

HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION



FOR THE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF THE GOSS FAMILY CEMETERY

7204 Carpenter Fire Station Road, Cary, White Oak Township
Wake County, North Carolina
PLG-GR-005549-2024

PREPARED FOR:

Carpenter Fire Owner, LLC
2001 Summit Park Dr #300,
Orlando, FL 32810

August 2025

RGA Technical Report No. 2024-267NC



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GRUBB &
ASSOCIATES

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT BACKGROUND

On behalf of Carpenter Fire Owner, LLC (Carpenter Fire Owner), Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. (RGA) has completed this historical investigation to inform the request to relocate the Goss Family Cemetery (31WA2246) at 7204 Carpenter Fire Station Road, Cary, White Oak Township, Wake County, North Carolina (Figures 1.1–1.2). This report details the results of historical background research, documents the steps taken to identify the next-of-kin of the deceased, provides the results of a ground probing survey, and includes a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation.

The Goss Family Cemetery occupies the southeast corner of the 2.84-acre parcel at 7204 Carpenter Fire Station Road (PIN 0735349864), which is owned by Carpenter Fire Owner. The Goss Family Cemetery contains three marked graves for members of the Goss family. East of the Goss Family Cemetery is a cluster of approximately 15 marked graves, which are collectively known as the Morgan Family Cemetery. The Goss Family Cemetery and the Morgan Family Cemetery lie on two separate legal parcels and contain the remains of two families that are not known to be related. The proximity of the Goss and Morgan cemeteries has caused historians to presume that they were a single cemetery. For purposes of this report, RGA is treating the cemeteries as two distinct graveyards. Carpenter Fire Owner is requesting permission to relocate the Goss Family Cemetery only.

Sited on elevated ground that slopes downwards on all sides, the Goss Family Cemetery is set in an open, grassy area that has become overgrown, with mature trees surrounding it to the north and east. The parcel that contains the Goss Family Cemetery is bordered by a wooded area and single-family homes to the north, a pond and a wooded area to the east, Carpenter Fire Station Road and single-family homes to the south, and a wooded area to the west. Carpenter Fire Owner's development plan, Azalea at the Park, encompasses five parcels (PINs 0735349864, 0735342893, 0735357239, 0735354204, and 0735351258), covering approximately 19.5 acres. Preliminary plans for a proposed residential mixed-use development, which includes apartments, townhomes, and amenities, show the Goss Family Cemetery graves located within the planned right-of-way for Highcroft Drive Extension, which will connect to Carpenter Fire Station Road, and a proposed greenway easement (Figures 1.3–1.4).

Carpenter Fire Owner is requesting approval from the Wake County Board of Commissioners to relocate the graves in the Goss Family Cemetery to Oakwood Cemetery at 701 Oakwood Avenue in Raleigh (PIN 1714110503), as allowed by North Carolina General Statute 65-106 Removal of Graves. The purpose of the request is to accommodate the development of the mixed-use development and to provide better protection for the remains by relocating them to a cemetery with perpetual care. All expenses related to the disinterment and reinterment of the graves will be borne by Carpenter Fire Owner.

The author of this report meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications for History and Architectural History.

1.1 Environmental Setting

The Goss Family Cemetery lies in western Wake County in White Oak Township, approximately 0.75 miles west of the Carpenter community and roughly 3.25 miles west of Morrisville. The Goss Family Cemetery measures roughly 10 feet by 10 feet (Figure 1.5). The cemetery occupies elevated ground

that slopes downward on all sides, with the Morris Branch cutting through the landscape roughly 850 feet to the north. The cemetery is set in a grassy area that has become overgrown, with mature trees surrounding it on the north and east sides. There are three gravemarkers in the cemetery: (1) a small, inscribed, uncut stone, and (2) an inscribed, marble headstone with (3) a corresponding footstone. These gravemarkers identify the burial places of W. M. Goss, R. A. Goss, and Fannie Goss. The graves and their associated gravemarkers are proposed for relocation.

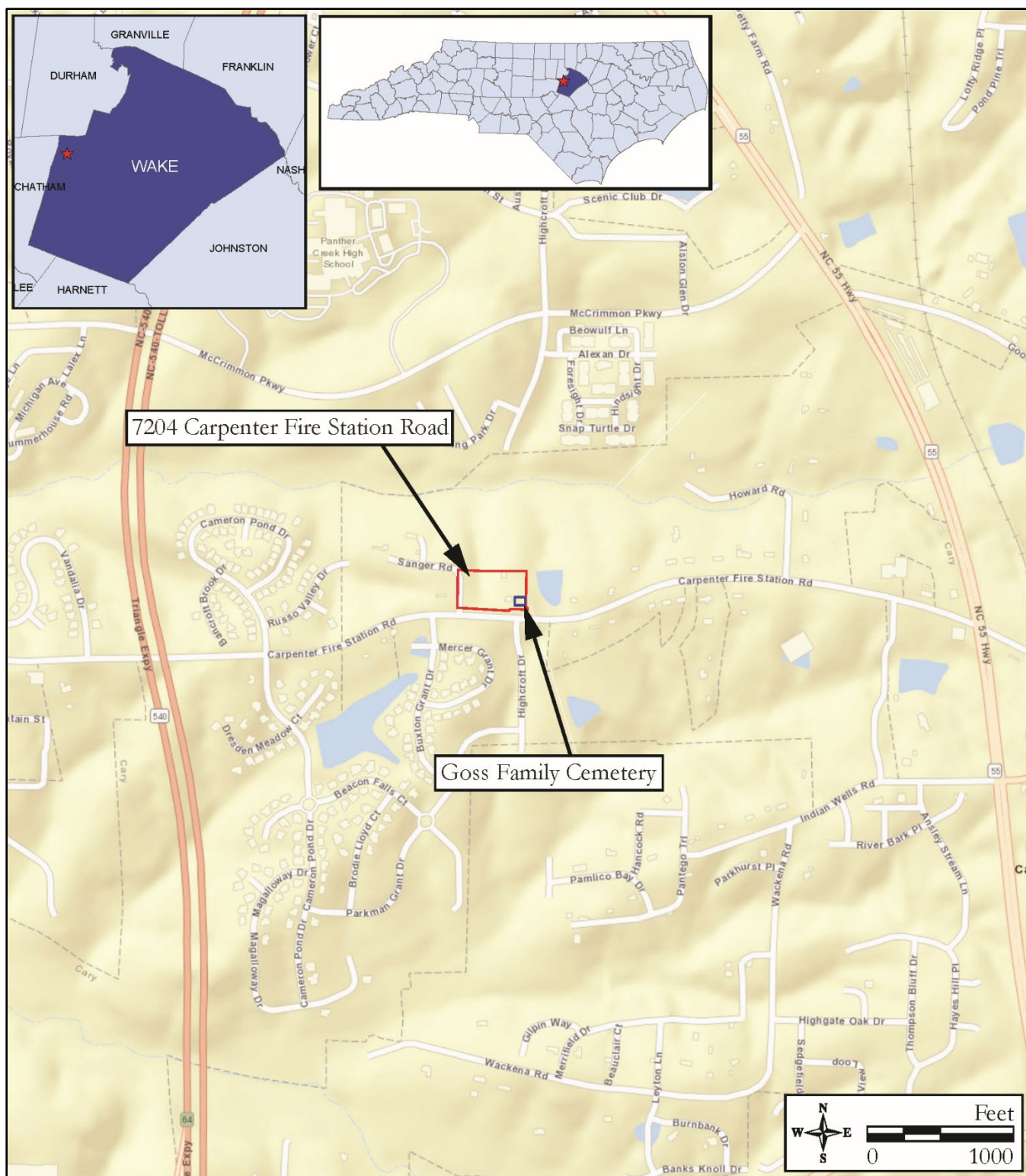


Figure 1.1: Street map showing the location of the Goss Family Cemetery (Environmental Systems Research Institute [Esri] 2024).



