

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Whipps Family and Public Cemetery

and/or common

2. Location

street & number St. John's Lane, south of Frederick Road ___ not for publication

city, town Ellicott City ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Howard

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: cemetery

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

name Friends of the Whipps Cemetery

street & number 3909 Hawthorn Road telephone no.: 301-465-6721

city, town Ellicott City state and zip code Maryland 21043

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber

street & number folio

city, town Ellicott City state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HO-579

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.

The Whipps Family and Public Cemetery is located on St. John's Lane, south of Frederick Road in Ellicott City. The Whipps graveyard is no longer associated with an identifiable family homestead, being instead surrounded by two recent housing developments known as St. John's Village and Dunloggin. There are 46 marked graves in the cemetery dating from the mid 1820s to 1915. Age and vandalism have obliterated obvious traces of other graves. A number of graves appear to have been moved here from another site, most likely from nearby tracts that have become built up. In 1989, a low stone wall was erected to define the front of the cemetery. Tall, square piers provide a gateway entrance.

Although called the Whipps Family and Public Cemetery, only fifteen of the grave markers, spanning the years 1833 to 1915, are directly associated with the Whipps family. The cemetery site was used as a graveyard decades before the Whipps family purchased the tract, and the Whipps continued the practice of allowing non-family members to be buried in the graveyard.

Local groups have begun to restore the cemetery grounds. Much of the underbrush has been cleared and work has begun on repairing the gravestones. These clean-up projects have revealed stone curbs or sills that outlined many family plots, as well as ornamental cast iron railings.

One particularly embellished plot, that of the Gaw family, is enframed by stone curbing. Cast iron posts are set into the stone sills and run around three sides of the rectangular plot. The ornamental iron work consists of fluted and banded cast iron rails, each with an urn-like finial. The evenly spaced rails support a horizontal, waist-high bar from which an ornamental chain swag is suspended. The swag is further anchored by a lower chain that ties into the base of the rails. Each segment of the chain fence is embellished with two cast iron tassels and three lozenge-shaped medallions. Each medallion is cast in the pattern of a setting sun or, perhaps, an eye, with rays radiating from all sides. Although severely corroded, the emblem appears to be the "all-seeing eye" symbol of the International Order of Odd Fellows.

Eight graves lie within the Gaw family plot. All of the markers are thin, upright slabs of stone. Two of the headstones are free-standing markers with semi-circular tops; one of the headstones is paired with a smaller version serving as a footstone with only the matching initials inscribed. Another group of gravestones appears to be three contiguous markers but is, in

8. Significance

Survey No. HO-579

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

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.

1. Geographic Organization: Piedmont
2. Chronological/Developmental Periods:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition
Industrial/Urban Dominance
3. Historic Period Themes:
landscape architecture
social/cultural/educational

The Whipps Family and Public Cemetery is an example of the common 19th-century practice of burying family members on the family homestead. The more common appellation of the Whipps Family Cemetery, however, is misleading since the Whipps represent only fifteen of approximately fifty known graves. The Whipps Family and Public Cemetery better reveals how family cemeteries could be opened to the public when either the founding family moved, or when neighbors required a burial ground.

The cemetery is also notable for its display of ornamental cast iron railings that encircle many family plots. The presence and design of the chain-and-rail fences reveal late 19th-century funerary tastes.

The present boundaries of the Whipps cemetery correlate to the parcel of land William Whipps (1807-1861) purchased in 1855 from Reuben M. and Ackzah Dorsey. The 1855 deed between Dorsey and Whipps noted the presence of "an old graveyard." In fact a cemetery had already been established on this tract before 1840. The deed of sale between Louis and Susan Hudson Brown and Reuben Dorsey included a covenant protecting "that portion of said land now enclosed as a family burying ground." (Susan Brown had

fact, carved of one stone in the shape of three headstones. This group is a memorial marker that postdates the actual deaths. Six names, with death dates ranging from 1846 to 1856, are inscribed in the three tablets. These three connected markers each have pointed tops and rabbeted edges. There is a corresponding smaller tripartite footstone with inscribed initials.

Nearly all the gravestones in the Whipps Family and Public Cemetery are upright slabs. A few are embellished with carved funerary motifs, such as willows, urns, or lambs, or with an emblem of the I.O.O.F., the three links of chain. Many gravestones are plain, with only the basic inscription or initials. A few markers are fitted into stone bases but the majority are set directly into the ground.

