



## 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 Deborah Joy, Legacy Research Associates, on behalf of Everette Ace Robbins, property owner  
for Marquis Homes and Company  
Telephone Number 919-215-6469 Email djoy@legacy-research.com  
Address 125 West Woodridge Drive  
City Durham State NC Zip Code 27707

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

2937 Mt. Vernon Church Road, PIN 0891009949

### Reason for Petition:

- Grave removal to accommodate the sale of the property and its subsequent residential development by others, and to provide better protection of the remains by relocating them to a perpetual care cemetery.

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: Deborah Joy *Deborah Joy* Date: September 23, 2019

### Property Owner

Name Everette Ace Robbins, property owner  
Telephone Number 919-977-6686 E-Mail none  
Address 12233 Creedmoor Road  
City Raleigh State NC Zip Code 27614

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.

X Signature: *Everette Ace Robbins* X Date: 9/19/19

Notes: County fee to file petition is \$500.00

Historical and Archaeological Investigations at the Harris Cemetery located at  
2937 Mt. Vernon Church Road, Barton's Creek Township, Wake County, North Carolina  
Wake County, North Carolina (Parcel Identification Number [PIN] 0891009949)

Prepared for  
Marquis Homes & Co.  
8368-202 Six Forks Road  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27615

Prepared by  
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Durham, North Carolina 27707

27 January 2020

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## Introduction

This technical report details the historical research and archaeological exploration of an abandoned cemetery located at 2937 Mt. Vernon Church Road, Barton's Creek Township, Wake County, North Carolina (NC), Wake County NC Parcel Identification Number (PIN) 0891009949. The cemetery is situated on a 35.6-acre parcel of land whose 80.4-acre parent tract was described as "Tract 3 - the western portion of the Jim Harris Tract" (Wake County NC Deed Book [DB] 1386:75).

The cemetery is in northwestern Wake County near the Durham-Wake county line (Figure 1). The 80.4-acre property is located west of Creedmoor Road (NC 50) and south of Highway 98 (Figure 2). The abandoned cemetery is in the southwestern corner of the property that is bisected by Mt. Vernon Church Road. Figure 3 identifies the Harris Cemetery location and the property boundaries on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle map. Figure 4 shows the location of the Harris Cemetery on the proposed development plan for a residential subdivision identified as "The Overlook at Mount Vernon."

Two graves at the cemetery have markers that identify the burials. One is an inscribed headstone for Tessie Harris Evans, the daughter of Jim and Ida Harris. The other is a funeral home marker for Forrest Parker Jr., the great-grandson of Tessie Harris Evans. Based on the two identified graves associated with the Jim and Ida Harris family, this cemetery is referred to as the "Harris Cemetery."

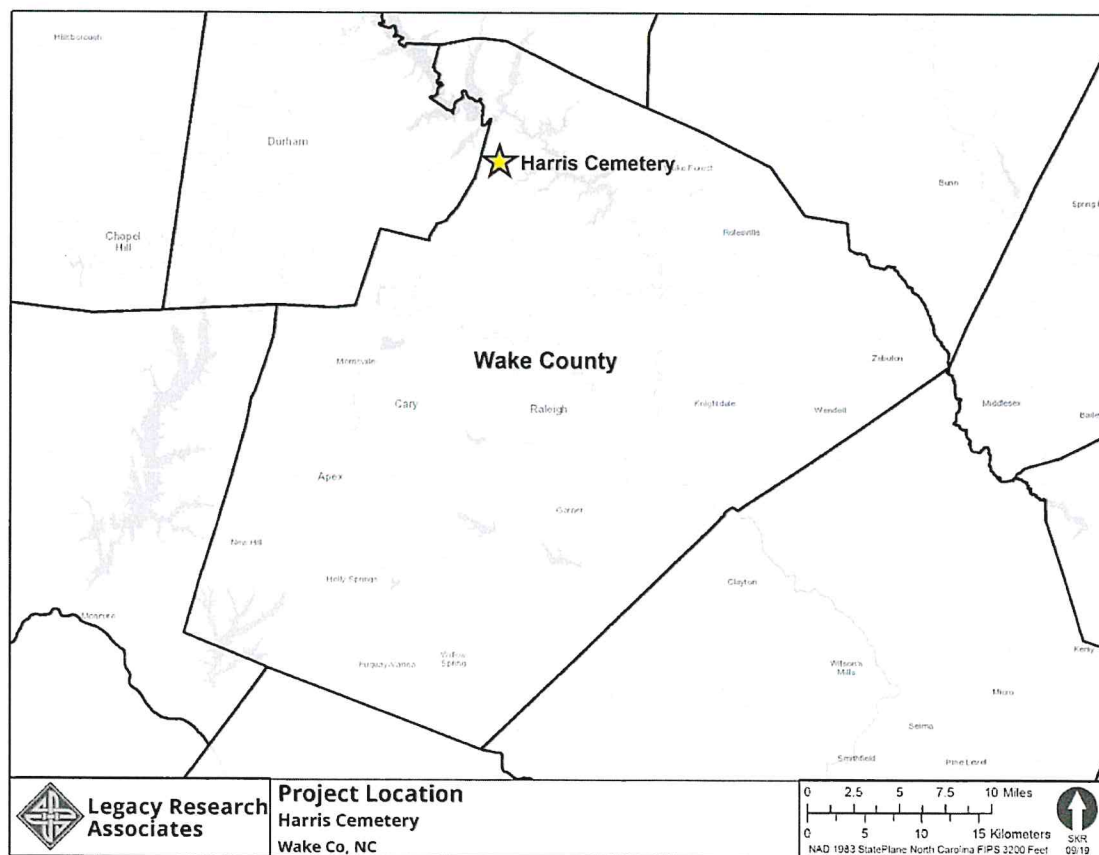


Figure 1. Location of the Harris Cemetery in Wake County.

