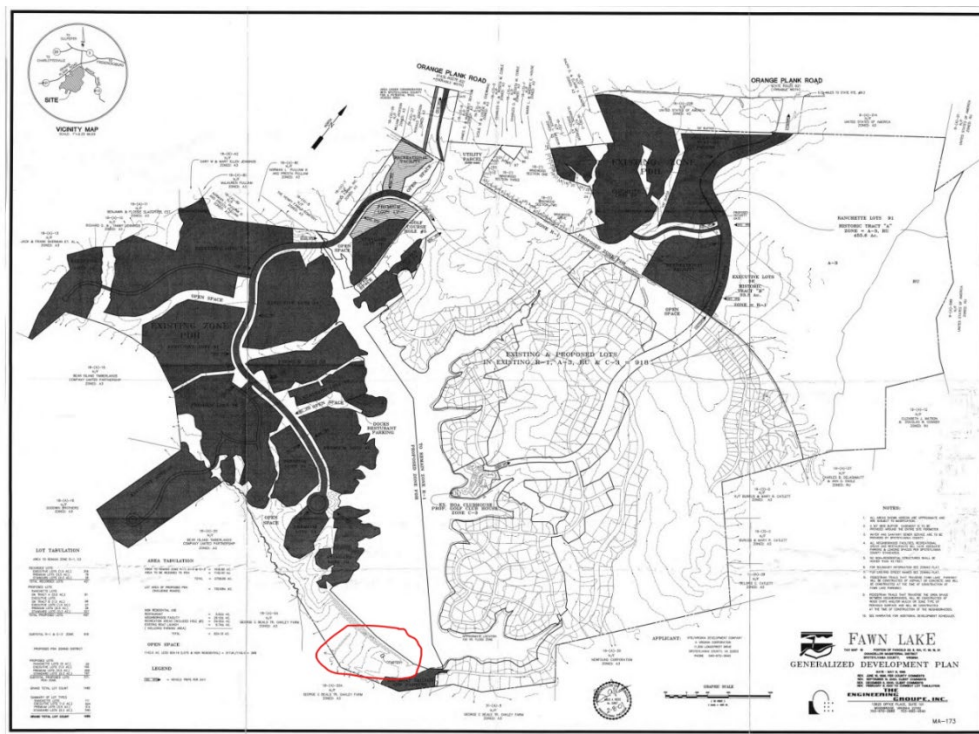
☐ Property Owner ☐ Descendant ☒ Genealogist ☐ General Interest

Spotsylvania County Documentation of cemetery.

A. Two cemeteries identified in NTS Survey Drawing.



B. Only one cemetery identified in 8 May 1998 NTS Generalized Development Plan



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128/#:~:text=2.%20Crimes%20and%20Offenses%20Generally.%20Chapter%205.%20Crimes,shall%20be%20guilty%20of%20a%20Class%203%20misdemeanor.

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