In addition to Whipps (15 markers) and Gaw (8 markers), other family lots include Graham (2 markers), Hook (2 markers), Johnson (2 markers), Moore (3 markers), Morton (2 markers), and Wheeler (2 markers). The rest of the gravestones are of only one member of a family: Bond, Dabbs, Esler, Frost, Hood, Jones, Keith, Kinsey, Soper, and Vernay. These unaffiliated graves are further indication that the graveyard was used as a public, as well as family, cemetery. Local residents remember that in the early twentieth century there were also grave markers for soldiers of the American Revolution, and of the Erlougher and White families. These are no longer extant.

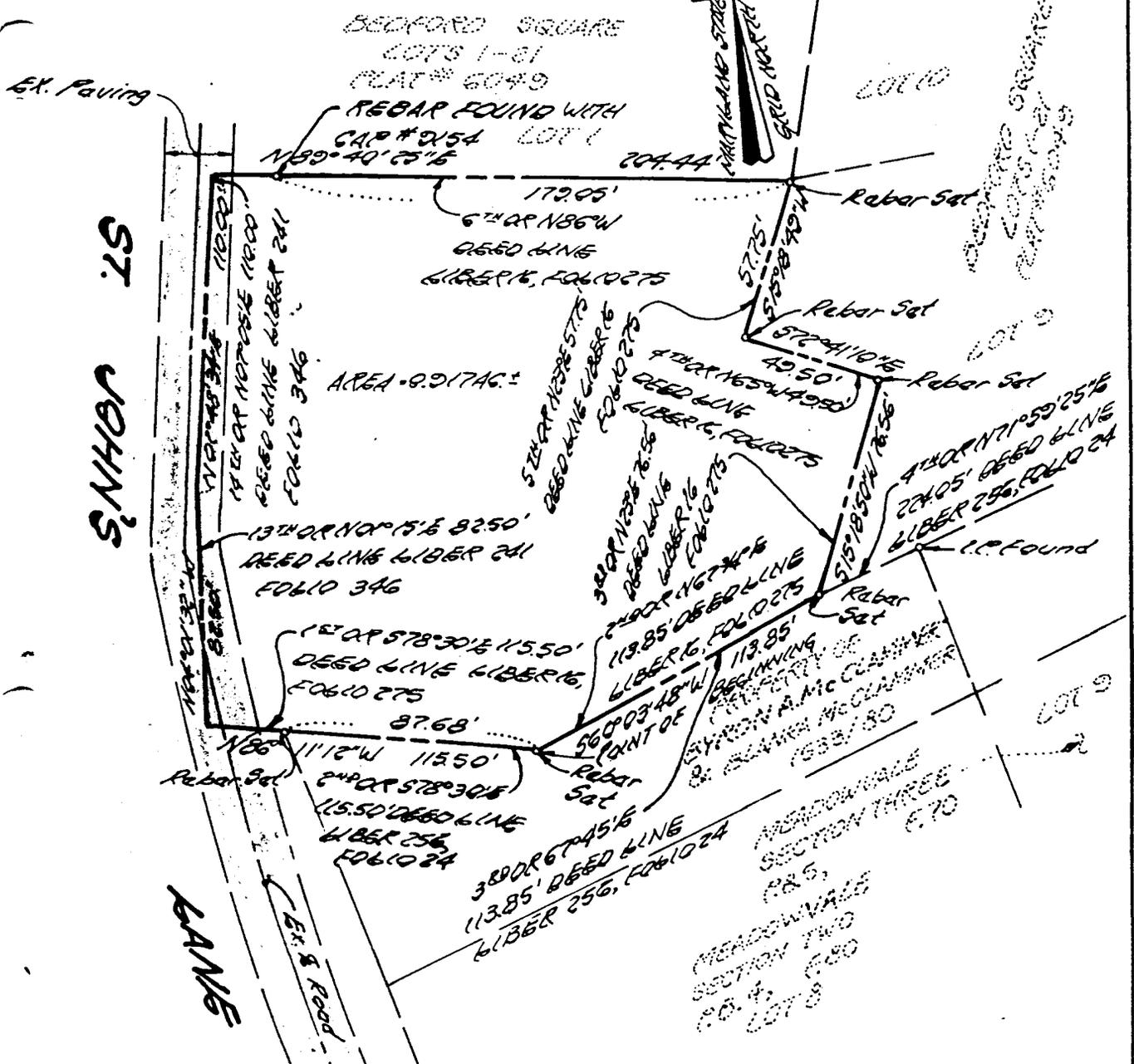
inherited the land from her father Horatio Hudson, who had inherited it from his father Robert Hudson. Unfortunately, no Hudson or Brown graves can be found.) This was Whipps' third purchase from a larger tract known as "Rebecca's Lott."