Figure 1.2: Aerial map showing the location of the Goss Family Cemetery (Google Earth 2022).



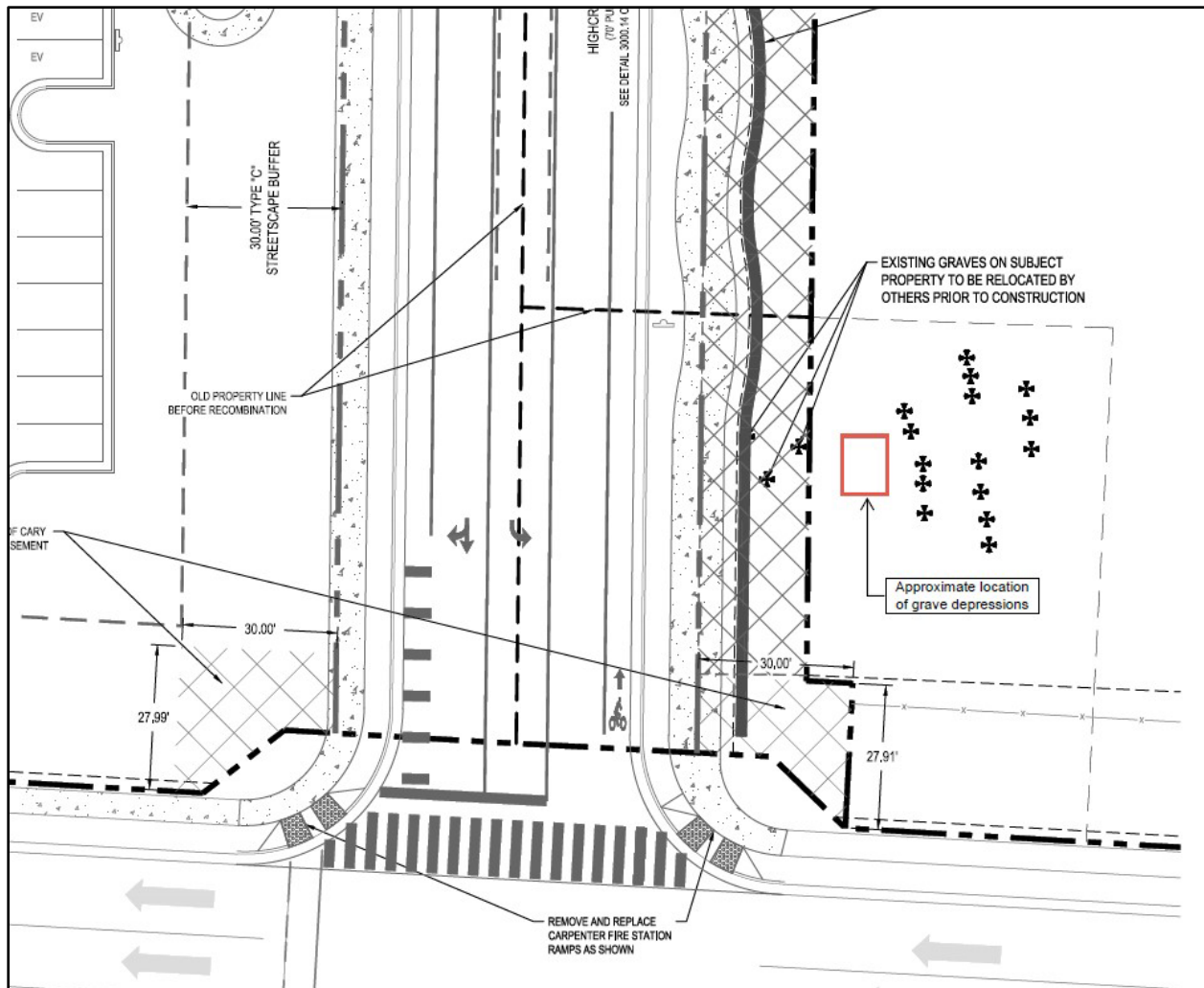


Figure 1.4: Partial site plan of Highcroft Drive Extension at Azalea at the Park (Courtesy of Carpenter Fire Owner, LLC). Gravemarkers of the Goss Family Cemetery are in the right-of-way of the proposed drive extension. The red box indicates the approximate location of the 5 grave depressions located on the adjacent parcel. The cluster of graves to the east of the proposed drive extension belongs to the Morgan Family Cemetery. The graves on the adjacent parcel at 7100 Carpenter Fire Station Road are not proposed for relocation.

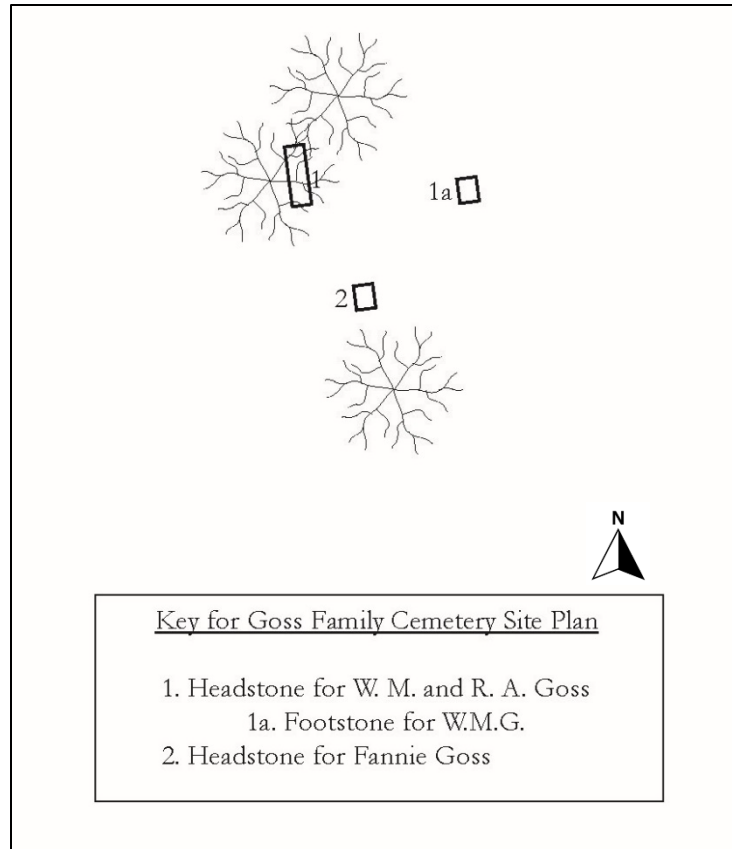


Figure 1.5: Sketch site plan of the Goss Family Cemetery, not to scale
(Created by Patricia McEachen, RGA).

1.2 Cemetery Context

Burial places and customs reflect the cultural traditions of their communities. Despite regional variations, most cemeteries throughout North Carolina share common features that are a product of European and Christian burial practices, among them the prevalent east–west orientation of individual graves, with the head to the west. Gravemarkers can be made of wood, clay, stone, or concrete, and can be either handcrafted or commercially produced. Gravemarker types can reflect differences in wealth, literacy, ethnicity, and religion. Unmarked graves may also be present within a cemetery either because they were never marked or due to the ephemeral nature of the original marker. Graves within a cemetery may also be identified through depressions caused by the collapse of the grave shaft over time. In Wake County, cemeteries can be divided into three main categories: family or folk cemeteries, church cemeteries, and community cemeteries.