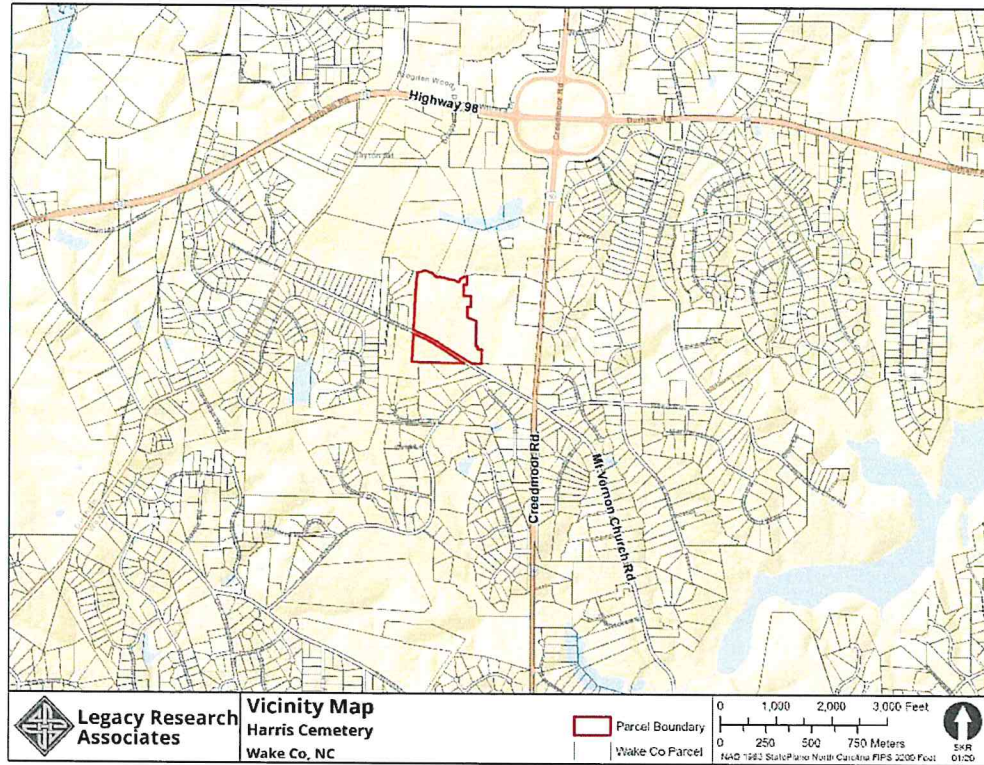


Figure 2. Project (PIN 0891009949) Vicinity Map.

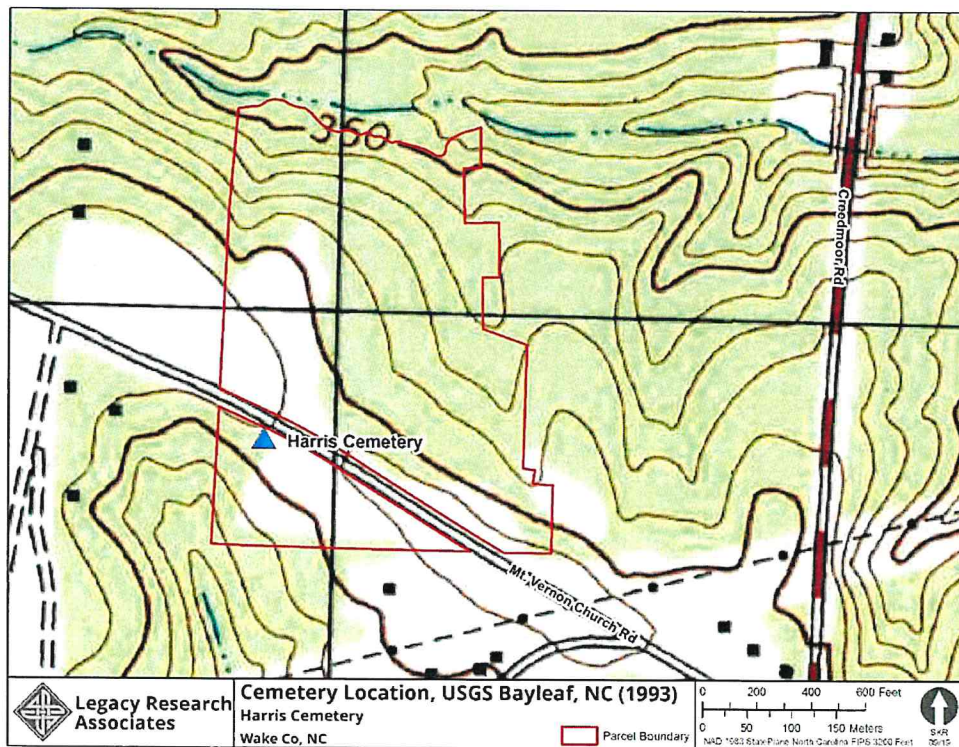


Figure 3. Location of the Harris Cemetery and the boundaries of PIN 0891009949 on the Bayleaf, NC, (1993) USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map.



