



August 6, 2018

Mr. Keith A. Lankford, Planner III  
Wake County Planning, Development and Inspections  
336 Fayetteville Street #101  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Keith,

RE: Grave Removal Petition case #GR-01-18

The Town of Apex is working with a property owner to designate a 121 acre site in the Apex ETJ as a NC Certified Industrial Site. This will benefit both the Town of Apex and Wake County by providing a high demand product for business and industry wishing to locate their operations in this market, thereby creating jobs for our citizens and increased tax base in the local economy.

To help achieve these objectives and benefits, the Town will need to remove approximately 8 existing graves from the subject property to maximize the site design. The remains within the existing graves will be reinterred within the Town of Apex Cemetery located at 207 W. Moore Street. The Town cemetery receives perpetual care through the Town's contract with the Cemetery Manager, Mr. Brad Bailey. The Town will contract with a licensed funeral director to perform the disinterment and reinterment.

It should be noted that the lack of any inscribed tombstones or readable markers prevented any genealogical research. Deed research found no reference to this cemetery or any persons buried therein. The Town has published the four (4) required weekly legal advertisements in the News and Observer newspaper with the dates of publication being July 14, July 21, July 28 and August 4. The Affidavit of Publication is attached. No response was received to the notification efforts.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours truly,

Joanna S. Helms, Director  
Apex Economic Development



## GRAVE REMOVAL PETITION

Submit required documentation to:

Wake County Planning, Development and Inspections  
PO Box 550 Wake County Office Building  
Raleigh, NC 27602-0550 336 Fayetteville Street, Downtown Raleigh  
Contact (919) 856-6335 for additional information.

File #  
Fee  
Amt Paid  
Check #  
Rec'd Date  
Rec'd By

### Petitioner

Name Joanna Helms - Economic Development Director, Town of Apex  
Telephone Number (919) 372-7461 Fax Number joanna.helms@apexnc.org  
Address 73 Hunter Street  
City Apex State NC Zip Code 27502

### Subject Property Address and Parcel Identification Number (PIN):

2100 Production Drive Apex, NC 27539 PIN# 0751137742

### Reason for Petition:

The site is being developed as a business/industrial park for economic development purposes. The graves will be relocated to the Town of Apex Cemetery at 207 West Moore Street where they will receive perpetual care.

The undersigned applicant hereby certifies that, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, all information supplied with this application is true and accurate.

Signature: Joanna B. Helms Economic Development Director Town of Apex Date: 7/26/18

### Property Owner

Name JACK1 LLC (Fred Gray Cash III - Member/Manager)  
Telephone Number (919) 610-2489 E-Mail gray.cash@erg.com  
Address 738 Cash Street  
City Apex State NC Zip Code 27502

All property owners must sign this application (please attach separate sheet for signatures if needed) unless one or more individuals are specifically authorized to act as an agent on behalf of the collective interest of some or all of the owners (provide a copy of such authorization).

The undersigned property owner(s) hereby authorize the filing of this application (and any subsequent revisions thereto). The filing of this application authorizes the Wake County staff to enter upon the site to conduct relevant site inspections as deemed necessary to process the application. All documents and maps submitted as required become the property of Wake County.

Signature: Fred Gray Cash III Date: 7/26/2018

**Notes:** County fee to file petition is \$500.00



# NANDO

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The News & Observer  
421 Fayetteville Street, Suite 104  
Raleigh, NC 27601

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Ad Number	Identification	PO	Cols	Lines
212831	0003760286	removal & reinternment (Burma Drive, Apex)		1	26

### Attention:

TOWN OF APEX  
PO BOX 250  
APEX, NC 275020250

#### LEGAL NOTICE

In the matter of the intention for the removal and reinternment of approximately eight unmarked graves located in an area about 100 meters southeast of the southern terminus of Burma Drive in Apex, NC. The cemetery is located at 2100 Production Drive, Apex, NC, Wake County PIN 0751137742.

Anyone having information about these graves or the next of kin please contact Joanna Helms, Economic Development Director, Town of Apex, 919.372.7461 or [joanna.helms@apexnc.org](mailto:joanna.helms@apexnc.org).