Family cemeteries offered a practical solution for a dispersed, rural population until well into the twentieth century. Transporting a coffin over unimproved roads a substantial distance was not possible for many North Carolinians, making burial close to home a necessity. Burials on family land also reinforced ties of kinship within a community, as multiple generations would be interred in plots that remained under family ownership. Family cemeteries range from informal plots with unmarked graves to fenced or walled cemeteries containing neat rows of marked graves. The Goss Family Cemetery is an example of a rural family cemetery.

Many family cemeteries were started on family land and were active for a relatively limited period of time. These cemeteries provided a sacred place on family land where cherished family members were laid to rest near the homesite so the family could visit and honor them. Some of these cemeteries were active for years but were abandoned when descendants migrated to other areas and the family land was sold. According to Harvard landscape scholar, John Stilgoe, in small cemeteries, after families stopped maintaining them, “the few small stones were submerged in leaves and humus, and only a low wall or stand of cedars or mimosas announced the land’s former use,” and “Southern burial was always uncertain because the caretakers were likely to move away, but graveyards were carefully respected whether cared for or not” (Stilgoe 1983:229). This seems to be what occurred at the Goss Family Cemetery.

Church cemeteries can be found in rural, small town, and urban settings. They are characterized by their proximity to their associated churches, with some dating prior to the construction of the church building. Burials are typically arranged in linear fashion and are oriented east–west. Church cemeteries may contain burials spanning over a century, with new interments continuing into the present.

Community cemeteries became more common in the twentieth century, as improved roads and modern mortuary services gave people who no longer owned ancestral land or were not affiliated with a church a place to bury their dead. These types of cemeteries can be privately owned and managed or operated by municipalities. An individual or family plot could be purchased, with the assurance that maintenance would be provided in perpetuity, relieving the family of that burden. Like larger church cemeteries, community cemeteries may grow over many decades, following planned layouts defined by circulation patterns and landscaping.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Historical Background Research¹

Background research was conducted for the following purposes: to locate previously identified historic properties (buildings and cemeteries) on and around the subject parcel at 7204 Carpenter Fire Station Road (PIN 0735349864); to attempt to identify individuals interred at the Goss Family Cemetery and to glean personal information about those interred; and to identify and notify next-of-kin.

Genealogical research was primarily conducted online. Three electronic cemetery databases (www.findagrave.com, www.cemeterycensus.com, and www.interment.net) were consulted. The Find a Grave database includes an entry for the Goss Family Cemetery, which is identified as Old Good Hope Church Cemetery (Cemetery ID 2627640) and includes the graves of the Morgan family to the east of the Goss family graves (Find a Grave 2016a). Only the Goss family individuals in the database are recorded in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1: Goss family members listed in the Find a Grave database for the Old Good Hope Church Cemetery. This table excludes the names of those buried in the adjacent Morgan Family Cemetery (Find a Grave 2016a).

Name	Birth Date– Death Date	Notes from Website and Annotations
Mary Frances “Fannie” Goss	1876–1961	N/A
Rebecca Ann <i>Green</i> Goss	1841–1925	N/A
William M. Goss	1841–1922	N/A

The Cemetery Census (www.cemeterycensus.com) includes an entry for the Morgan/Old Good Hope Church Cemetery with 19 burials, which includes the three marked graves of the Goss Family Cemetery; these are listed in Table 2.2 below.

Table 2.2: Goss family members listed in the Cemetery Census database for the Morgan/Old Good Hope Church Cemetery. This table excludes the names of those buried in the adjacent Morgan Family Cemetery (Cemetery Census 2021).

Name	Birth Date– Death Date	Notes from Website and Annotations
Mary Frances “Fannie” Goss	1876–1961	Daughter of William & Rebecca Goss
Rebecca Ann Green Goss	1841–1925	Wife of William M. Goss/ Daughter of Thomas & Susie Green
William M. Goss	1841–1922	Husband of Rebecca Ann Green Goss

Interment.net does not include a listing for the Goss Family Cemetery, Morgan Family Cemetery, or Old Good Hope Baptist Church Cemetery. The Cemetery Survey Reports compiled by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s are available through the North Carolina State Archives

¹ It is not uncommon for historical records to contain inconsistencies, such as conflicting dates or variations in the spelling of names. Throughout this report, research is presented as it appears in the original sources.

digital collections. The Goss Family Cemetery, Morgan Family Cemetery, and Old Good Hope Baptist Church Cemetery were not recorded as part of these records (WPA 1940).

The Wake County Cemetery Survey, a valuable tool for researching the county's cemeteries, was conducted primarily in the 1980s and 1990s. The Wake County Genealogical Society has digitized these files and continues to make updates to the survey. On August 19, 1998, the Goss Family Cemetery was recorded by C. V. Friddle, Edna E. Friddle, and Dorothy Jordan, who were part of the Apex Historical Society and Wake County Genealogical Society. At the time of their site visit, the surveyors identified 1 gravemarker in the Goss Family Cemetery (Table 2.3). Notes in the survey file suggest that the cemetery was used by Good Hope Baptist Church until the church moved to its current location in the Carpenter community at 6628 Good Hope Church Road, Cary, about 0.8 miles east of the cemetery location. Research did not uncover any documentation connecting the Good Hope Baptist Church with the Goss Family Cemetery, nor do historic maps from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries show a church in the vicinity of the Goss Family Cemetery.

Table 2.3: Individuals listed in the Wake County Cemetery Survey for the Goss Family Cemetery (Wake County Genealogical Society [WCGS] 1998).

Burial No.	Name	Birth Date–Death Date	Notes from Website and Annotations
2	W. M. Goss	1831–1925 ²	One stone 3' high

Other sources of information consulted during this investigation included maps and plats, deeds, marriage bonds, U.S. Census data, birth and death certificates, the North Carolina Schedule of Mortality, and newspapers.

2.2 Field Methods

RGA staff visited the Goss Family Cemetery on September 16, 2024. The purpose of the site visit was to document the Goss Family Cemetery on an Office of State Archaeology (OSA) site form and to inspect the Goss Family Cemetery to estimate the number of graves and the cemetery limits. The ground surface was relatively clear with minimal leaf and pine litter and patches of overgrown weeds. The gravemarkers were visible on the ground surface.

Each gravemarker (headstone and footstone) was photographed using digital photography. Overall views of the site were taken. All above ground features (gravemarkers, landmark trees, and grave depressions) were roughly sketched out in an effort to create a roughly scaled site map showing the locations of above ground features (see Figure 1.5). Three gravemarkers including two headstones and one footstone for three individuals were observed on the parcel at 7204 Carpenter Fire Station Road.

² W. M. Goss's birth year is commonly recorded as 1841, as inscribed on his headstone. However, C. V. Friddle, Edna E. Friddle, and Dorothy Jordan recorded his birth year as 1831, which was likely the result of a transcription error when the field notes were typed. His death certificate—which only provides his age at death, as informed by his son, Henry N. Goss—suggests a birth year between March 1837 and March 1838.

Variations in recorded birth dates are common, particularly in the nineteenth century and earlier, when standardized vital records were not yet implemented in North Carolina; such records did not become commonplace until the twentieth century. A comparison of census records from 1850 to 1920, along with the death certificate, suggests that W. M. Goss was most likely born between 1838 and 1840. The absence of a definitive birth date is not unusual for individuals born in the early nineteenth century, especially in rural locations.

