

Smoot Graves
CH-659
Dentsville vic.
Private

1830-1878

The Smoot Family Cemetery is found atop a hill in an open pasture marked by a large cedar tree and a thicket near the intersection of Wheatley and Olivers Shop Roads. The cemetery consists of several broken limestone tablets containing simple inscriptions and little to no ornamentation. Members of the Smoot family have lived in Charles County since the colonial period. Although in poor condition, the site is representative of the typical burial customs of Charles County's more prosperous families.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-659

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Smoot Graves
other

2. Location

street and number 7700 Wheatley Road not for publication
city, town Dentsville vicinity
county Charles

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

name W.J. Wheatley
street and number 7700 Wheatley Road telephone unlisted
city, town LaPlata state MD zip code 20646-4109

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 56 p. 43
city, town LaPlata liber 38 folio 430

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other

6. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Current Function | Resource Count | |
|--|---|---|--|-----------------|
| | | | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> defense | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site | | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic | 1 | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object | | <input type="checkbox"/> education | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> government | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> health care | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> social | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: | | |
| | | | Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory | |
| | | | 0 | |

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-659

Condition

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered |

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

The site of the Smoot Graves is in an open pasture on the corner of Wheatley and Olivers Shop Roads. The cemetery stands atop a hill marked by a large cedar tree on a large horse farm consisting of almost 200 acres. Four tablets were visible, many of which were broken and illegible. Much damage has occurred from neglect, vegetation and vermin. All visible stones were of inscribed limestone, simply shaped with rounded crests.

Five tombstones were transcribed by Danny Fluhart of the Charles County Historical Society in the 1980's.

Alexander Smoot died Jan'y 6, 1878, aged 55 years, 3 mos. and 19 days

Emaline A. Smoot died August 23, 1844 in the 18th year of her age

George T. Smoot died July 5, 1830 in the 86th year of his age

Josias Smoot died April 11, 185? In the 30th year of his age

In memory of Mary Smoot, consort of George Smoot, died February 12, 1853 in the 67th year of her age.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-659

| Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000- | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> social history | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: | |

Specific dates 1830-1878

Architect/Builder N/A

Construction dates 1830-1878

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Smoot Family is a common surname appearing in some of the earliest records of Charles County. Family members remained active in local affairs well into the twentieth century. A quick overview of available records reveal that, in 1774, a George C. Smoot was one of the Charles County's 100 of the best known citizens appointed to a committee to act and to represent the county in response to the Boston Tea Party and the subsequent blockade of that city. A John Nathan Smoot was identified as quartermaster of Charles County's Lower Battalion during the American Revolution. In the following decade, one Richard M. Smoot is said to have sold the escape boat to one of the conspirators in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. This boat was used by John Wilkes Booth and David Herold seeking passage through Charles County and across the Potomac into Virginia. Whether or not he was sympathetic to the cause of the Southern States, as many Charles County plantation owners were, was not stated. Finally in 1896, a Dr. James J. Smoot was on the building committee for the construction of a new courthouse in the town of LaPlata.

Although little is known about either the dwelling which was once associated with this site, or the individuals buried there, a review of the 1850 census reveals that Alexander Smoot was then employed as a clerk in the village of Port Tobacco. By 1870 he had risen to become a fur-trader.

The cemetery, although not currently maintained and in poor condition, is representative of the preferred burial customs of local families in Charles County. It's location on high ground, the presence of a large cedar tree, and simple inscriptions on modest rounded tablets are typical features found in most family burial plots throughout the County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-659

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 10
Acreage of historical setting 198
Quadrangle name LaPlata Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Smoot Graves are associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 56, Grid 6, Parcel 43.

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| name/title | Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor | | |
| organization | Charles County Planning Department | date | 4/5/01 |
| street and number | 200 Baltimore Street | telephone | 301-396-5815 |
| city or town | LaPlata | state MD | zip code 20646 |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-659

Section 9 Page 1

Smoot Graves
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Circuit Court Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Charles County, Maryland Tombstone and Bible Records and Name Index. Unpublished Manuscript at the Southern Maryland Studies Center, Charles County Community College.

