

Addendum Sheet

SM-489
Hammett Cemetery
California vicinity
St. Mary's County

Preparer: Margaret B. Parker
Date Prepared: July 21, 1998

Although the cemetery contains graves of early nineteenth-century county residents, it does not appear to meet the four National Register criteria of the seven considerations and is therefore not recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The cemetery has recently been surrounded by a modern shopping center and has lost its integrity of association, design, feeling, location, and setting. Three of the headstones remain standing and have not been altered and thus they retain integrity of materials and workmanship.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None
Comments: _____

[Signature]

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

9/28/98

Date

[Signature]

Reviewer, NR program

11/10/98

Date

[Handwritten mark]

Capsule Summary
SM-489
Hammett Cemetery at San Souci
California vicinity
Public

c. 1829 - 1874

The Hammett Cemetery at San Souci Plaza is significant as a unique example of how private family cemeteries can be preserved and successfully incorporated into the design of a commercial development. The Hammett Cemetery, in use between 1829 and 1874, was restored in the 1980s when the San Souci Shopping Center was constructed on the ninety-eight acre parcel "Part of R.K.Farm." Its preservation was the result of a cooperative effort between concerned citizens related to the Hammett family and developer Larry Millison.

James McKelvia Hammett appears in the 1850 census as having been born in Harford County. He did not become possessed of this property by operation of deed, suggesting that he inherited the land. In Hammett's will of 1874, he devises the 140 acre farm "Part St. Richards Manor" to his children Daniel C., Susan L., and Charlotte H. Hammett. In 1916, his heirs deeded 120 acres of the property, also known as "R.K.," to Alexander and Katie Stevens with the provision that the private graveyard be excepted "to which the right of ingress and egress is reserved for the purpose of keeping said graveyard in proper condition." This provision has remained in effect.

SM-489, Hammett Cemetery at San Souci Plaza
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870.
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870 - 1930.

Historic Period Theme: Landscape Architecture

Resource Type

Category: Site

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Graveyard

Known Design Source: none

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Hammett Cemetery at San Souci Plaza

2. Location

street & number Route 235 (near Millstone Landing Road) not for publicationcity, town California vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

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"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: graveyard

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

name Jay L. Millison

street & number 81 Millison Lane telephone no.: 301-863-9300

city, town Lexington Park state and zip code MD 20653

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRF 134

street & number folio 385

city, town Leonardtown state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-489

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Hammett Cemetery at San Souci Plaza is located on the west side of Route 235 in California, St. Mary's County, Maryland. This small family cemetery has been sensitively incorporated into the design of San Souci Shopping Center. The small grassy plot is surrounded by an iron fence and is bordered by a gravel bed, small bushes, and the center's cement sidewalks.

Three headstones remain standing within the confines of the iron fence. The first of these reads "REST, Jos. R. Hammett, Born March 7, 1842, Died April 13, 1871, He is not dead, but sleepeth." The footstone is inscribed with the initials "JRH." The second headstone reads only, "In memory of." The remainder of the inscription has weathered away. The footstone is inscribed with "Mrs. R. H." This is the grave of Rebecca Watts Hammett. The third headstone reads "Jas. McK. Hammett, Born Jan. 3, 1798, Died Feb. 20, 1874, Faithful unto Death." The footstone is inscribed with the initials "J. McK. H."

Although only three headstones are standing, more than three graves are located here.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) preservation

Specific dates None Builder/Architect Unknown

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.

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James McKelvia Hammett appears in the 1850 census as having been born in Harford County. He did not become possessed of this property by operation of deed, suggesting that he inherited the land. In Hammett's will of 1874, he devises the 140 acre farm "Part St. Richards Manor" to his children Daniel C., Susan L., and Charlotte H. Hammett. In 1916, his heirs deeded 120 acres of the property, also known as "R.K.," to Alexander and Katie Stevens with the provision that the private graveyard be excepted "to which the right of ingress and egress is reserved for the purpose of keeping said graveyard in proper condition." This provision has remained in effect.

When Regina Combs Hammett first visited the site in the 1970s, the cemetery was located near an old house in a field of open farm land and was enclosed by a wrought iron fence. There, she found four gravemarkers by probing the ground. Of those four, three have now been restored to their upright position. Since 1980, the headstone of Rebecca Hammett has weathered significantly. Originally, it read "____ Rebecca Hammett, Died 31 August 1846 in the 42nd year of her age." A fourth headstone was also located there at that time. It read "John S.W. Hammett, Died 26 August 1829, 4 years, 1 month, 4 days."

SM-489, Hammett Cemetery at San Souci
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Jay Laurence Millison
FROM: Samuel and Nettie Millison
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRF 134, folio 377.
DATE: January 14, 1967.
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of R. K. Farm" being 98.84 acres.

TO: Samuel and Nettie Millison
FROM: William I. Armsworthy, Jr. and Evelyn A. Armsworthy
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRF 134, folio 377.
DATE: January 14, 1967.
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of R. K. Farm" being 98.84 acres.

TO: William I. Armsworthy
FROM: Susie Catherine Armsworthy
RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Liber RGC 4, folio 496.
DATE: February 11, 1966.
NOTES: Devision of all of his estate.

TO: Susie Catherine Armsworthy and William I. Armsworthy
FROM: A. Dudley Carpenter and Flora B. Carpenter of Washington D.C.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 9, folio 137.
DATE: February 12, 1935.
NOTES: Transfer of "Part St. Richards Manor" commonly called and known as R.K. being 120 acres more or less with the exception of the graveyard in the garden on said farm to which the right of ingress and egress is reserved for the purpose of keeping said graveyard in proper condition.