On December 10, 2024, Donald Rowe, MA, RPA, conducted a metal tile probe survey of approximately 0.04 acres on the east side of the Goss Family Cemetery to identify potential locations of unmarked burials. Conditions at the time of the survey were overcast, with brief periods of light rain and ambient air temperatures ranging from 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The survey grid was established using 50-meter measuring tapes and the GPS receiver of Mr. Rowe's cellular device. The grid dimensions were increased by 1 meter in each direction to account for GPS device's accuracy. Locations of visible markers and other points of interest were recorded using cellular GPS. Data was collected 1-meter intervals, starting in the northwest corner of the grid and proceeding bi-directionally, with the first direction of progression being to the south. Subsequent lines were collected progressing to the east. A total of 150 probe depths were collected.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Cemetery Description

The Goss Family Cemetery is known to contain at least three burials in a roughly 10-foot by 10-foot rectangle. During field documentation, the ground surface was mostly clear with minimal leaf and pine litter and patches of overgrown grass. Gravemarkers were clearly visible on the ground surface.

In total, three gravemarkers mark the remains of three individuals of the Goss family (Figures 3.1–3.7; Table 3.1). Fannie Goss’ grave is marked by a natural stone (1) inscribed with her name, birth year, and death year. Her plot is outlined with wood landscape timbers. North of the Fannie Goss’ burial are those of her parents William M. (W. M.) Goss and wife Rebecca Ann (R. A.) Green Goss. The couple shares a granite, die on base headstone with an ogee top and decorative border on the west-facing face of the stone. A footstone with the initials “W.M.G.” lies east of the headstone. No footstone for Rebecca Ann Green Goss was observed. The plot for the Goss couple is outlined with wood landscape timbers.

For the purposes of this report, the subject cemetery is called the Goss Family Cemetery. The Goss family members purchased the property in the early 1920s and buried their kin within this parcel at 7204 Carpenter Fire Station Road (PIN 0735349864). The Goss Family Cemetery is an example of a rural family cemetery that contains burials from the early and mid-twentieth century. Another unrelated cemetery lies 30 feet to the east, on the adjacent parcel to the east at 7100 Carpenter Fire Station Road (PIN 0735454207). Known as the Morgan Family Cemetery, it is a separate entity and is privately owned by Joyce Ann Davis. Genealogical research did not uncover any direct relationships between members of the Goss and Morgan families buried in the two cemeteries. The Morgan Family Cemetery is mentioned here solely as a point of reference, given its proximity to the Goss family graves. The Morgan Family Cemetery is not part of this petition and is not proposed for relocation.

Table 3.1: List of gravemarkers in the Goss Family Cemetery.

Gravemaker	Name Text	Dates (if any)	Stone Description
1	Fannie Goss	1876–1961	Natural stone inscribed Fannie’s name, birth year, and death year.
2	W. M. Goss; R. A. Goss	1841–1922; 1841–1925	Granite die-on-base with ogee top and carved, decorative border around names
3	W.M.G.		Footstone for W.M.G.



Figure 3.1: Overview of the Goss Family Cemetery on parcel at 7204 Carpenter Fire Station Road (PIN 0735349864), looking southwest.



Figure 3.2: View looking south towards Carpenter Station Road, with the footstone for W. M. Goss at the right.



Figure 3.3: Detail view of the burial plot for W. M. and R. A. Goss.



Figure 3.4: Detail view of the headstone for W. M. Goss and R. A. Goss.



Figure 3.5: Detail view of the footstone for W. M. G. (W. M. Goss) with a view east.
Note that the gravemarkers for the Morgan Family Cemetery on the parcel at 7100 Carpenter Fire Station Road (PIN 0735454207) are visible in the background.



Figure 3.6: View of the plot for Fannie Goss within the Goss Family Cemetery, with its deteriorating wood surround.



Figure 3.7: Detail view of the headstone for Fannie Goss within the Goss Family Cemetery.

3.2 Parcel History/Chain of Ownership

William M. and Rebecca Ann Goss

In a deed dated January 8, 1920, W. R. and Florence F. Bailey sold a 54.03-acre parcel to Henry N. Goss (Wake County Register of Deeds [WCRD] 1920, DB 354:64). Henry N. Goss was the son of William M. Goss and Rebecca Ann (née Green) Goss, who are buried in the Goss Family Cemetery. According to his death certificate, William M. Goss was born between 1838 and 1840 in Granville County, North Carolina, to Roland Goss and Barbary Waller (State Archives of North Carolina [SANC] 1922). He grew up in Granville County, working on his father's farm (United States Census Bureau [U.S. Census] 1850, 1860). After serving as a private in the Civil War and sustaining an injury, William married Rebecca Ann Green, a fellow Granville County native, on August 24, 1866 (Historical Data Systems, Inc. [HDS] n.d.; SANC 1866). Rebecca, born in 1841, was the daughter of farmer Thomas Green and wife, Susie Freeman (SANC 1925; U.S. Census 1850, 1860).

In 1870, the Goss family appeared for the first time as a household in Dutchville Township, Granville County, with William (29), Rebecca (28), Henry (2), and Serena (7 months) (U.S. Census 1870). William worked as a farm laborer, owning real estate valued at \$15 and a personal estate worth \$250 (U.S. Census 1870). By 1900, the family was still living in Granville County, and their household had grown to include children Susan, Mary Frances "Fannie", Annie, and Thomas (U.S. Census 1880, 1900).³

³ On January 10, 1921, a fire at the Commerce Department Building in Washington, D.C., destroyed most of the 1890 U.S. Census. The only surviving records from North Carolina are for Township 2 in Cleveland County and River Bend and South Point townships in Gaston County.

Between 1900 and 1910, William, Rebecca, and their daughter Mary Frances Goss relocated to White Oak Township in Wake County, possibly due to the Granville wilt, a tobacco disease (U.S. Census 1910). The 1910 census records show them residing on a rented farm with a boarder, Ernest Harris, who likely assisted William with farm work, as William continued farming despite his age (U.S. Census 1910). By 1920, the census shows the couple residing on a rented farm along Apex Road, with Mary Frances and their widowed son, Henry, who worked on the family farm (U.S. Census 1920). Since William rented the land he farmed in Wake County, it is unsurprising that he does not appear in Wake County deed records.

William M. Goss died on February 15, 1922, from “physical dissolution from age and tuberculosis” (SANC 1922). His death certificate states that he was buried the same day in the “Family Burial Ground” (SANC 1922). While he was likely buried in the Goss Family Cemetery, a government-issued veteran’s gravemarker in his honor at Community Memorial Gardens in Tally Ho Township, Granville County, where both of his parents are interred (Figure 3.8; Find a Grave 2016b, 2016c). The date of this marker’s placement is unknown. Rebecca Ann Green Goss passed away on June 30, 1925, and was buried in the Goss Family Cemetery the following day (SANC 1925).⁴



Figure 3.8: Confederate veteran gravemarker for William M. Goss (Find a Grave 2016c).

The Goss Children

The other Goss family member buried in the Goss Family Cemetery is William and Rebecca’s daughter, Mary Frances, more commonly known as Fannie. Born on March 9, 1876, Fannie never married or had children. After the deaths of her parents, she lived alone for a time in White Oak Township (U.S. Census 1930). Between 1930 and 1940, she moved into the household of her nephew, Clifton Harris, her sister Annie’s son, in Buckhorn Township (U.S. Census 1940). Fannie Goss died

⁴ No genealogical evidence suggests that William M. Goss, Rebecca Ann Green Goss, or Fannie Goss had a direct familial relationship to individuals buried in the Morgan Family Cemetery, as documented in Find a Grave and Cemetery Census (Find a Grave 2016a; Cemetery Census 2021).

of heart disease at the age of 85 on April 1, 1961 (SANC 1961). Her death certificate states she was buried two days later in the “Howard Cemetery” beside her parents. Her grave is marked by small, inscribed stone (SANC 1961). At the time of her death, the subject property on which the Goss Family Cemetery is located was owned by Troy A. Howard, which is likely the origin of the “Howard Cemetery” name.