The Whipps family involvement with the cemetery predated their ownership of the cemetery tract. In 1833, William Whipps purchased a house and a parcel of land within the "Rebecca's Lott" tract from James Miller through the agent Francis Erlougher. The house, which no longer stands, was probably built after 1823, for the deed of that year wherein Miller purchased the land from Otho White did not mention any buildings. Two of William Whipps' children died during the 1830s and were buried in the cemetery. These graves joined that of James E. Hood (d. 1814) and Henry S. Wheeler (d. 1826), and there were allegedly once graves that dated to the White and Erlougher families.

The Whipps probably used the existing house as the family homestead until 1844, when William Whipps purchased "Felicity," a circa 1800 house farther down the Columbia Pike (Rte. 29) in Oakland Mills. He ran a blacksmith shop next door. Although William Whipps moved to Oakland Mills, the fact that he purchased two more parcels from the "Rebecca's Lott," one in 1849 and the other in 1855, suggests that an adult child or relative of the Whipps remained on the old family homestead for a longer period. The Whipps purchased the lot with the cemetery in 1855 and continued to bury family members in the old cemetery until 1915.

William's son, Samuel F. Whipps (1831-1909), was a "progressive farmer" and merchant who by 1878 operated the Oakland Mills post office out of his general store in Felicity." Samuel's son, also called William, was a blacksmith in his grandfather's old shop. Both the Oakland Mills house and blacksmith shop remain (HO-430).

Many of the non-Whipps gravestones date to Samuel Whipps' lifetime. Samuel was a member of the International Order of Odd Fellows for over fifty years. Several of the graves in the cemetery, though not Samuel's, are decorated with symbols of the I.O.O.F. This raises the possibility that some of the "public" burials were not neighbors, or even strangers, to the Whipps, but were known to the family through the fraternal organization.