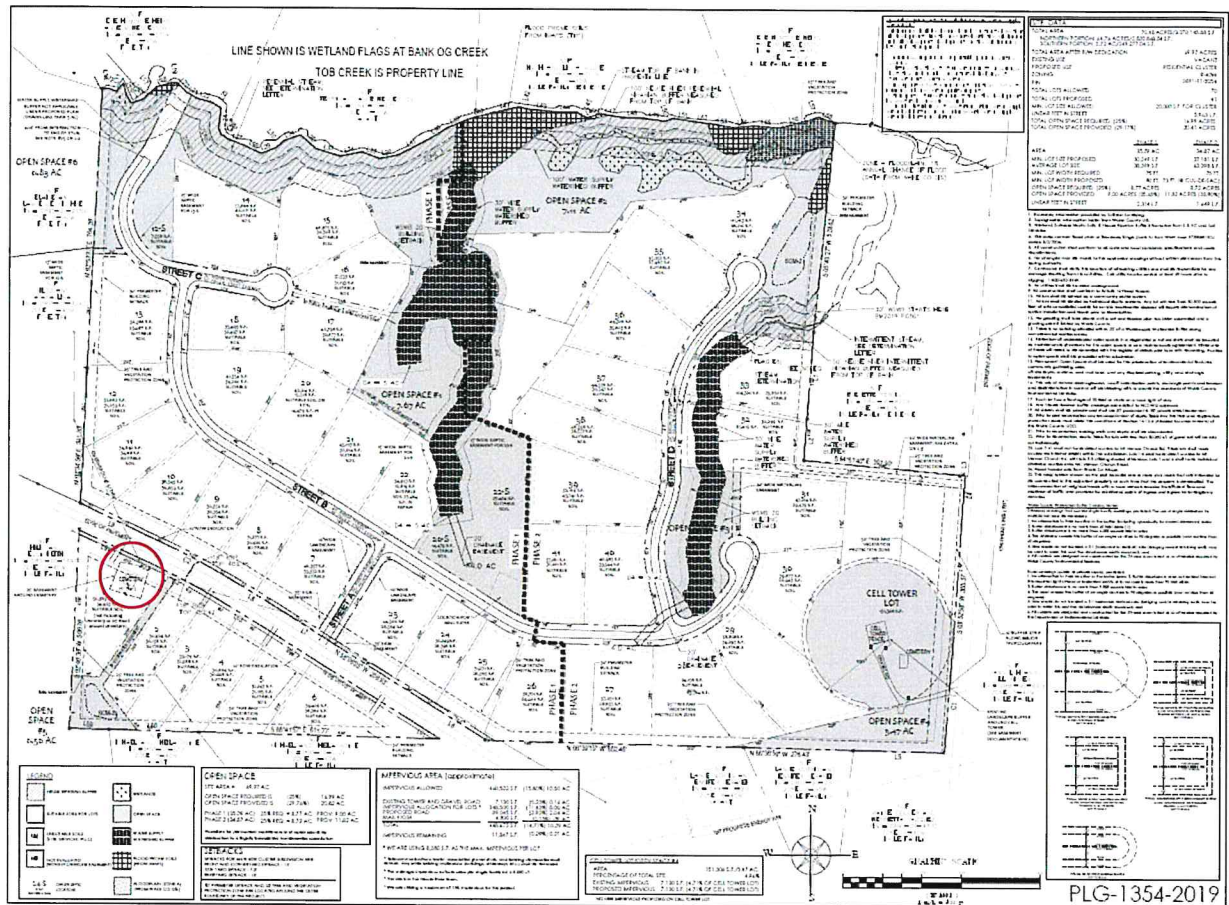


Figure 4. The Overlook at Mount Vernon Development Plan showing the location of the Harris Cemetery (circled red).

### Scope of Work

The scope of work for this Project included (1) conducting research that might provide information about the age of the cemetery and identify who may have been buried there, and (2) conducting an archaeological field investigation to identify and map known and possible burials. The purpose of the work was to provide historical and archaeological documentation of the Harris Cemetery for the proposed relocation prior to residential development of the property.

### Environmental Setting

The Harris Cemetery is in a wooded area dominated by pine trees (Figure 5). At the time of the survey, it was clear of underbrush but had a layer of pine needles covering the ground surface. There was no evidence of English ivy or periwinkle groundcover or other traditional cemetery vegetation, such as flowering shrubs (e.g., roses, azaleas, or forsythia).





Figure 5. Harris Cemetery, view west.