The five remaining Goss children were buried elsewhere, according to death certificates and the Find a Grave database. Henry N. Goss (1867–1946) first married Ida Lee Gooch (1868–1916) in 1888 (SANC 1888). After her death, he married Stella Julie Capps Eaker (1880–1965) (SANC 1920). When Henry N. Goss died in 1946, he was buried in Woodlawn Memorial Park in Durham (SANC 1946; Find a Grave 2010).

Susan Barbra Goss (1873–1934) married William Adkerson Davis in 1896 in Granville County (SANC 1896b). Upon her death in 1934, Susan Goss was buried in Mount Pisgah Baptist Church Cemetery in Chatham County (Find a Grave 2009).

Annie Goss (1880–1962) married Thomas Harris in 1896, also in Granville County (SANC 1896a). She was buried in Salem Baptist Church Cemetery in Apex in 1962 (Find a Grave 2011).

The youngest of William and Rebecca’s children, Thomas R. Goss (1882–1944), married Omega Mitchell in 1904 (SANC 1904). Upon his death in 1944, Thomas R. Goss was buried in Hayes Chapel Christian Church Cemetery in Garner (SANC 1944; Find a Grave 2008).

Serena Goss (1870–bef. 1880) likely died in childhood. Based on census data from 1870 and 1880, she was probably buried in Granville County.

3.3 Results of Ground Probing

Donald Rowe, MA, RPA performed a ground probing survey of the Goss Family Cemetery on December 10, 2024. The survey, covering 0.04 acres within the 0.37-acre cemetery, aimed to identify potential locations of unmarked burials using a metal tile probe. Conditions at the time of the survey were overcast, with brief periods of light rain and ambient air temperatures ranging from 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The survey grid was established using 50-meter measuring tapes and the GPS receiver of Mr. Rowe’s cellular device. The grid dimensions were increased by 1 meter in each direction to account for the GPS device’s accuracy. Locations of visible gravemarkers and other points of interest were recorded using cellular GPS. Data was collected at 1-meter intervals, starting in the northwest corner of the grid and proceeding bi-directionally, with the first direction of progression being to the south. Subsequent lines were collected progressing to the east. A total of 150 probe depths were collected. Two probing locations were obstructed by a large tree and an adjacent headstone; these locations were recorded as 0.

Probing results show three areas with penetration depths greater than 40 cm, which may be suggestive of grave shafts (Figures 3.9–3.13). The first area is adjacent to the Goss family gravemarkers found within the survey grid. The results of the probing did not suggest additional graves in the immediate vicinity of the three Goss family graves.

The second area with penetration depths greater than 40 cm is located along the eastern edge of the survey grid and corresponds with 5 visible subtle ground depressions on the adjacent parcel at 7100

Carpenter Fire Station Road (PIN 0735454207). These depressions lie between the Goss family gravemarkers to the west and the Morgan family gravemarkers to the east.

The third area with depths of penetration greater than 40 cm is located on the south edge of the cemetery, near the utility box and the area of disturbance that surrounds it. The size and location of this third area in a previously disturbed area suggests that it is unlikely to be associated with unmarked burials.

During the probing survey, Mr. Rowe identified an area (area 4) containing ornamental plants often associated with burials. This area is 5 meters north of the northwest corner of the survey grid. An area around 1 meter in diameter was probed surrounding the plants. No locations probed near the plants were found to have depths of penetration greater than 10 cm. However, a small concrete pad measuring 30 x 40 cm in size was located among the plants. This location is indicated with a red star in Figure 3.9, and the area surrounding these plants and the concrete pad should be treated with caution during any excavation activities at the site. This area will be confirmed as not containing graves during the disinterment process, which includes ground scraping the topsoil to identify any grave shafts.

Ground-Probing Survey
Goss Family Cemetery, Cary, Wake County, North Carolina

Survey Results

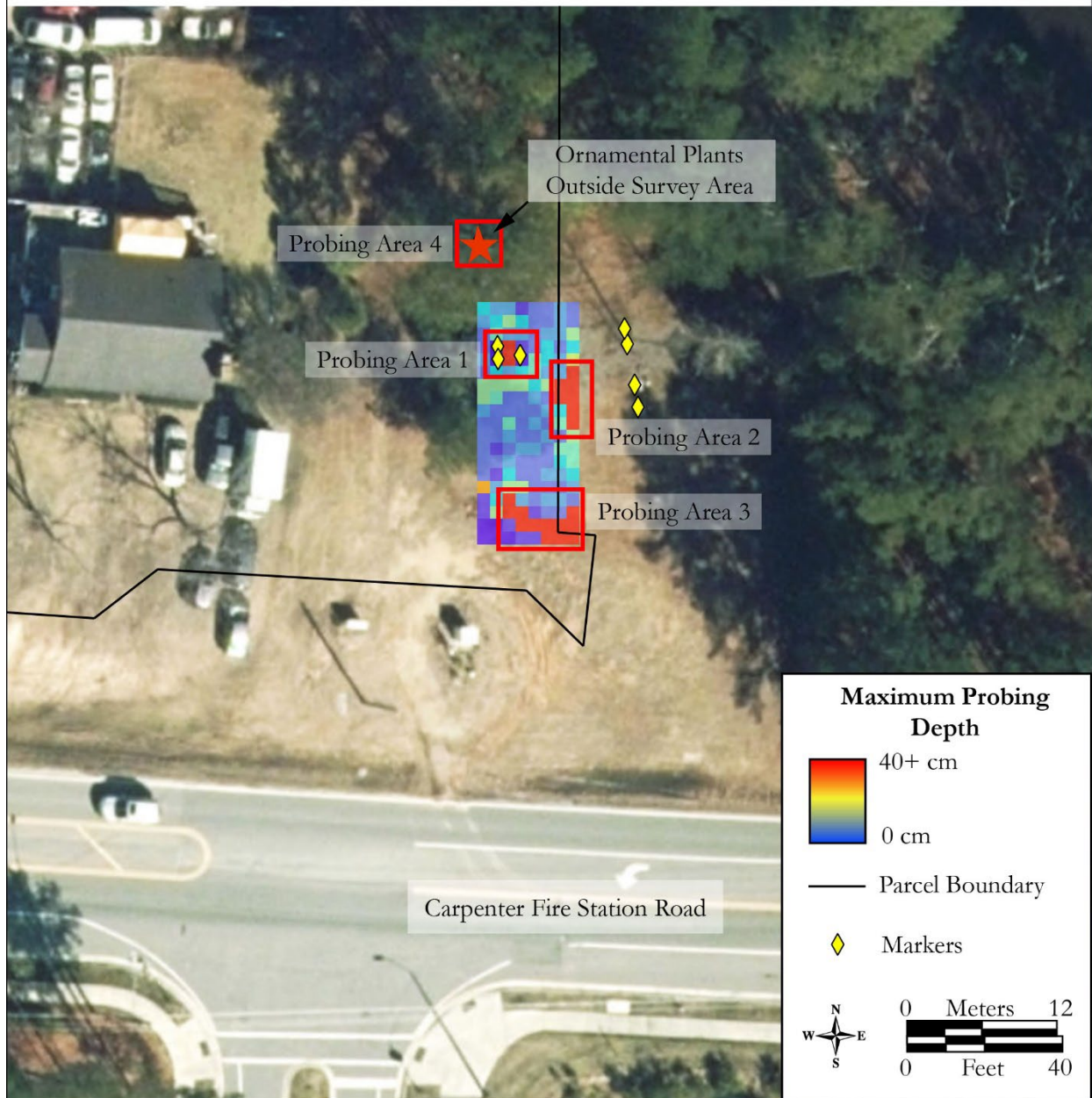


Figure 3.9: Results of probing survey overlaid on an aerial photograph of 7204 Carpenter Fire Station Road (Esri 2024). Red areas indicate depths of penetration greater than 40 cm, suggesting potential burials. The red star marks ornamental plantings that are sometimes associated with burials.