ST. JOHN'S

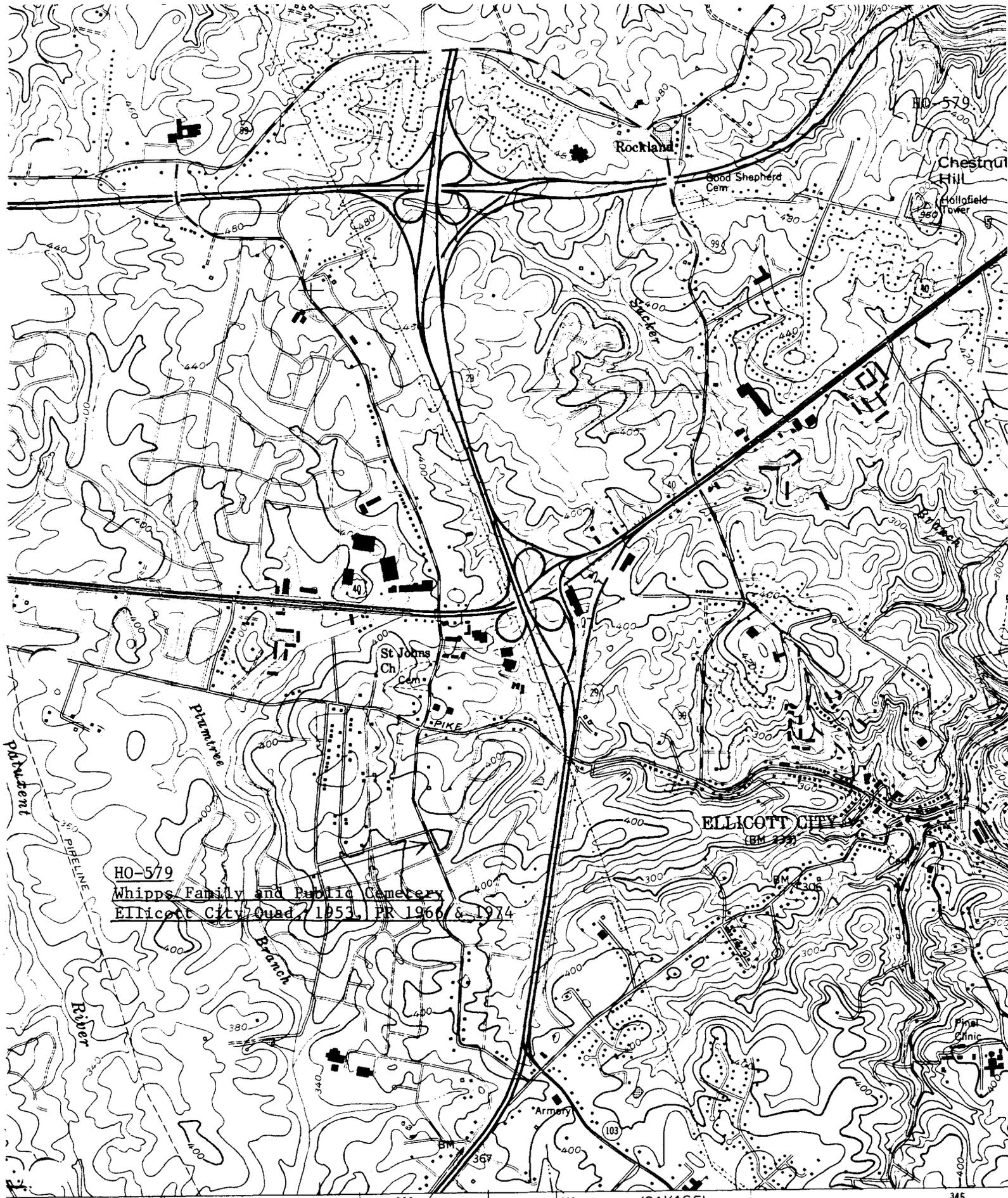
LANE



Terrence A. Fisher 2/22/88
 TERRENCE A. FISHER, L.S. #10692 DATE

FISHER, COLLINS AND CARTER, INC.
 CIVIL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
 8388 COURT AVENUE
 ELK GOTT CITY, MARYLAND 21043

PLAT OF SURVEY
WHIPPS CEMETERY
 SECOND ELECTION DISTRICT
 HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

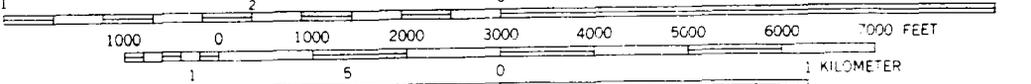


HO-579
 Whipps Family and Public Cemetery
 Ellicott City Quad 7 1953, PR 1966 & 1974

COLUMBIA 0.9 MI.
 SILVER SPRING 21 MI.

(SAVAGE) 1.3 MI. TO MD. 175
 5662 III NE WEST ELK RIDGE 5.9 MI.

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET



ARVIL A. DANIELS
3637 MACALPINE RD.
ZELICOTT CITY, MD 21069

28

HO-579

w/hips Family + Public
Cemetery



ARVIL A. DANIELS
3837 MACALPINE RD.
ELLCOTT CITY, MD 21043

Ho-579
Whipps Family &
Public Cemetery

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Whipps Family & Public
Cemetery

ARVIL K. DANIELS
3837 MACALPINE RD.
ELLCOTT CITY, MD 21043



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Whippo Family & Public
Cemetery

ARVIL A. DANIELS
3837 MACCALPINE RD.
ELLCOTT CITY, MD 21043



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HO-579

Whippo Family & Public
Cemetery

ARVIL A. DANIELS
1897 MACALPINE RD.
MILCOTT CITY, MD 21069



ARVIL A. DANIELS
3837 MACALPINE RD.
ELLCOTT CITY, MD 21043

18

Ho-579

Whippo Family & Public
Cemetery



22

46-579

Whypps Family & Public
Cemetery

ARVIL A. DANIELS
3837 MACALPINE RD.
ELLCOTT CITY, MD 21043



ARVIL A. DANIELS
3637 MACALPINE RD.
BELLGOTT CITY, MD 21048

20

40-579

Whippo Family &
Public Cemetery



F. / ARVID. A. DANIELS
9639 ALPINE RD.
BELLKNOX CITY, MD 21048

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Hb-579

Whipp's Family & Public
Cemetery