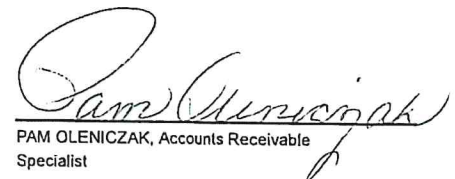
### STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF WAKE

Before the undersigned, a Notary Public of Johnston County, North Carolina, duly commissioned and authorized to administer oaths, affirmations, etc., personally appeared PAM OLENICZAK, 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 County 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 TOWN OF APEX was inserted in the aforesaid newspaper on dates as follows:

4 Insertion(s)

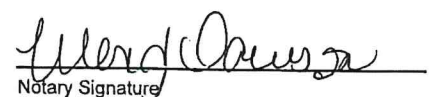
Published On:

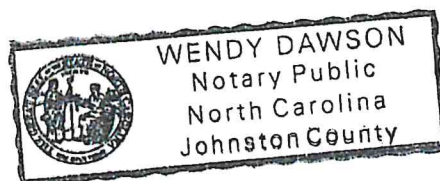
July 14, 2018, July 21, 2018, July 28, 2018, August 03, 2018

  
PAM OLENICZAK, Accounts Receivable  
Specialist

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
7th day of August, 2018

My Commission Expires: 7/10/2023

  
Notary Signature







 = Town of Apex owned; area for cash site remains to be relocated



# **Evaluation of an Abandoned Cemetery in the Cash Tract Wake County, North Carolina**

Prepared by:  
Bobby Southerlin  
Archaeological Consultants of the Carolinas, Inc.

Prepared for:  
Town of Apex

## **Introduction**

During May 2018, the Town of Apex contracted Archaeological Consultants of the Carolinas, Inc., (ACC) to evaluate a probable cemetery identified by surveyors. The study area is within the Town of Apex's Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), about 100 meters southeast of the southern terminus of Burma Drive. In addition to defining details of the cemetery, the entire tract was given a pedestrian reconnaissance to determine if any additional cemeteries might be present. Figure 1 shows the topographic setting of the study area.

## **Background Research**

ACC staff member Ms. Katherine Parker conducted a review of the North Carolina Cemetery Survey files to see if the cemetery had been documented. No cemetery was known for this location. We also examined maps and files at the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology (OSA) to see if any archaeological sites had been recorded here or in the vicinity, but none are close by.

We examined a number of historic maps and aerial photographs to better understand the history and changing setting in the study area vicinity. These include:

- 1911 Edwards and Crawley Property;
- 1914 soil map from Soil Survey of Wake County;
- 1938 Wake County highway map
- 1974 USGS *Apex, NC* topographic map;
- 2018 LiDAR map
- 2018 aerial photograph

Steve Adams provided us with a 1911 plat showing the study area (Figure 2). Three structures and a couple of farm roads are shown on this plat, but there is no evidence of a cemetery. The 1914 soil map (Figure 3) and the 1938 highway map (Figure 4) show no structures or any other features in the tract except the drainage channel. The 1974 USGS topographic map (see Figure 1) shows the pipeline corridor in the northwest corner of the tract, but no structures or cemetery.



