

Maryland Inventory of Cemeteries and Burial Sites Working Group
October 9, 2025 at 11:00 AM
Virtual Meeting

Working Group Members Present: Reggie Bishop, Glenn Easton, Mark Edwards, Corey Lewis, Hope Metzler, Donna Nelson, Daniel Phelan, Deborah Rappazzo, Tina Simmons, Maya Davis

MHT Staff Present: Gregory Brown, Elizabeth Hughes, Zachary Singer

The meeting came to order at 11:03 AM

I. Meeting Minutes

Mark Edwards suggested two word-choice changes on page two of the meeting minutes specifically regarding general funds being difficult to secure and the phrasing about the special license plate program.

Mr. Phelan made a motion to approve the September 18, 2025 meeting minutes with these revisions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Metzler and approved unanimously.

II. Cemetery Inventory Public Search/Filter Functions

A. Cemetery Inventory Search Function Development

Gregory Brown and Tina Simmons discussed the proposed public search filter function for the cemetery inventory, using Alabama's system as a model. They recommended that the primary search fields would include cemetery name (primary and alternate) and a unique cemetery number. They also detailed 11 initial filter fields for the public interface, acknowledging that more could be added or removed later based on user needs. Those 11 fields would include:

Cemetery Number
Cemetery Name
Other Name(s)
County
Cemetery Type
Cemetery Affiliation
Ownership Type (Private-for profit, Private-non-profit, etc.)
Year Established
Number of Burials (range)
Perpetual Care?
Restricted Access (Public Access, By Permission Only)

The group recommended the addition of two additional initial filter fields: 1. SDAT listing; and, 2. Historic Designation.

B. Cemetery Type

The group discussed the proposed drop-down categories provided for the “Cemetery Type” data field. The group selected the following “Cemetery Type” drop down menu options.

African American Cemetery

Animal Cemetery

Animal and Human Cemetery

Indigenous/Native American Burial Grounds/Site

Colonial/Early American

Enslaved Burials

Family Plot/Cemetery

Fraternal/Community

Government (Municipal, State, Town)

Green Burials

Institutional (prisons, sanatoriums, alms houses, mental institutions)

Mass Burials (epidemics)

Memorial Park

Military

Institutional

Potters Field

Religious/Benevolent Societies (fill in the blank)

Transitional (change religions)

Veteran Cemetery

Unknown

Other (fill in the blank)

C. Cemetery Affiliation

The group discussed the cemetery affiliation data field at length and ultimately decided to delete this field from the database altogether.

D. Other Data Field Adjustments

The group decided to make additional data field adjustments as noted below:

- Add a data field for abandoned cemetery (yes/no question)
- Edit condition data field drop down menu (options now include: adequately maintained, removed, not maintained, destroyed, relocated – all with date)
- Edit ownership data field drop down menu (options now include: for profit, not for profit, private-individual/family, municipal, county, state, federal land, federal military, foreign, unknown, other)

- Edit number of graves to include three choices only (1-100, 100-500, More than 500)

III. Review remaining tasks and timeline

Elizabeth Hughes stated that the draft report would be circulated to the group for review in advance of the October 23rd meeting. It would be ideal if it could be shared so that Workgroup members could insert their comments directly into the report using either Microsoft Teams or google drive.

Following the October 23rd meeting, the report would be adjusted to reflect Workgroup comments and then posted for public comment by October 27th. The Workgroup would meet again to finalize the report based on comments received on November 20th.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 PM.