Klaphor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

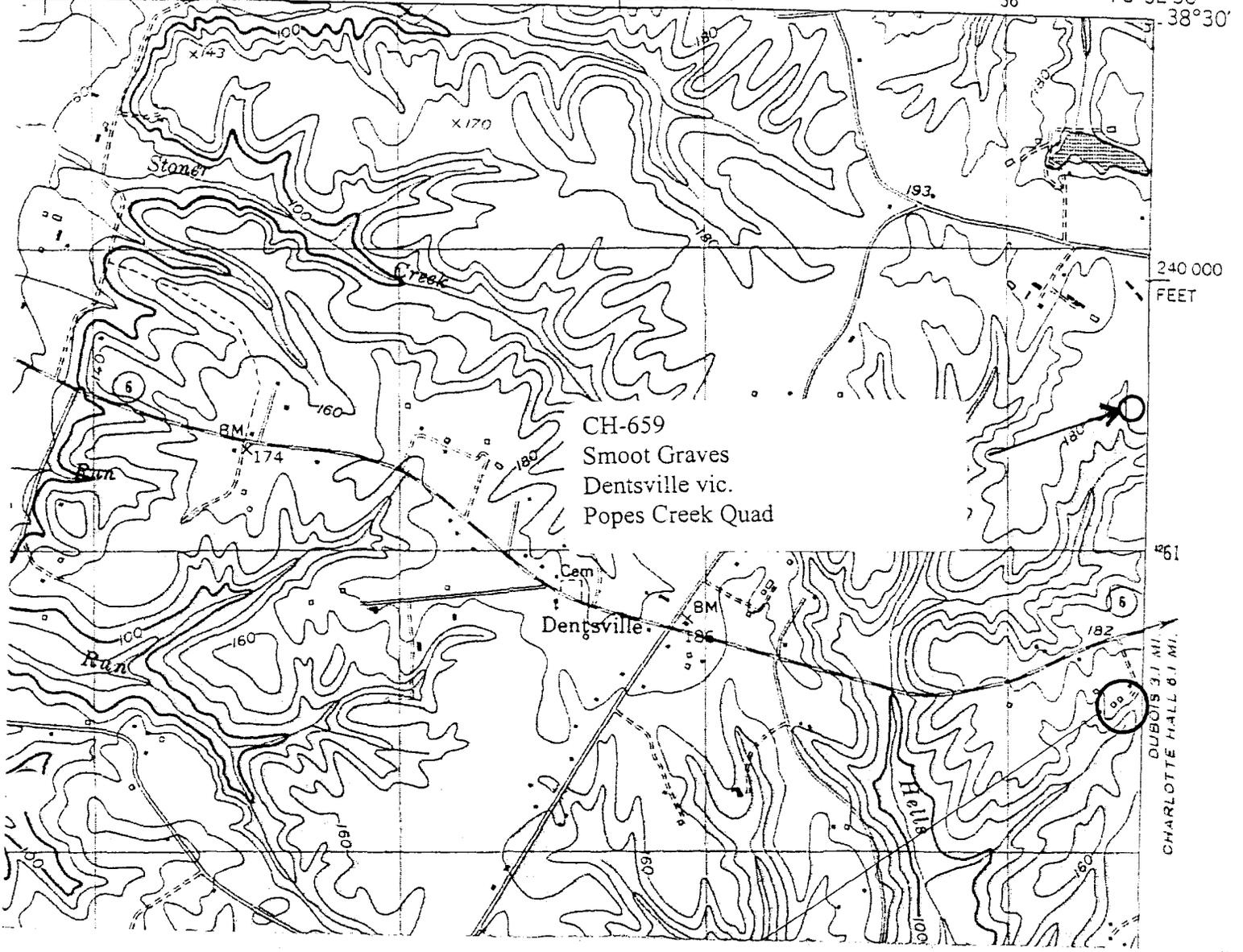
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1830 000 FEET