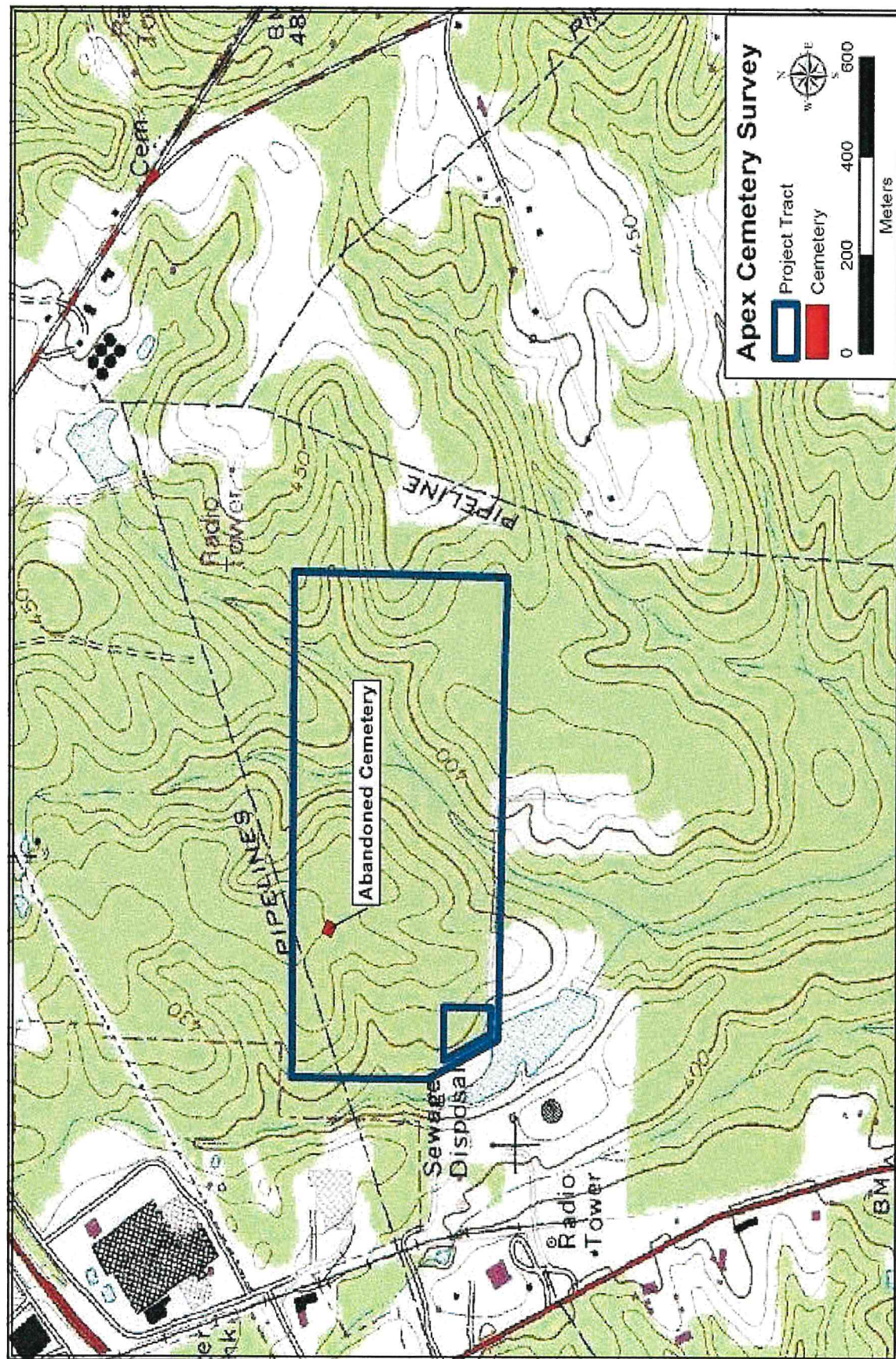


Figure 1. Study area with cemetery plotted on the 1974 USGS Apex, NC topographic map.





Figure 2. The location of the abandoned cemetery plotted on a land plat from 1911.