Figure 3.10: View of survey area from the north edge of the survey grid, looking south.



Figure 3.11: View of survey area from the east edge of the survey grid, looking west.



Figure 3.12: Ornamental plants 5 meters north of the survey grid, looking west.



Figure 3.13: Location of the small concrete pad among the ornamental plants, looking south.

3.4 National Register of Historic Places and Local Historic Landmark Evaluation

National Register Evaluation

The National Register Criteria for Evaluation are the guidelines by which properties are assessed for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Criteria used in the evaluation process are specified in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 60, National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 60.4). Historic properties may include districts, structures, objects, or sites that are at least 50 years of age and meet at least one of the NRHP criteria. Cemeteries are in a small category of properties that are not usually considered for listing in the NRHP unless they meet a special requirement, Criteria Consideration D for Cemeteries, in addition to meeting at least one of the regular Criteria (A–D

below). To be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, a historic property, or cemetery, must possess significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, or culture, and:

- (A) be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, or
- (B) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, or
- (C) embody the distinct characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction, or
- (D) yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history (36 CFR 60.4).

Cemeteries can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A if they are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. The Goss Family Cemetery was not found to be associated with any such significant events or historical trends. The Goss Family Cemetery is an example of a multi-generational burial ground, a type of cultural resource that is ubiquitous throughout Wake County. Therefore, the Goss Family Cemetery is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A.

Cemeteries can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B if it is associated with the lives of people significant in the past. The identified individuals buried at the Goss Family Cemetery were not demonstrated to be of transcendent importance to the local, state, or national community. Therefore, the Goss Family Cemetery is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion B.

Cemeteries may be eligible under Criterion C if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. The Goss Family Cemetery's collective landscape features of openness, minimal tree cover, fieldstone gravemarkers, and granite gravemarkers are typical of twentieth-century family graveyards in Wake County. The gravemarkers within the Goss Family Cemetery are not distinctive examples of funerary art or craftsmanship. As an entity, the Goss Family Cemetery does not possess the requisite "distinctive features" to be eligible for the NRHP. Therefore, the Goss Family Cemetery is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.

It is unlikely that additional study of the Goss Family Cemetery would yield any unretrieved data related to history or prehistory not discoverable through informant interviews and documentary sources. Therefore, the Goss Family Cemetery is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

4.0 PROPOSED RELOCATION OF THE GOSS FAMILY CEMETERY

Carpenter Fire Owner is proposing a mixed-use development at 7204 Carpenter Fire Station Road, Cary, White Oak Township, Wake County, North Carolina (PIN 0735349864). The purpose of this historical investigation was to inform the request to relocate the Goss Family Cemetery (31WA2246) in order to accommodate construction of the development and to provide better protection of the remains by relocating them to a cemetery with perpetual care. Carpenter Fire Owner will bear all expenses associated with the disinterment and reinterment of the graves. The three most common planning options for graves in the path of development are: 1) preservation in place; 2) relocation on site; and 3) relocation off-site to another cemetery.

According to the current site plan, the Goss Family Cemetery lies on land that is within the proposed right-of-way for Highcroft Drive Extension, which will connect to Carpenter Fire Station Road, and a greenway easement. For this reason, the preservation in place of the graves at the Goss Family Cemetery is not an option (Option 1), nor is it feasible to relocate the graves at the Goss Family Cemetery on site (Option 2), due to the development's design. Relocation of the graves at the Goss Family Cemetery to Oakwood Cemetery, located at 701 Oakwood Avenue in Raleigh (PIN 1714110503), is the preferred option (Option 3). Oakwood Cemetery provides perpetual care so the graves will be maintained in perpetuity. At this time, six next-of-kin have come forward and stated they had no objections to the relocation of the Goss family graves.

4.1 Summary of Due Diligence Efforts

Research and fieldwork conducted during this historical investigation provided proof that the burials at the Goss Family Cemetery are those of William M. Goss, Rebecca Ann Green Goss, and Mary Frances "Fannie" Goss. To identify Goss descendants, a legal advertisement was placed in the *News & Observer* on October 15, 22, and 29 and November 5, 2024. This notification was placed to comply with NC GS 65-106 (b) and to identify next-of-kin of the interred and persons with interest in or knowledge about the graves contained within the Goss Family Cemetery (Figure 4.1). No responses to the legal advertisement were received.

Potential descendants of William M. Goss and Rebecca Ann Green Goss were identified through searches on Ancestry.com and of obituaries through Newspapers.com. Internet Google searches and property records were used to obtain descendant addresses. Letters describing the location of the cemetery and its proposed relocation were sent to 61 identified descendants of William M. Goss and Rebecca Ann Green Goss on October 16, 2024, as required by NC GS 65-106 (b) (Table 4.1). Three additional descendants reached out after learning of the project through family word of mouth. To date, six responses in total have been received and are recorded below. The Goss descendants did not express opposition to the disinterment and no preference given for a cemetery for relocation.

Coordination with the legal representative of the adjacent property owner at 7100 Carpenter Fire Station Road (PIN 0735454207) was completed to determine whether there was interest in jointly relocating the Morgan graves and the suspected row of unmarked graves located on their property. The property owner, Ms. Joyce A. Davis, through her legal representative, Mr. Ralph C. Mills, who is authorized to act on her behalf via power of attorney, indicated that she did not wish to pursue removal of the graves located on her property. However, via email correspondence, he authorized incidental

encroachments onto her property that may occur as a result of the disinterment of the Goss family graves.

McClatchy

The Beaufort Gazette
The Belleville News-Democrat
Bellingham Herald
Centre Daily Times
Sun Herald
Idaho Statesman
Bradenton Herald
The Charlotte Observer
The State
Ledger-Enquirer

Durham | The Herald-Sun
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
The Fresno Bee
The Island Packet
The Kansas City Star
Lexington Herald-Leader
The Telegraph - Macon
Merced Sun-Star
Miami Herald
El Nuevo Herald

The Modesto Bee
The Sun News - Myrtle Beach
Raleigh News & Observer
Rock Hill | The Herald
The Sacramento Bee
San Luis Obispo Tribune
Tacoma | The News Tribune
Tri-City Herald
The Wichita Eagle
The Olympian

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Order Number	Identification	Order PO	Amount	Cols	Depth
129972	601835	Print Legal Ad-IPL01990610 - IPL0199061		\$1,217.96	1	31 L

Attention: Ellen Turco
Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc.
259 Prospect Plains Rd, Building D
Cranbury, NJ 08512

oheckendorf@rgaincorporated.com

Proposed Grave Relocation
In the matter of the proposed removal and reinterment of approximately 3 graves at Old Good Hope Church Cemetery/Morgan Family Cemetery, located at 7100 and 7204 Carpenter-Fire Station Rd (PINs 0735342893, 0735349864) in Cary, Wake County, NC, to Wake Memorial Park in Cary; The 3 graves proposed for relocation are located on the parcel at 7204 Carpenter-Fire Station Rd (PIN 0735349864) and include gravemarkers for Fannie Goss (1876-1961), W. M. Goss (1841-1922), and R. A. Goss (1841-1925). The graves on the adjacent parcel at 7100 Carpenter-Fire Station Rd lie on a privately-owned parcel and are not part of the proposed relocation. Based on genealogical research, the Goss family has no relation to the individuals of the Morgan family interred on the privately-owned parcel at 7100 Carpenter-Fire Station Rd. Anyone with information about these graves or the next of kin, please contact Olivia Heckendorf at oheckendorf@rgaincorporated.com or 919-238-4569 ext. 405. IPL0199061
Oct 15, 22, 29, Nov 5 2024

