

Capsule Summary
SM-885
Griffin's Choice Cemetery
Dameron
Private

circa 1799-1830s

The Griffin's Choice Cemetery is all that remains of a once expansive plantation that was located near the rural crossroads of Dameron. Now consisting of only a few stones, the small family plot contains the graves of Ann M. Dent as well as Anna Milburn. A number of broken stones, footstones, and other markers litter the immediate area. Surviving markers are modest and feature gently scrolled tops. At present, the cemetery lies in a vacant lot of a rural residential subdivision on the north side of Captain's Court. Interestingly, the cemetery lies near another site that features a large gully lined with stones used for an unknown purpose. Further research should not only attempt to uncover the other occupants of the cemetery, but also determine the function of the nearby site.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-885

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Griffin's Choice Cemetery

2. Location

street and number on the N side of Captain's Court, near 49506 Captain's Court not for publication

city, town Dameron x vicinity

county St. Mary's

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

name Paul Bright Marital Trust, Ridge Valley Construction Company

street and number PO Box 163 telephone N/a

city, town Sunderland state Md zip code 20689-0163

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse tax map and parcel TM-68, P-268

city, town Leonardtown liber EWA 1018 folio 312

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 at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:
			Contributing <u>2</u>
			Noncontributing <u> </u>
			<u> </u> buildings
			<u> </u> sites
			<u> </u> structures
			<u> </u> objects
			<u> </u> Total
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>0</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-885

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

The Griffin's Choice Cemetery is located on the north side of Captain's Court within a rural residential subdivision. Barely visible from the road and near the edge of an empty lot, the cemetery plot is marked as a slightly raised piece of ground. The cemetery is composed of only a few visible stones from the Dent and Milburn families although a number of foot stones are also visible. The modest stones feature curvilinear tops and date from the eighteenth and nineteenth century. The property is bounded by residential lots to the east and west, a wooded parcel to the north, and a vacant lot to the south. Interestingly, an excavated gully lined with large stones is located right beside the cemetery in the woods. Its function is unknown but is probably related to the former plantation.

Two of the most visible stones feature the names of Ann M. Dent and Anna Milburn. Unfortunately, the cemetery has become gradually overgrown and many of the stones have been broken.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-885

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Griffin's Choice Cemetery is all that remains of a once expansive plantation that was located near the rural crossroads of Dameron. Now consisting of only a few stones, the small family plot contains the graves of Ann M. Dent as well as Anna Milburn. A number of broken stones, footstones, and other markers litter the immediate area. Surviving markers are modest and feature gently scrolled tops. At present, the cemetery lies in a vacant lot of a rural residential subdivision on the north side of Captain's Court. Interestingly, the cemetery lies near another site that features a large gully lined with stones used for an unknown purpose. Further research should not only attempt to uncover the other occupants of the cemetery, but also determine the function of the nearby site.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-885

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>2.29 acres</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>2.29 acres</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Point No Point</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24 000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by residential lots to the east and west, a wooded parcel to the north, and a vacant lot to the south. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber EWA 1018, Folio 312.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

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 21032-2023
410-514-7600

226

10'

LEXINGTON PARK 9 MI.
ST. JAMES 2.8 MI.

Dameron
BM 92

223

222

110 000
FEET

221

38° 07' 30"
76° 22' 30"



980 000 FEET
RIDGE (MD. 5) 0.6 MI.
SCOTLAND (VIA MD. 5) 2.6 MI.

SM-885
 Griffin's Choice Cemetery
 Dameron
 St. Mary's County
 Point No Point Quad

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and DMA
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs

ORGE ISLAND)
 0-111 SW

MAN
 10N



SM-885

Griffin's Choice Cemetery

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Sept/00

Med SHPO

Looking NE

1 of 2



SM-885

Griffen's Choice Cemetery

St Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

sept/00

Md SHPO

Looking W

2 of 2