### Cultural Context for Southern Cemeteries

To provide context for understanding the Harris Cemetery, the following summary information about cemeteries has been extracted and summarized from *Sticks & Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers* (Little 1998), *Texas Graveyards: A Cultural Legacy* (Jordan 1982), and "The Southern Folk Cemetery in Piedmont North Carolina" (Clauser 1984).

Some Southern cemetery traditions include wife-to-the-left burials, bordered family plots, and feet-to-the-east interments. Husband-to-the-right (or wife-to-the-left) is a traditional position of married couples in the Southern Folk Cemetery. This tradition derived from a Christian belief that Eve was created from the left side of Adam. The basis of feet-to-the-east burials can be linked to sun worship cults found in Europe at the advent of Christianity.

The Southern Folk Cemetery was introduced in the North Carolina Piedmont region during the late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century. It is characterized by a hilltop location, scraped ground surface, mounded graves, creative gravemarkers and decorations using readily available materials (not commercially produced), certain species of vegetation, grave shelters, and devotion to God and/or family with graveyard workdays and monument dedications.

There are three distinct models of the Southern Folk Cemetery that have progressed over time: Pioneer, Transitional, and Modern. A description of these three types follows.



### ***Pioneer Model***

The Pioneer Model is the oldest type of the Southern Folk Cemetery and is found in remote rural areas. The Pioneer Model cemetery is small, and burials were not limited to the immediate family, as extended family ties that emerged when families intermarried were very important. Distinctive traits of the Pioneer Model cemetery are (1) that it was often located on a hilltop, (2) that periodically the cemetery area was scraped clean, and (3) that graves were laid out in an east-west direction, neatly aligned, and mounded with dirt to identify grave locations and to compensate for soil settling within the grave shaft. Grave markings, when present, included a fieldstone or wooden stake that marked the head and/or foot of the grave. The dominant vegetation in the Pioneer Model cemetery is the eastern red cedar tree, which is referred to as the "cemetery tree."

Honoring the family and ancestors buried in the cemetery was a common practice of the community. The graveyard workday was an annual event, usually occurring in late summer or early fall, when the community gathered to respect the deceased. On workdays, grass was scraped, graves were mounded, gravemarkers were placed or replaced, decorations were placed, repairs were made, and trash was removed.

### ***Transitional Model***

The Transitional Model cemetery dates from the mid- to late-nineteenth century. This tradition continues today in some areas of the South. It is characterized by family plots; a combination of scraped plots and grassy areas; the absence of creative markings, decorations, or grave shelters; and the decline or lack of collectively gathering to honor and respect those interred. The Transitional Model also marked the decline of mounded graves and the increase of commercially produced gravemarkers or tombstones.

The Transitional Model cemetery introduced different varieties of vegetation, such as magnolia and crape myrtle trees. The cedar tree remained. Flowering shrubs, such as roses, azaleas, and forsythia were often planted. Other cemetery vegetation included yucca, English ivy, and periwinkle. Eventually, artificial flowers and commercially produced gravestones with epitaphs became prevalent.

### ***Modern Model***

After World War II, the South experienced a cultural change toward modernization that extended into burial customs, as evidenced by urban memorial gardens and perpetual-care mortuary complexes. Family cemeteries were rarely used. Some memorial gardens continued to exhibit aspects of the traditional Southern Folk Cemetery with bordered and sometimes scraped family burial plots. However, modernization included standardized and commercially produced markers, fewer epitaphs, and more artificial flowers.

### **Background Research**

Background research conducted at the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh found that there has been no formal recording of the Harris Cemetery. Research also involved reviewing online resources that included the 1937 *Wake County Cemetery Survey* (<http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p15012coll1/id/23887>), *Interment Cemetery Records Online* (<http://www.interment.net/us/nc/wake.htm>), *Cemetery Census* (<http://cemeterycensus.com/nc/wake/index.htm>), and *Find A Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com>). No record of the Harris Cemetery was found in the online resources.

### Chain of Title

Research included tracing the ownership of the 80.4-acres of land currently referred to as "Tract 3 - the western portion of the Jim Harris Tract" from the late-nineteenth century to present day (Table 1). This search found that Jim and Ida Harris purchased 117.5 acres of land in 1916 (DB 307:320). Following Jim Harris's death in 1935, the property was sold (DB 705:565) and later (1959) divided into four tracts of land (DB 1386:75). The Harris Cemetery is located on Tract 3.