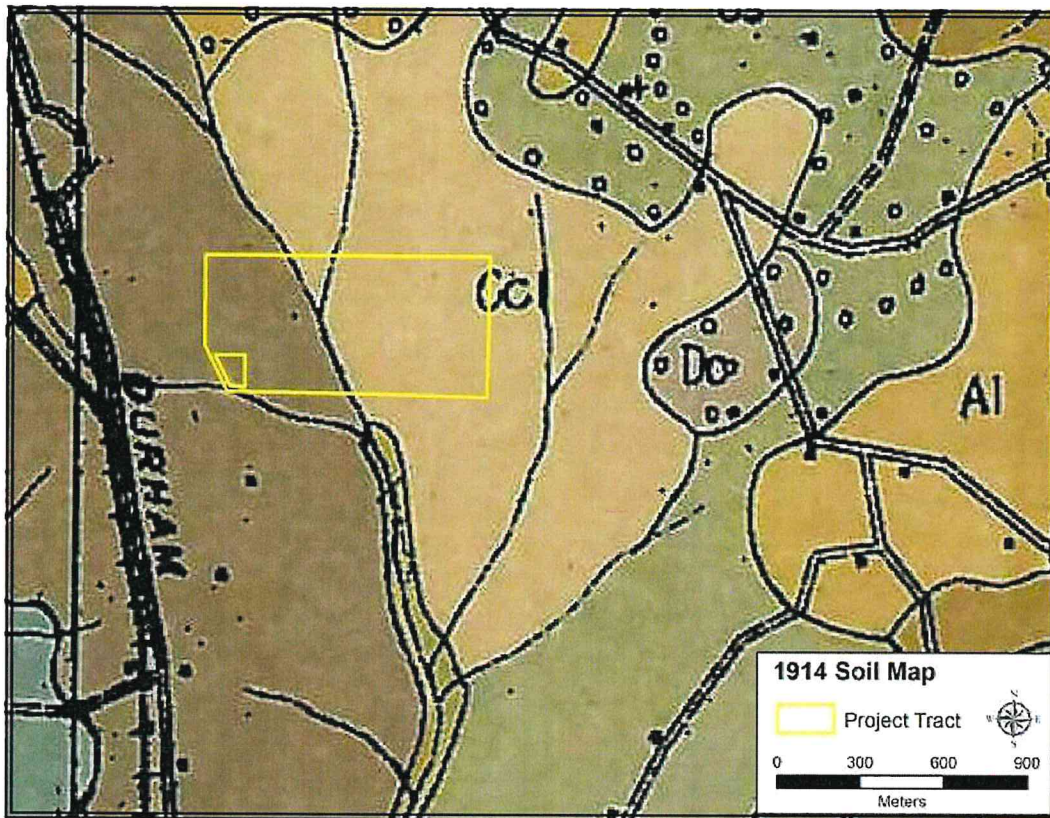


Figure 3. Map showing the study tract overlain on the 1914 Wake County soil map.