'36

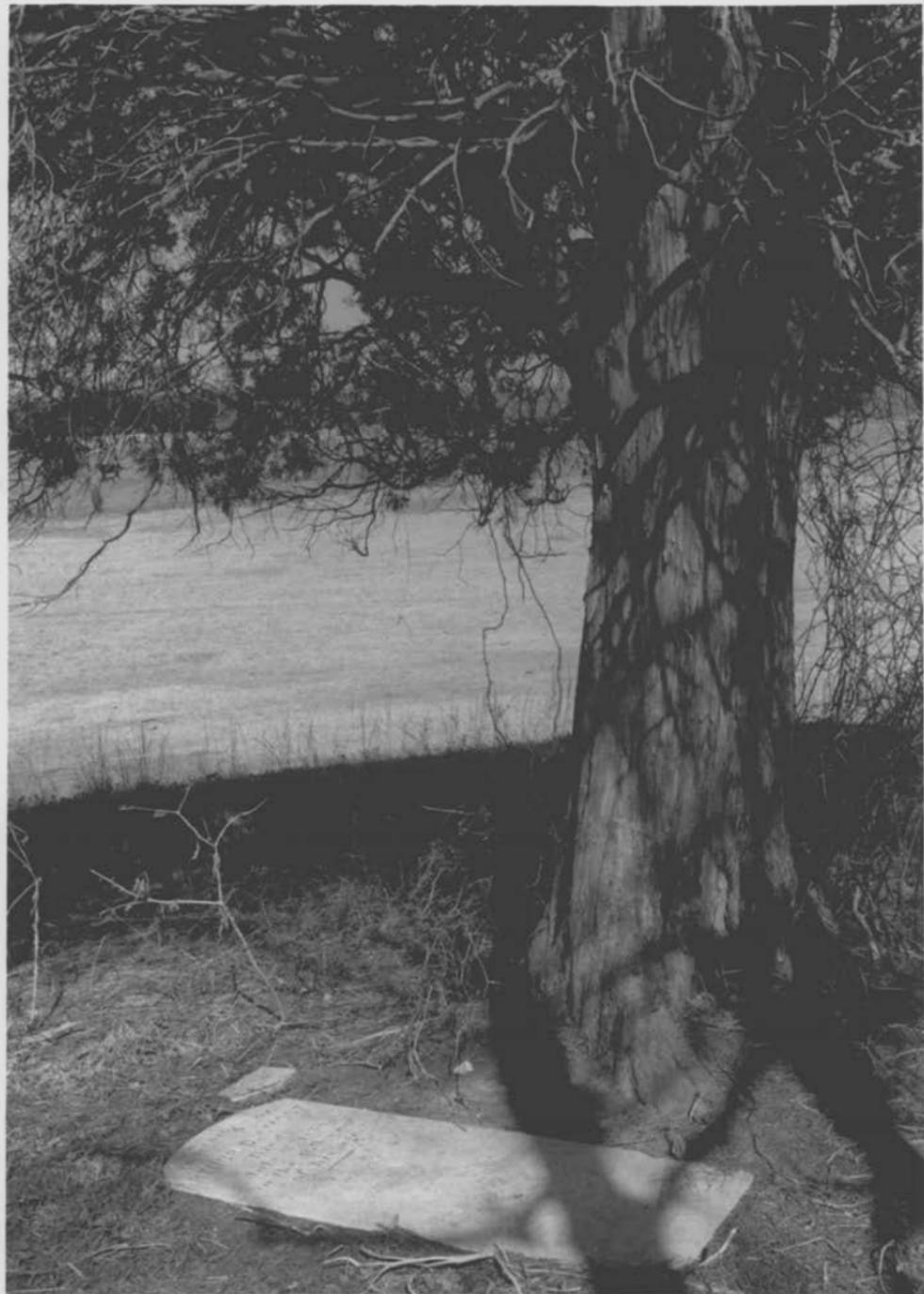
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CH-659
 Smoot Graves
 Dentsville vic.
 Popes Creek Quad

Dentsville

DUBOIS 3.1 MI.
 CHARLOTTE HALL 6.1 MI.



CH-659
SMOOT GRAVES
DENTSVILLE
11/2001
C. CURRY/
MD SHPO
LOOKING NORTH
1 OF 1