Table 1. Chain of Title.				
Date	Grantor – From	Grantee – To	Reference	Description
Alsey Jones Estate – 117.5 Acres				
April 1890	Holloway et al.	Delia F. Lynn	DB 111:603-605	One-sixth of the Alsey Jones Estate – 117.5 acres
January 1905	Delia F. Lynn	Adolphus D. Nickols and wife, Edna Nickols	DB 190:533	
October 1916	Adolphus D. Nickols and wife, Edna Nickols	Jim Harris and wife, Ida Harris	DB 307:320	117.5 acres – Jim Harris Tract
February 1930	Jim and Ida Harris	J. K. Ray, Mortgagee	DB 572:227	
December 1935	J. K. Ray, Mortgagee	Iola Green Ray	DB 705:565	
October 1942	Iola Green Ray Estate	Albert A. Ray, George W. Ray, Horace G. Ray, Coit D. Ray, and Jesse K. Ray, Jr.	Referenced in DB 1238:384	
April 1957	Horace G. Ray (portion of the Iola Green Ray Estate)	Albert A. Ray, George W. Ray, Coit Ray, and Jesse K. Ray Jr.	DB 1238:384	
Iola Green Estate Division of Land – 80.4 Acres – Tract 3 – Western Portion of the Jim Harris Tract				
November 1959	George W. Ray, Coit D. Ray, and Jesse K. Ray Jr. (portions of the Iola Green Ray Estate)	Albert A. Ray	DB 1386:75	80.4 acres – Tract 3 - western portion of the Jim Harris Tract
July 1989	Albert A. Ray	Ruth O'Briant Ray	DB 4528:514	
2008	Ruth O'Briant Ray	Albert Truett Ray and Bertita Ray Robbins	Estate File No. 08-E-2074	
2014	Bertita Ray Robbins, half interest of Ruth O'Briant Ray Estate	E. Ace Robbins, widowed	Estate File No. 14-E-3142	
September 2018	Albert Truett Ray and wife, Cynthia Johnson Ray, half interest of Ruth O'Briant Ray Estate	E. Ace Robbins, widowed	DB 17251:2398	

A chronological summary of the 117.5-acre property ownership from 1890 to the division of land in 1959 (DB 1386:75) that created Tract 3 (80.4 acres) to present day follows. No reference to a cemetery on the property was found in the deed or estate records.

**April 1890** Delia F. Lynn acquired 117.5 acres of land identified as being one-sixth of the real estate of Alsey Jones, deceased (DB 111:603-605). The land was conveyed to her by a quit claim deed from Mary E. Holloway, Martha Jones, Emerline Jones, Delia Stockton, M. L. Stockton, May C. Griffith, A. A. Griffith, Elisabeth A. Holloway, H. E. Holloway, W. A. Jones and wife, Ella Jones, and J. A. Arnold and wife, V. E. Arnold. At the time of his death, Alsey Jones owned over 700 acres in Wake County that were acquired through several land conveyances. Efforts to trace his ownership of the land through deeds and estate records did not result in identifying when he purchased the 117.5 acres of land that was deeded to Delia F. Lynn in 1890.

**January 1905** Adolphus D. Nickols and wife, Edna Nickols, acquired the 117.5 acres identified as being one-sixth of the real estate of Alsey Jones, deceased, from Delia F. Lynn (DB 190:533).



**October 1916** Jim Harris and wife, Ida Harris, acquired the 117.5 acres identified as being one-sixth of the real estate of Alsey Jones, deceased, from Adolphus D. Nickols and wife, Edna Nickols (DB 307:320).

**February 1930** Jim Harris and wife, Ida Harris, took a mortgage on their 117.5 acres of land from J. K. Ray (DB 572:227).

**August 1935** Jim Harris died on 5 August 1935 (NC Death Index 1908-2004).

**October 1935** J. K. Ray, mortgagee, advertised the auction of the 117.5-acre Jim Harris Tract on the Wake County Courthouse door (DB 705:565).

**December 1935** Lola Green Ray was the highest bidder and bought the 117.5-acre Jim Harris Tract (DB 705:565).

**October 1942** Lola Green Ray died, and the undivided interest of her property was inherited by her heirs: Albert A. Ray, George W. Ray, Horace G. Ray, Coit D. Ray, and Jesse K. Ray, Jr. (DB 1238:384).

**April 1957** Horace G. Ray conveyed his interest in the 117.5 acres identified as the Jim Harris Tract to his brothers: Albert A. Ray, George W. Ray, Coit D. Ray, and Jesse K. Ray Jr. (DB 1238:384).

**November 1959** Division of Land - George W. Ray, Coit D. Ray, and Jesse K. Ray Jr. conveyed four tracts of land to their brother, Albert A. Ray (DB 1386:75). In the land conveyance, Tract 3 is described as 80.4 acres that comprise the western portion of the Jim Harris Tract.

**July 1989** Albert A. Ray conveyed the 80.4 acres identified as Tract 3 the western portion of the Jim Harris Tract to his wife, Ruth O'Briant Ray (DB 4528:514).

**2008** Ruth O'Briant Ray willed the 80.4 acres identified as Tract 3 the western portion of the Jim Harris Tract to her children, Albert Truett Ray and Bertita Ray Robbins (Estate File No. 08-E-2074).

**2014** Bertita Ray Robbins' one-half interest in the 80.4 acres identified as Tract 3 the western portion of the Jim Harris Tract was passed to her husband, E. Ace Robbins, upon her death (Estate File No. 14-E-3142).

**September 2018** Albert Truett Ray's one-half interest (Grantor: Albert Truett Ray and wife, Cynthia Johnson Ray) in the 80.4 acres identified as Tract 3 the western portion of the Jim Harris Tract was conveyed to E. Ace Robbins, widowed (DB 17251:2398).