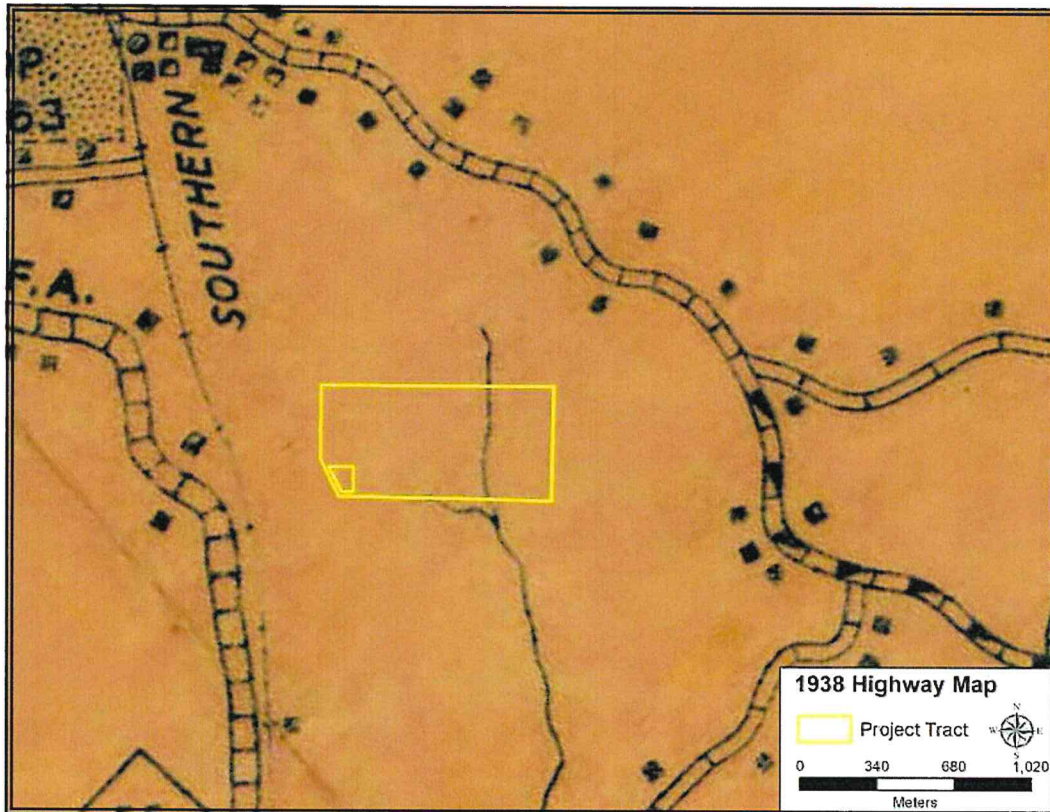


Figure 4. Map showing the study tract overlain on the 1938 Wake County Highway Map.