TO: A. Dudley Carpenter
FROM: N. Ford Carpenter and Alva C. Carpenter
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 19, folio 56.
DATE: March 9, 1920.
NOTES: Transfer of "Part St. Richards Manor" commonly called and known as "R.K." being 120 acres.

TO: N. Ford Carpenter
FROM: Alexander and Katie S. Stevens
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 18, folio 310.
DATE: September 16, 1919.
NOTES: Transfer of 120 acres. Price: \$3000

SM-489, Hammett Cemetery at San Souci
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

TO: Alexander and Katie Stevens

FROM: Daniel C. Hammett and Irene F. Hammett of Washington D.C. and S. Lydia Stewart, and Charlotte E. Bean

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 14, folio 466.

DATE: January 21, 1916.

NOTES: Transfer of 120 acres "excepting from the effect and operation of this deed the private graveyard..." Price: \$1200

TO: Daniel C. Hammett, Susan L. Hammett, Charlotte H. Hammett

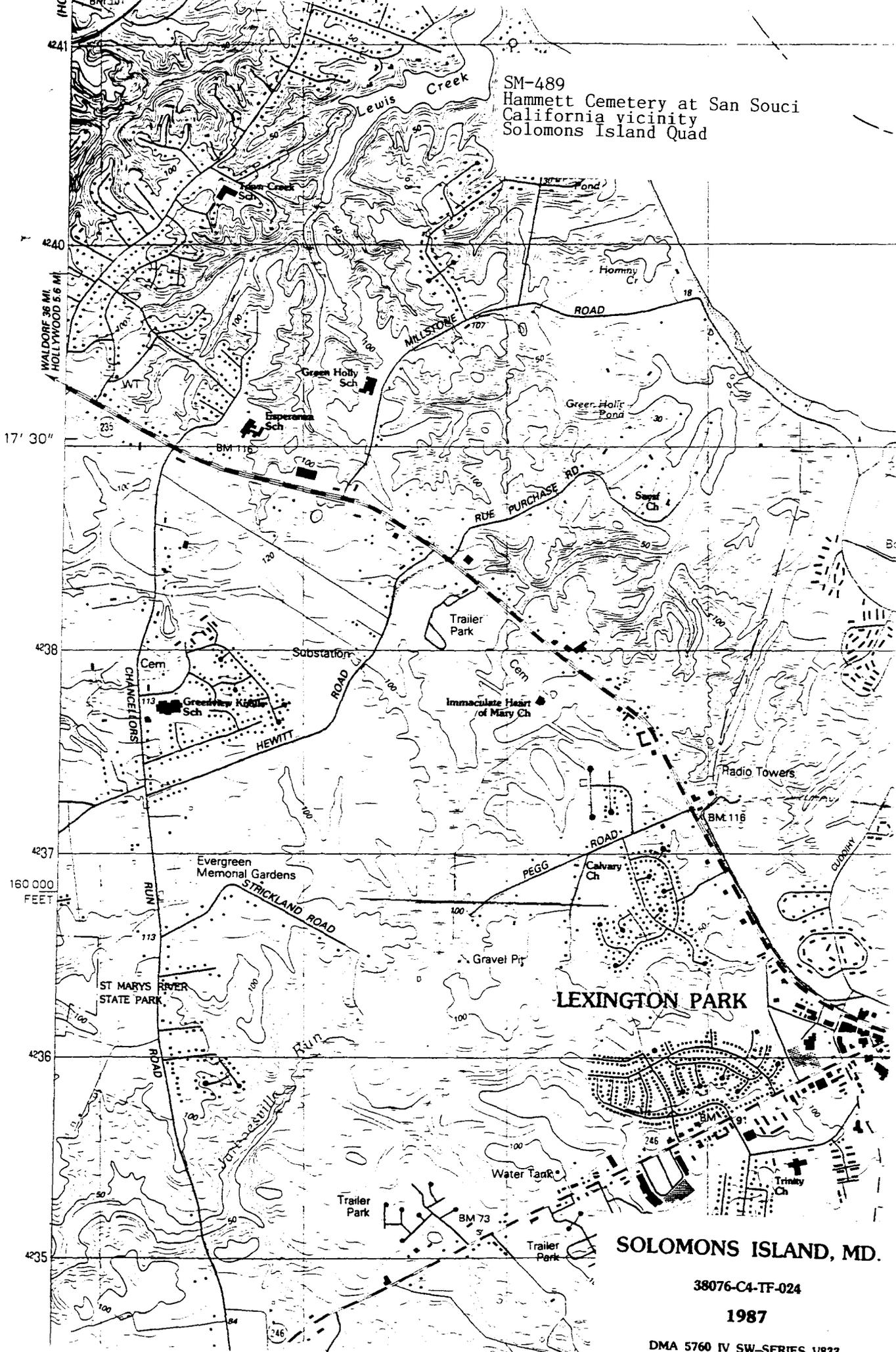
FROM: James McK. Hammett

RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Liber JTMR 1, folio 346.

DATE: February 28, 1874.

NOTES: Devision of the land whereon I now reside being 140 acres of "Part St. Richards Manor."

SM-489
Hammett Cemetery at San Souci
California vicinity
Solomons Island Quad



SOLOMONS ISLAND, MD.

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SM-489

Hammett Cemetery at San Souci Plaza

St. Mary's County

E. Hughes

April 1995

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SM-489

Hammett Cemetery at San Louis Plaza

St. Mary's County

E. Hughes

April 1995

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