

AA-6

Brewer Hill Cemetery

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 06-11-2004

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic BREWER HILL CEMETERY

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 800 block - West Street not for publication

city, town Annapolis vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> </u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other: cemetery

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Brewer Hill Cemetery Association

street & number 1908 Forest Drive, Suite L telephone no.: 266-8510

city, town Annapolis, state and zip code Maryland 21401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AA-6

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Brewer Hill Cemetery was first used as a burial ground for Africans following the introduction of slavery in this area and in the period prior to the Civil War for both slaves and free men of African. Similarly, African-American victims of a smallpox epidemic in the early 1900's were interned on the grounds. Brewer Hill Cemetery continued to be used for interment of free persons of African descent after the Emancipation Proclamation and its family lots and individual lots are still being used today.

As can be easily evidenced, many persons have been buried on the site. Entire families, individuals and veterans of all the modern day wars have been buried there. Prior to 1964, African American veterans were not permitted to be buried in the adjoining veteran's cemetery. Citing a few instances grave site markers indicate Pablo Alvarez, Fireman, USN was buried in 1921, Clifton Colbert, PFC, COE 811 Pioneer Infantry was buried February 1929, Robert Washington Sharps, USNR was buried May 1948 and Charles Wenn, Korea 9th Infantry was buried in 1951. As for family burial sites, the Peterson family plot lists 13 different family members buried between the years 1863-1913.

The cemetery borders the main exit corridor of the Historic City of Annapolis and the old town-city boundary line at the intersection now known as West Street and Taylor Avenue. The unsurveyed land mass is believed to contain a minimum of five acres of flat land. On the north end, Brewer Hill is separated from the adjoining National Cemetery by a drainage ravine. There is a masonry building on the east side which parallels West Street is bound by a metal link fence. The rear of the cemetery terraces off into a sloped hillside containing approximately a thousand visible graves. The south end is bordered by chain link fence. A service road runs east-west for two-thirds the length of the cemetery into a dead end.

The graves are marked by combination of wooden and stone markers. Many of the earlier graves were marked with wood and the dates have subsequently eroded. Consequently, we have not been able to identify a number of individuals and families.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-6

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Brewer Hill Cemetery was first used as a burial ground for Africans following the introduction of slavery in this area and in the period prior to the Civil War for both slaves and freemen of African. Similarly, African-American victims of a smallpox epidemic in the early 1900's were interned on the grounds. Brewer Hill Cemetery continued to be used for interment of free persons of African descent after the Emancipation Proclamation and its family lots and individual lots are still being used today.

As can be easily evidenced, many persons have been buried on the site. Entire families, individuals and veterans of all the modern day wars have been buried there. Prior to 1946, African American Veteran's cemetery. Citing a few instances, grave site markers indicate Pablo Alvearez, Fireman, USN was buried in 1921, Clifton Colbert, PFC, COE 811 Pioneer Infantry was buried February 1929, Robert Washington Sharps, USNR was buried May 1948 and Charles Wenn, Korea 9th Infantry was buried in 1951. As for family burial sites, the Peterson family plot lists 13 different family members buried between the years 1863-1913.

The Brewer Hill Cemetery Association has identified the need for the following repairs: replacement of fence, erosion control, re-alignment of grave plots, modification of service building and replacement of the entrance gate. The association has already contacted a headstone cleaner who has cleaned a number of markers for individual families.

The newly-elected Board of Directors of the Association has dedicated itself to the goal of preserving and upgrading the site. Brewer Hill Cemetery is the final resting place for over 7,000 persons of African American descent. Many of the current plot owners are aged and/or on fixed incomes which precludes them from contributing financially. However, many have elected to support the association's fundraising efforts in whatever way they can.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-6

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title *George Phelps, Jr.* President

organization Brewer Hill Cemetery date July 5, 1990

street & number 1908 Forest Drive Suite L telephone 266-8510

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