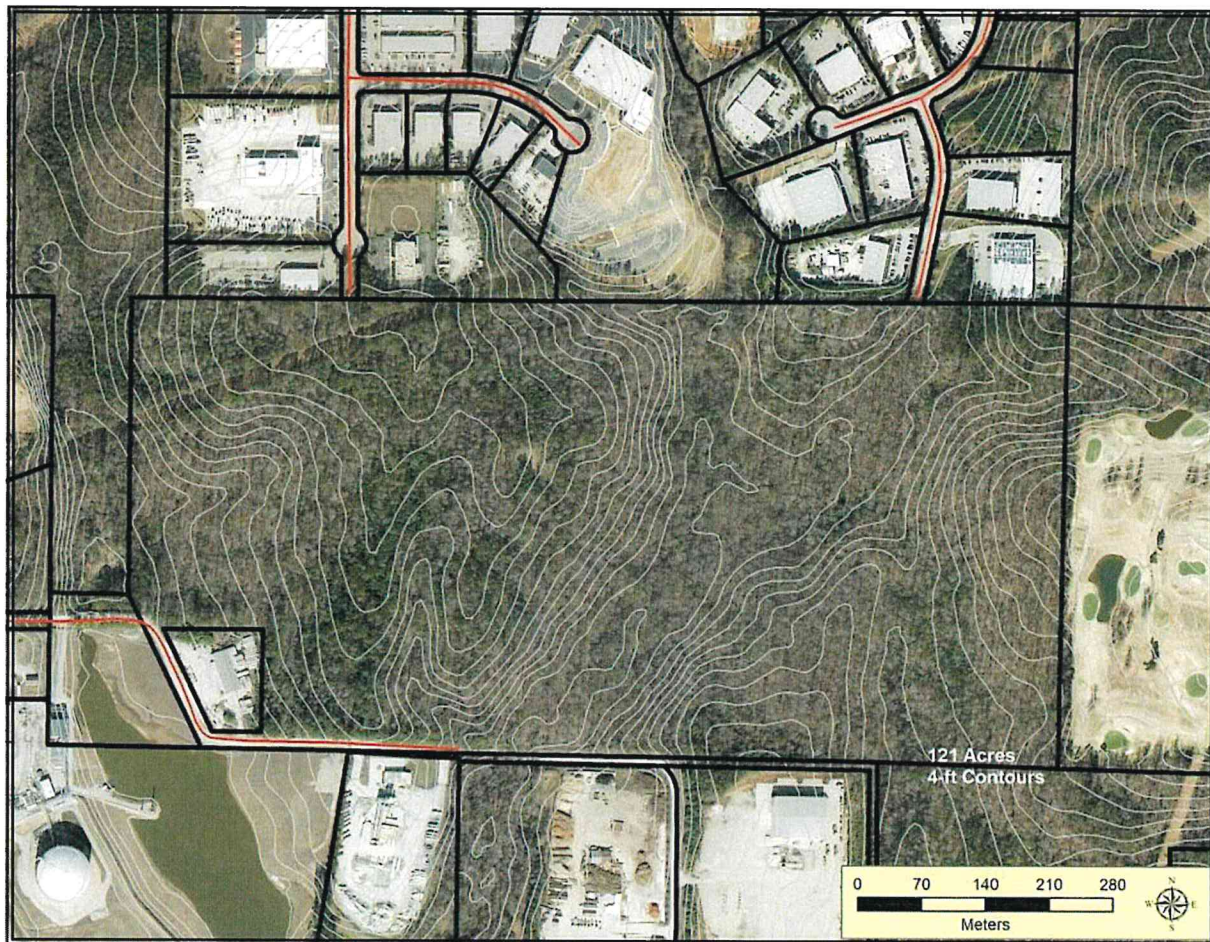


## Field Evaluation

### Abandoned Cemetery Evaluation

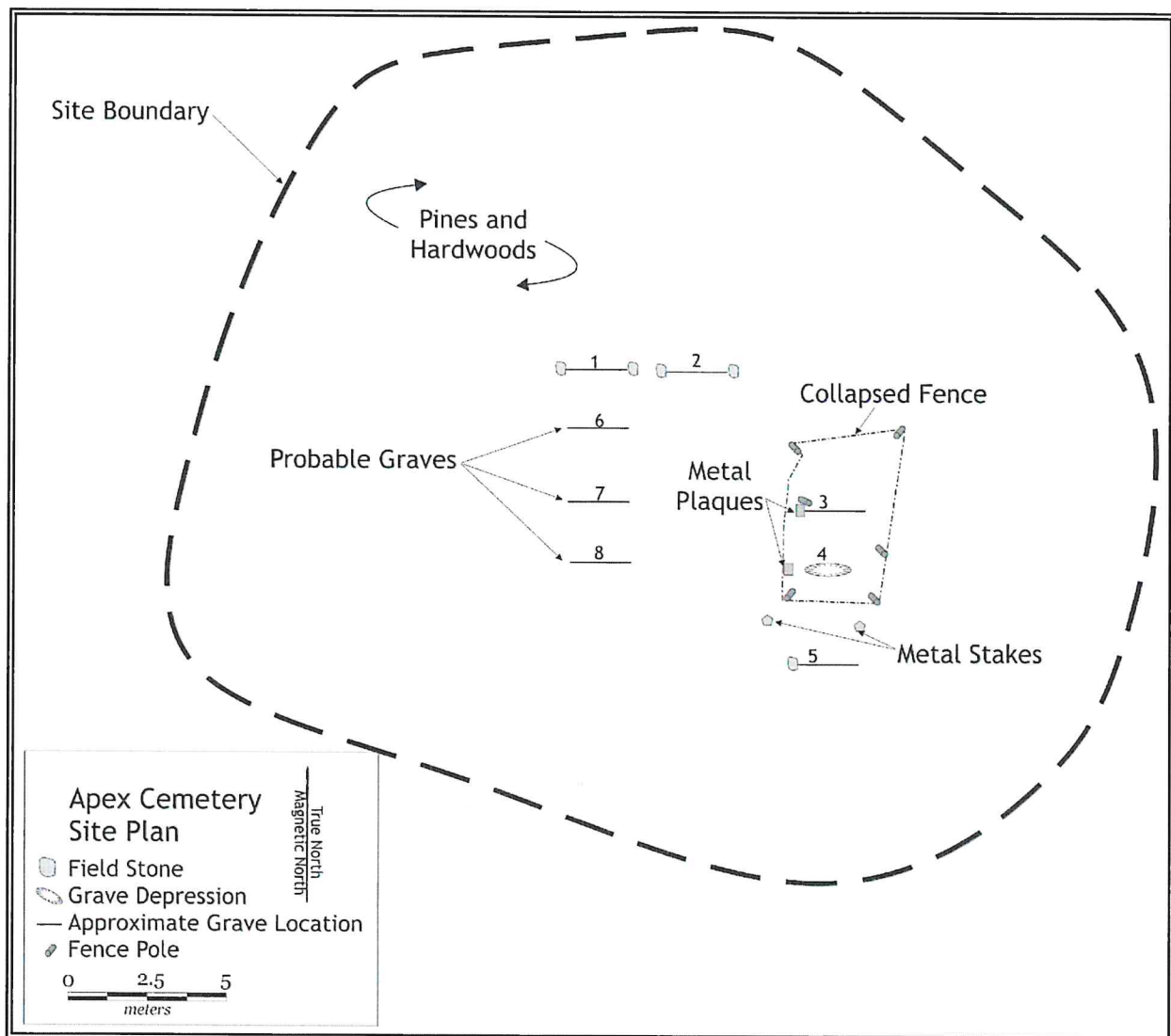
On 31 May 2018, I (Senior Archaeologist Bobby Southerlin) visited the tract. The study area is a wooded lot surrounded by commercial development (Figure 5). I met Steve Adams, Jackie Dillon, and Jose Martinez at the tract and we toured the possible cemetery. I quickly confirmed this was a cemetery.