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE, COUNTY OF DURHAM**

Before the undersigned, a Notary Public of Dallas County, Texas, duly commissioned and authorized to administer oaths, affirmations, etc., personally appeared Tara Pennington, who being duly sworn or affirmed, according to law, doth depose and say that he or she is Accounts Receivable Specialist of the News & Observer Publishing Company, a corporation organized and doing business under the Laws of the State of North Carolina, and publishing a newspaper known as The News & Observer, Wake and State aforesaid, the said newspaper in which such notice, paper, document, or legal advertisement was published was, at the time of each and every such publication, a newspaper meeting all of the requirements and qualifications of Section 1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina and was a qualified newspaper within the meaning of Section 1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, and that as such he or she makes this affidavit; and is familiar with the books, files and business of said corporation and by reference to the files of said publication the attached advertisement for Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. was inserted in the aforesaid newspaper on dates as follows:

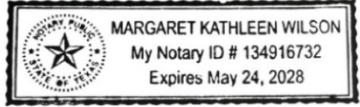
4 insertion(s) published on:
10/15/24, 10/22/24, 10/29/24, 11/05/24

Tara Pennington

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Margaret K. Wilson

Notary Public in and for the state of Texas, residing in Dallas County



Extra charge for lost or duplicate affidavits.
Legal document please do not destroy!

Figure 4.1: Affidavit for the legal advertisement placed in the *News & Observer*.

Table 4.1: Descendants of William M. Goss (ca. 1840–1922) and Rebecca Ann Green Goss (1841–1925) notified by letter.

Name	Relationship	Response
Donald F. James	3x great-grandson	None to date
Stacy F. Keatts	3x great-granddaughter	None to date
Danny R. McGee	2x great-grandson	None to date
James V. Farrell	2x great-grandson	None to date
Dennis R. Goss	2x great-grandson	None to date
Edwin O. Goss	2x great-grandson	None to date
Tracy J. Ashley	3x great-grandson	None to date
John C. Goss Jr.	2x great-grandson	None to date
Connie Goss Taylor	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Phyllis Goss Baker	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Norman Larry Goss Jr.	2x great-grandson	None to date
Wendy G. White	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Nicholas Riggs	4x great-grandson	None to date
Dorothy M. Rigsbee	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Ricky Carver	2x great-grandson	None to date
Joyce Slinger	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Karen Goss Davis	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Donald Wayne Clegg	2x great-grandson	None to date
Jonathan Clarence Mitchell	3x great-grandson	None to date
Patricia Mitchell King	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Teresa Mitchell George	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Lonnie E. Hill Jr.	2x great-grandson	None to date
Joyce Hill Pendergrass	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Candace B. Boswell	3x great-granddaughter	None to date
Douglas W. Beckwith II	3x great-grandson	None to date
Angela B. Fluet	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Vinson E. Beckwith Jr.	2x great-grandson	None to date
Douglas Y. Beckwith	2x great-grandson	None to date
Ronald L. Kline	2x great-grandson	None to date
Alice K. Sereno	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Frank Keith	2x great-grandson	None to date
Anne E. Peters	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Wanda Davis Johnson	Great-granddaughter	None to date
Wesley Harris	3x great-granddaughter	None to date
Brett Harris	2x great-grandson	None to date
Branden Ray Wilson	3x great-grandson	None to date
Wendy L. Bryan	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Kimberly Lee Price	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Teresa Harris Stern	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Michael E. Sykes	2x great-grandson	None to date

Name	Relationship	Response
Brenda Howard Hurst	3x great-granddaughter	Received email 10/23/2024. She was CC'd on the email from her sister, Teresa Howard McClenny.
Teresa Howard McClenny	3x great-granddaughter	Received email 10/23/2024. Expressed interest in knowing how she was related to the Goss family. Her sister, Brenda Howard Hurst, was CC'd on the email.
Gerald R. Harris	2x great-grandson	None to date
Donna H. Guy	2x great-granddaughter	None to date
Jo Anne Yeargan Yancey	3x great-granddaughter	None to date
Kathy Yeargan Carter	3x great-granddaughter	None to date
Donna Yeargan Johnson	3x great-granddaughter	None to date
Amy Yeargan Wilkins	3x great-granddaughter	None to date
Johnny R. Yeargan	3x great-grandson	None to date
Allison Yeargan Kuhns	3x great-granddaughter	None to date
Bonnie F. Yeargan	2x great-grandson	None to date
Michael K. Wall	3x great-grandson	None to date
Brenda Tilton Earp	3x great-granddaughter	None to date
David Leon Lloyd	3x great-grandson	None to date
Barbara Lloyd Walsh	3x great-granddaughter	None to date
Sandra Lloyd Phillips	3x great-granddaughter	Received email 11/4/2024. Expressed wish to visit cemetery before relocation and be informed throughout the process. Permission was granted for a visit and contact will be continued. She had no further comment following her visit to the cemetery.
Reuben H. Goss	2x great-grandson	None to date
Kelly A. Maddox	4x great-granddaughter	None to date
Donny L. Johnson	3x great-grandson	None to date
Alan T. Tingen	3x great-grandson	None to date
Milton G. Tingen	2x great-grandson	None to date
Kaylor Robinson		Notified by another family member via word of mouth. She is a descendant and family historian. She shared her family tree with me. She said her side of the family is okay with the relocation. She requested that if the gravemarkers are not going back in place, that the family be allowed to keep them.
Mr. Harris	2x great-grandson	Notified by another family member via word of mouth. Received call from Mr. Harris on 11/25/2024. He shared that he was related to the Goss family and wished to be kept informed of the relocation.
Sharon Aiken	2x great-granddaughter	Notified by another family member via word of mouth. Received email 12/17/2024. Ms.

Name	Relationship	Response
		Aiken had a number of questions regarding the relocation petition and process. These questions were answered in an email dated 12/17/2024.

4.2 Proposed Reinterment Location

Oakwood Cemetery, located at 701 Oakwood Avenue in Raleigh (PIN 1714110503), is the proposed site for reinterment of the graves at the Goss Family Cemetery (Figure 4.2). Permission was obtained from the adjacent property owner at 7100 Carpenter Fire Station Road (PIN 0735454207) to support project-related activities. All work will be limited to the subject property at 7204 Carpenter Fire Station Road (PIN 0735349864), and no ground disturbance will occur on 7100 Carpenter Fire Station Road. It is recommended that a protective barrier or other protective measure be erected around the 5 probable grave depressions to the east (located on the adjacent parcel at 7100 Carpenter Fire Station Road) to prevent disturbance or inadvertent desecration during the disinterment of the Goss family graves.

As required by state law, the removal and reinterment of the graves shall be performed by a funeral director licensed by the State of North Carolina. The removal and reinterment of the graves will be scheduled so that staff from Wake County's Health and Human Services Department can observe the removal of the remains. The funeral director or their designee will file a Removal of Graves Certificate with the Wake County Register of Deeds after the work is completed and copy the relevant county staff. Oakwood Cemetery allows for the gravemarkers to be reinstalled. In addition, a reinternment marker will be placed with the following text:

"GOSS FAMILY CEMETERY
 THIS BURIAL PLOT CONTAINS THE REINTERED
 REMAINS OF 3 INDIVIDUALS
 THAT WERE RELOCATED FROM THE PROPERTY AT
 7204 CARPENTER FIRE STATION ROAD IN CARY, NORTH CAROLINA (PIN
 0735349864)
 THE CEMETERY WAS RELOCATED HERE IN SEPTEMBER 2025

 THE REMOVAL OF GRAVES CERTIFICATE IS AVAILABLE AT
 THE WAKE COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE."