### Genealogical Research

Genealogical research focused on James "Jim" Harris<sup>1</sup> and Ida Rodgers Harris<sup>2</sup> who are related to the two identifiable gravemarkers (Tessie Harris Evans and Forrest Parker Jr.) in the cemetery. Research on the Ray family who owned the property from 1935 to 2018 (Iola Green Ray, Horace Green Ray, Albert Archibald Ray, Coit Drewey Ray, Jessie Knox Ray, and George William Ray) found that they are buried in the New Grace Baptist Church Cemetery in Wake County (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/121719111>, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/121719024/jesse-knox-ray>, and <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/196220510/coit-drewey-ray>), Olive Branch Baptist Church in Durham County (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55390470/george-william-ray> and <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55391149/horace-green-ray>), and Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Durham County (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46648226/albert-archibald-ray>).

A summary of the research on the James and Ida Harris family follows. Research found no living next of kin for the Jim and Irene Harris family.

#### *James "Jim" Harris (1867-1935) and Mariah Ida Rodgers Harris (1877-1940) Family*

The earliest record of the Jim and Ida Harris family is the 1900 Federal population census (Figure 6). At that time, they were reported as living in Barton's Creek Township and renting the land they farmed. Jim Harris was the 33-year-old head of household. Ida was 23 years old. The couple reported that they had been married for three years but had no living children. The census tabulated that Jim and Ida Harris had one child who died before the 1900 census (Figure 6, Columns 11 and 12). Other members of the household in 1900 were Ida's 40-year-old widowed mother, Mariah Hunt Rodgers, and Ida's 14-year-old brother, Moses A. Rodgers.

NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family.  Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any.  INCLUDE every person living on June 1, 1900. OMIT children born since June 1, 1900.	RELATION.  Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.									
		Color of race. *	Sex.	DATE OF BIRTH.		Age at last birthday.	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Number of years married.	Number of how many children.	Number of these children living.	
				Month.	Year.						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Harris, James <sup>1</sup>	Head	B	M	Mar.	1867	33	M	3			
Ida P. H.	Wife	B	F	Jan.	1877	23	M	3	1	0	
Rodgers, Moses	Brother-in-law	B	M	Mar.	1886	14	S				
Mariah	Brother-in-law	B	F		1860	40	Wid.		12	9	

Figure 6. Federal Population Census, 1900, Barton's Creek Township, Jim and Ida Harris Household.

<sup>1</sup> James Harris is also identified in some legal documents (census data, land conveyances, certificates of marriage and certificates of death) as "Jim." For consistency, this report will identify him as "Jim Harris."

<sup>2</sup> Ida Harris is identified in the 1880 Federal Population Census as the four-year-old daughter (Mariah I. Rodgers) of Nathan and Mariah Hunt Rodgers. However, all later references identify her as "Ida." For the purpose of this report all references to Mariah I. Rodgers will use the name "Ida" that appears on some legal documents (census data, land conveyances, certificates of marriage and certificates of death).

## 1910 Census

The 1910 Federal Population Census reported Jim and Ida Harris living in Barton's Creek Township and renting land they lived on (Figure 7). Jim was identified as being 50 years old and Ida, 40 years old. Other members of the household included their two-year-old daughter, Eva. The census form noted that during their 15 years of marriage, Ida had seven children (Figure 7 Column 10), but only one survived (Figure 7 Column 11). Ida's bother, Moses A. Rodgers, who lived with them in 1900, was listed in the 1910 census as a "lodger" living at 121 W. Lenoir Street in Raleigh. Ida Harris's mother, Mariah Hunt Rodgers, who lived them in 1900, is not found in the 1910 census.

NAME of each person whose place of abode on April 15, 1910, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on April 15, 1910. Omit children born since April 15, 1910.	RELATION. Relationship of this per- son to the head of the family.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.								
		Sex.	Color or race.	Age at last birth- day.	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Number of years of present marriage.	Number born.	Number now liv- ing.		
Harris, James	Head	M	W	50	M	15				
Ida	Wife	F	W	40	M	15	7	1		
Eva	Daughter	F	W	2	S					

Figure 7. Federal Population Census, 1910, Barton's Creek Township, Jim and Ida Harris Household.

## 1920 Census

In 1920, the census reported Jim and Ida Harris living on land they owned without mortgage (Figure 8 Columns 7 and 8).<sup>3</sup> Living with them was their 15-year-old daughter who was identified as "Tessie." The 1920 census had no record of "Eva" who was reported as being two years old in 1910 (see Figure 7). No death certificate has been located for "Eva Harris." Also, if Tessie was 15 years old in the 1920 census, she was unreported as a five-year-old in the 1910 census. It is possible that "Eva Harris" reported in the 1910 census is "Tessie Harris" reported in the 1920 census.

NAME of each person whose place of abode on January 1, 1920, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on January 1, 1920. Omit children born since January 1, 1920.	RELATION. Relationship of this per- son to the head of the family.	TENURE.		PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.							
		Home owned or rented.	If owned, free or mortgaged.	Sex.	Color or race.	Age at last birth- day.	Single, married, widowed, or di- vorced.				
Harris, James	Head	10	F	M	W	57	M				
Ida	Wife			F	W	45	M				
Tessie	Daughter			F	W	15	S				

Figure 8. Federal Population Census, 1920, Barton's Creek Township, Jim and Ida Harris Household.

<sup>3</sup> James (Jim) Harris and Ida Harris purchased the land (117.5 acres) in 1916 (DB 307:320). It is not known if the property they bought is the same property they rented in 1900 and 1910.