Figure 6 shows the abandoned cemetery layout. Five definite graves and three probable graves were identified in the field. Five graves have some type of marker, but three are unmarked. The three unmarked graves were found by probing the ground with a long metal rod. After a grave shaft is dug and filled, the shaft usually has softer soil than the surrounding undisturbed soils. I used a metal rod to probe the ground and identified three areas of softer soil (numbers 6 through 8 on the Figure 6 map of the cemetery). The cemetery appears to be on a slight rise. The outer boundary on Figure 6 conforms to the boundary of the slightly elevated area. It is possible that the slight rise is a result of plowing and clearing around the cemetery, deflating the surrounding soil.



**Figure 5.** Aerial photograph from 2018 showing the study area.





**Figure 6.** Plan map of the abandoned cemetery.

Figures 7 through 14 show details of the cemetery. Graves 1 and 2 (Figures 7 and 8) are marked by two stones each; a head stone to the west and a foot stone to the east. A wire fence (Figures 9 and 10) surrounds two graves. Graves 3 and 4 are within the fenced enclosure and are marked by small metal plaques (Figures 11 and 12). Grave 5 has one small stone marker (Figure 13). I determined this was probably the headstone because I found soft soil east of the stone.

In addition to visual observations and probing the ground with a metal rod, metal detecting was conducted to determine if other grave markers or artifacts were present. Two metal stakes were found at the southern end of the cemetery, just beyond the fenced enclosure. Figure 14 shows one of these. I probed to the east and west of the metal stakes, but found no soft soil suggesting these are grave markers.