Section J Within Oakwood Cemetery
Goss Family Cemetery Relocation, Wake County, North Carolina

Aerial Image

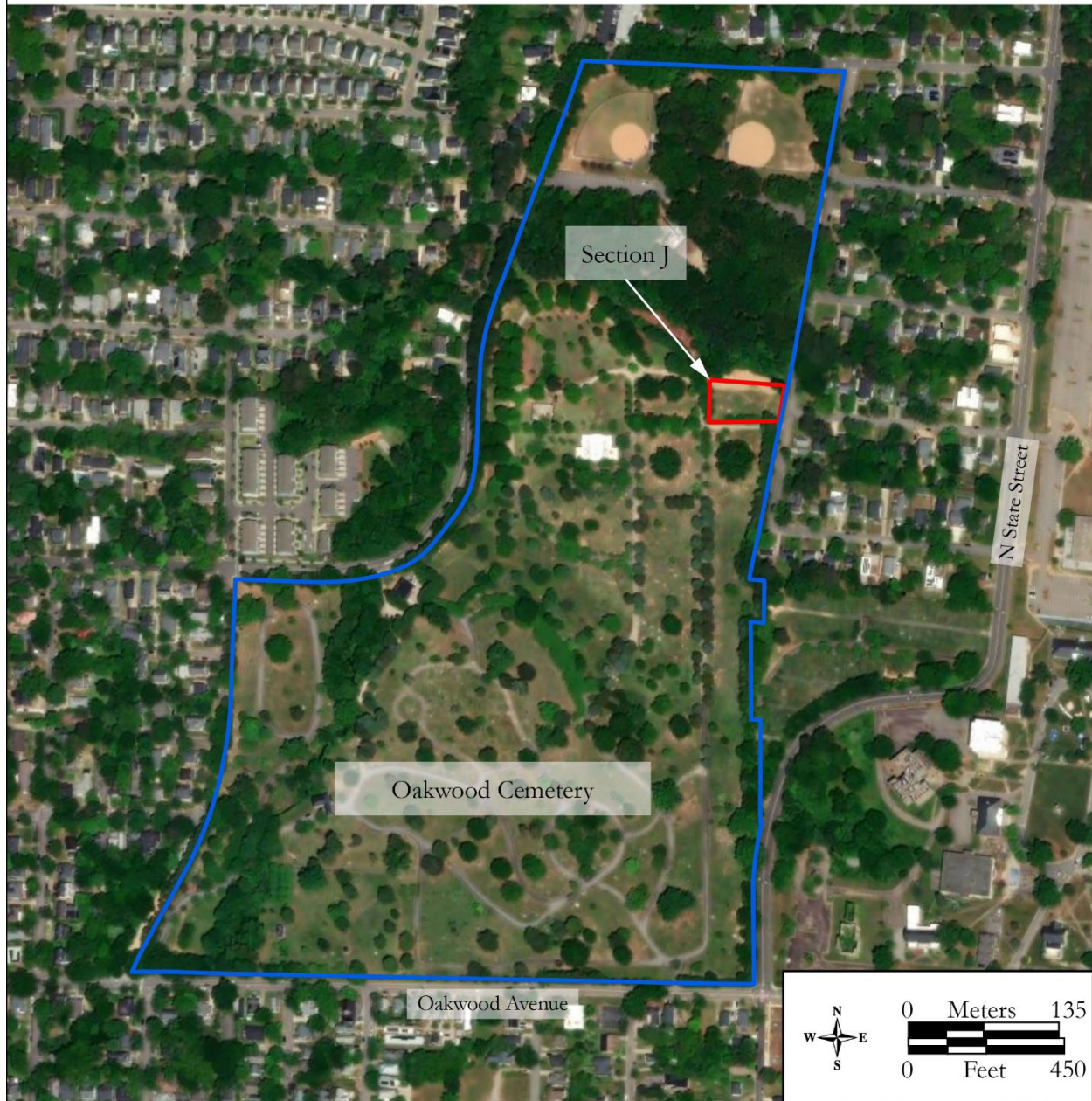


Figure 4.2: Location of Section J within Oakwood Cemetery where the Goss graves are proposed to be relocated.

5.0 SUMMARY

This technical report was prepared by RGA on behalf of Carpenter Fire Owner. Carpenter Fire Owner is planning to develop a residential mixed-use development at 7204 Carpenter Fire Station Road in Cary, White Oak Township, Wake County, North Carolina (PIN 0735349864). This report provides supporting documentation for the Wake County Board of Commissioners to consider the request to relocate the graves at the Goss Family Cemetery to Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina, as allowed by North Carolina General Statute 65-106 Removal of Graves.

This report summarizes the historical background research conducted at the Goss Family Cemetery which lies on the proposed development site at 7204 Carpenter Fire Station Road (PIN 0735349864). The identities of three known individuals interred in the Goss Family Cemetery are William M. Goss, Rebecca Ann Green Goss, and Mary Frances “Fannie” Goss. The report also documents efforts to identify and notify next-of-kin and the results of a metal tile probe survey, as well as an NRHP evaluation. The results of the metal tile probe survey identified two areas with potential burials. One area is associated with the gravemarkers of William M. Goss, Rebecca Ann Green Goss, and Mary Frances “Fannie” Goss; the other area lies east of the Goss Family Cemetery gravemarkers and may be associated with a cemetery outside of the subject parcel (PIN 0735349864). Five meters north of the gravemarkers at the Goss Family Cemetery was a patch of ornamental plants that are often associated with burials. The metal tile probe survey here was negative. This area will be confirmed as not containing graves during the disinterment process, which includes ground scraping the topsoil to identify any grave shafts.

Conclusions:

- Three graves (William M. Goss, Rebecca Ann Green Goss, and Mary Frances “Fannie” Goss) in the Goss Family Cemetery are proposed for relocation. These three graves are located in the southeast corner of the parcel at 7204 Carpenter Fire Station Road (PIN 0735349864).
- The graves at the Goss Family Cemetery include two headstones and a footstone, all of which are inscribed and confirm the identities of the Goss family members. The presence of graves here was supported by the metal tile probe survey. There was no evidence of additional graves in the immediate vicinity of the Goss family graves.
- Probing identified two additional areas with depths exceeding 40 cm which are suggestive of grave shafts. One area containing 5 probable grave depressions was identified at the east end of the survey grid. These grave depressions are located on the adjacent parcel at 7100 Carpenter Fire Station Road (PIN 0735454207) and lie between the Goss family graves to the west and the Morgan family graves to the east. An additional area is located near a utility box and has been disturbed. This area is unlikely to contain burials.
- An additional area north of the northwest corner of the Goss Family Cemetery was identified containing ornamental plants and a small concrete pad. This area showed no significant probe depths. This area will be confirmed as not containing graves during the disinterment process, which includes ground scraping the topsoil to identify any grave shafts.

- Letters to 61 descendants of William M. Goss and Rebecca Ann Green Goss were mailed on October 16, 2024. In total, six responses were received, none of which objected to the potential relocation of the Goss family graves nor expressed preference for a reinterment site.
- The legal advertisement ran in the *News & Observer* on October 15, 22, and 29 and November 5, 2024. No responses to the legal advertisement were received.
- The Goss Family Cemetery is recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- Coordination was completed with the legal representative of the adjacent property owner at 7100 Carpenter Fire Station Road (PIN 0735454207); while the owner declined to relocate the graves on her property at this time, she authorized incidental encroachments related to the Goss grave disinterment, and no ground disturbance will occur beyond the subject property at 7204 Carpenter Fire Station Road (PIN 0735349864). It is recommended that a protective barrier or other protective measures be erected around the 5 probable grave depressions to the east (located on the adjacent parcel at 7100 Carpenter Fire Station Road) in order to prevent disturbance or desecration during the disinterment of the Goss family graves.

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