## 1930 Census

The 1930 census reported Jim and Ida Harris living on the land they owned with their 10-year-old granddaughter, Irene Harris, daughter of Tessie Harris (Figure 9). Their daughter, Tessie, who had been reported living with them in the 1920 census died in 1927.

NAME of each person whose place of abode on April 1, 1930, was in this family <small>Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any Exclude every person living on April 1, 1930. Omit children born since April 1, 1930</small>	RELATION Relationship of this person to the head of the family	HOME DATA				PERSONAL DESCRIPTION				
		Home owned or rented	Value of home, if owned, or monthly rent, if rented	Radios in house	Does this family live on a farm?	Sex	Color or race	Age at last birthday	Marital con- dition	Age at first marriage
Harris, Jim	Head	0	15.00			M	W	55	M	25
Ida	Wife					F	W	45	M	15
Irene	Granddaughter					F	W	10	S	

Figure 9. Federal Population Census, 1930, Barton's Creek Township, Jim and Ida Harris Household.

## 1940 Census

There is no record of the Jim and Ida Harris in the 1940 census (Figure 10). Jim Harris is listed in the North Carolina Death Index as having died on 5 August 1935. Ida Harris died on 26 March 1940, about a month before the 1940 census. Their granddaughter, Irene Parker Harris married Willie Lawrence Marsh<sup>4</sup> in 1933, they are reported in the 1940 census living in Barton's Creek Township with three daughters, Mattie, Addie Mae, and Ernestine.

Name	Relation	Code A	Sex	Race	Age
Marsh, Lawrence	Head	1	M	W	26
Irene	Wife	2	F	W	14
Mattie	Daughter	3	F	W	5
Addie Mae	Daughter	3	F	W	2
Ernestine	Daughter	3	F	W	10

Figure 10. Federal Population Census, 1940, Barton's Creek Township, Lawrence and Irene Marsh Household.

Irene and Lawrence Marsh's daughter Addie Mae, the mother of Forrest Parker Jr. (Grave 1), is discussed further below (see [Addie Mae Marsh \(1937-2008\)](#)). Their daughter Mattie Marsh died 27 March 2001 in Durham County and was buried at Pleasant Union Christian Church Cemetery in Raleigh (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/120539707>). Her gravemarker identifies her as "Mattie Lee Marsh Evans." Her husband, Thelbert Evans, died in 2011 and was buried next to her. There is no record of their daughter, Ernestine Marsh, after the 1940 census when she was one year old. She may have died as an infant.

<sup>4</sup> Lawrence Marsh is also reported as Willie Lawrence Marsh in legal documents. This report will refer to him as Lawrence Marsh.

### Known and Possible Burials in the Harris Cemetery

A chronological summary of the known and possible burials in the Harris Cemetery follows. It begins around 1900 with Nathan Rodgers, father of Ida Harris, and ends in 1961 with the burial of Forrest Parker Jr., the great-great grandson of Jim and Ida Harris.

#### ***Nathan Rodgers (1855-before 1900)***

Ida's father, Nathan Rodgers, is listed in the 1880 Federal Population Census living in the New Light Township with his wife, Mariah; their four-year-old daughter, Mariah I. (Ida); and their one-year-old daughter, Losetie. There is no surviving 1890 census<sup>5</sup> to search for Nathan Rodgers, and his wife is identified in the 1900 census as a widow (see Figure 6). It appears Nathan Rodgers died sometime between the taking of the 1880 census and the 1900 census. No information about his death has been located. If Jim and Ida Harris bought the land they rented in 1900 and 1910, then it is possible that Ida's father, Nathan Rodgers, was buried at the Harris Cemetery.

#### ***Mariah Hunt Rodgers (1860-after 1900)***

Ida's mother, Mariah Hunt Rodgers, who according to census data lived with Jim and Ida Harris in 1900 (see Figure 6), is not listed in the 1910 census. There is no record of her after the 1900 census. It is possible that she died between the taking of the 1900 census and the 1910 census. If Jim and Ida Harris bought the land they rented in 1900 and 1910, then it is possible that Ida's mother, Mariah Hunt Rodgers, was buried at the Harris Cemetery.

#### ***Moses A. Rodgers (1886-1916)***

Ida's bother, Moses A. Rodgers, who according to census data lived with Jim and Ida Harris in 1900, died in July 1916. His death certificate states that he was unmarried, lived in Barton's Creek Township, and was buried in Wake County (Figure 11). The Harris Cemetery is not noted on the death certificate as the burial location. His death preceded his sister and brother-in-law's acquisition of the property by three months (Jim and Ida Harris purchased the land in October 1916); however, if Jim and Ida Harris bought the land they rented in 1900 and 1910, then it is possible that Moses A. Rodgers was buried at the Harris Cemetery.

Figure 11 is a scan of a historical death certificate for Moses A. Rodgers. The document is titled 'CERTIFICATE OF DEATH' and is issued by the North Carolina State Board of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Certificate Registration District 92-8028, Certificate Number 10. The deceased is Moses A. Rodgers, born August 28, 1886, in Wake County, North Carolina. He was 29 years old, single, and a farmer. He died of 'Outstanding Scurvy' on July 23, 1916. The certificate is signed by Dr. J. H. Rodgers and J. H. Rodgers, Jr. The burial location is listed as 'Wake County, N.C.' and the date of burial is 'July 23, 1916'.