**Figure 7.** View of stones at Grave 1, facing east.



**Figure 8.** View of stone markers at Grave 2, facing east.





**Figure 9.** View of the cemetery fence, facing south.



**Figure 10.** Close-up view of northwest corner of the cemetery fence.





**Figure 11.** View of metal plaque at Grave 3 within fence, facing east.



**Figure 12.** View of disturbed metal plaque at Grave 4 within fence, facing east.





**Figure 13.** View of stone marker at Grave 5, facing east.

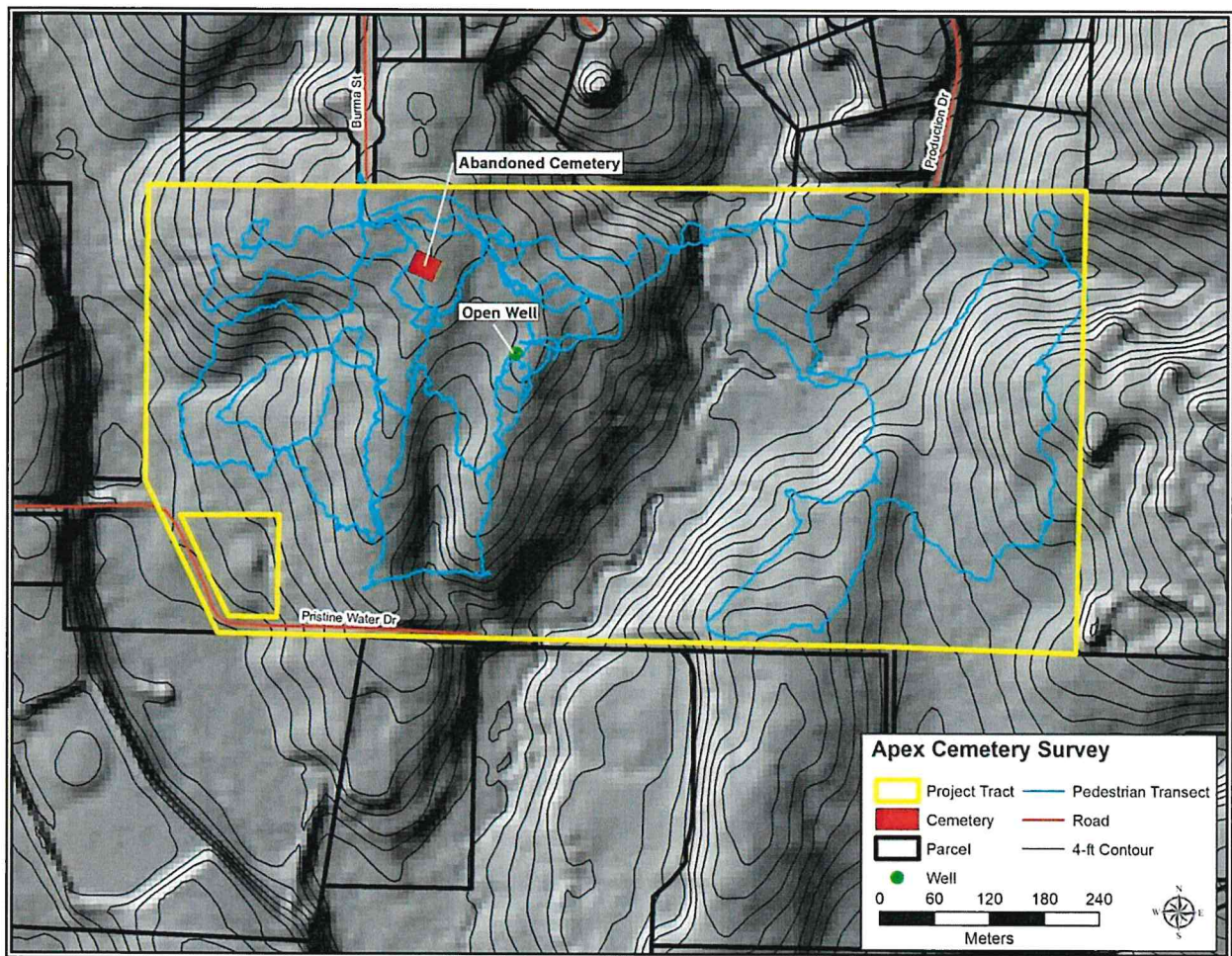


**Figure 14.** View of one of the two metal stakes just south of the fenced area.



## Tract Reconnaissance

To determine if any other cemeteries are present in the tract, I conducted a pedestrian reconnaissance of the different land forms in the tract. I walked the land forms within the tract looking for evidence of any additional cemeteries. More specifically, I was looking out for grave markers, row of depressions, or out of place vegetation (cedar trees, large oak trees, flowers, periwinkle, etc.). I also targeted the former location of structures shown on the 1911 plat (see Figure 2). I searched in the vicinity of the houses in case a small family plot might be present. I did not find any cemeteries, but I did find a brick lined well near where one of the structures is plotted on the 1911 plat. Figure 15 shows the transects walked across the tract, the abandoned cemetery, and the well. Figure 16 shows the setting at the well.



**Figure 15.** LiDAR map from 2018 showing pedestrian transects, the abandoned cemetery, and a well.





**Figure 16.** View of open brick lined well, facing west.

### **Summary and Recommendations**

Our evaluation of the study area resulted in the identification and evaluation of an abandoned cemetery located on a slightly elevated rise. Five definite graves and three probable graves were found during evaluation of the cemetery. It is possible that additional undetected graves are present, and this area should be avoided by any land disturbing activities. Any plans for moving the cemetery to a new location needs to be approved by the Wake County Commissioners.