Figure 11. Moses A. Rodgers Certificate of Death (NC State Board of Health Office of Vital Statistics Certificate Registration District 92-8028, Certificate Number 10).

<sup>5</sup> There is a gap in the census information for 1890, because the census that was the first to use punch cards and electrical tabulation was destroyed by a fire in Washington DC in 1921 (<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1996/spring/1890-census-1.html>).



### Tessie Harris (1904-1927)

Tessie Harris, daughter of Jim and Ida Harris, married Arthur Evans on 31 December 1921 (Figure 12). She died in 1927 and her death certificate states that she was buried in Wake County. The Harris Cemetery is not noted on the death certificate as the burial location (Figure 13). Other information reported on the death certificate was that she was "single" and living at home with her parents in Barton's Creek Township at the time of her death.

Tessie Harris Evans' death certificate identifies her as "Tessie Harris." Her gravemarker identifies her as "Tessie Evans."

Tessie's husband, Arthur Evans died in 1961. He was buried at Chestnut Grove Baptist Church Cemetery in Raleigh (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/22102587>).

State of North Carolina, County of Wake  
OFFICE OF REGISTER OF DEEDS  
No. 45  
To Any Ordained Minister of Any Religious Denomination  
or Any Justice of the Peace of Said County  
Raleigh, N.C. Dec 31- 1921  
Arthur Evans, of Wake County N.C. having applied to me for a LICENSE for the marriage of  
Arthur Evans, of Wake County N.C. and Tessie Harris, of Wake County N.C.  
age 22 years; COLORED; the son of William Evans and Helen Evans, of Wake County N.C.  
age 18 years; COLORED; the daughter of Jim Harris and Ida Harris, of Wake County N.C.  
the father now living, the mother dead, resident of Wake County N.C.  
And the written consent of \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the said  
\_\_\_\_\_ to the proposed marriage having been filed with me;  
And there being no legal impediment to said marriage known to me; and no law being enforced, at any time within sixty days from the date  
hereof, to prohibit the proposed marriage at any place within the said County;  
I do hereby certify that the said Arthur Evans and Tessie Harris have solemnized said marriage, in my office, with their own  
signatures subscribed to the certificate under this license, and with the license therein filed according to the facts, under penalty of forfeiting \$200 to the  
use of any person who shall sue for the same.  
Witness my hand and seal of office, this 31st day of December, 1921.  
W. H. Ramsey, Register of Deeds, Wake County, N.C.  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA—County of Wake:  
I, \_\_\_\_\_, Justice of the Peace, do hereby certify that the said \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the parties licensed above, on the  
31 day of Dec. 1921, at Raleigh, N.C., were by me joined in matrimony, in said County, according to law.  
W. H. Ramsey, Justice of the Peace, Raleigh, N.C.

Figure 12. Tessie Harris and Arthur Evans  
Certificate of Marriage (Wake County NC,  
Register of Deeds, Marriage Records, 1741-  
2011).

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH  
Registration District No. 92-8028  
Certificate No. 12  
1 PLACE OF DEATH: Barton's Creek  
County: Wake  
City: Barton's Creek  
2 FULL NAME: Tessie Harris  
3 SEX: Female  
4 COLOR OF SKIN: Colored  
5 DATE OF BIRTH: Dec 31, 1904  
6 PLACE OF BIRTH: Wake County, N.C.  
7 DATE OF DEATH: June 1, 1927  
8 CAUSE OF DEATH: Tuberculosis of lungs  
9 PLACE OF BURIAL: Wake County, N.C.  
10 NAME OF FUNERAL HOME: Mitchell Funeral Home  
11 SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR: W. H. Ramsey  
12 SIGNATURE OF MINISTER OR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE: W. H. Ramsey  
13 SIGNATURE OF PHYSICIAN: W. H. Ramsey  
14 SIGNATURE OF CORONER: W. H. Ramsey  
15 SIGNATURE OF UNDERTAKER: W. H. Ramsey  
16 SIGNATURE OF BURIAL PLACE: W. H. Ramsey  
17 SIGNATURE OF OTHER: W. H. Ramsey  
18 SIGNATURE OF OTHER: W. H. Ramsey  
19 SIGNATURE OF OTHER: W. H. Ramsey  
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99 SIGNATURE OF OTHER: W. H. Ramsey  
100 SIGNATURE OF OTHER: W. H. Ramsey

Figure 13. Tessie Harris Certificate of Death (NC  
State Board of Health, Certificate Registration  
District 92-8028, Certificate Number 12).

### Jim Harris (1867-1935)

Jim Harris, Tessie Harris's father, died on 5 August 1935. The only information about his death is in the North Carolina, Death Indexes, 1908-2004. It is very likely that he was buried in the Harris Cemetery.

### Ida Harris (1877-1940)

Ida Harris, Tessie Harris's mother, died on 26 March 1940. Her death certificate reports that she was buried in the Harris Cemetery (Figure 14).



NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
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### CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH:  
(a) County Durham  
(b) Township Durham  
(c) City or town Durham  
(d) Street, hospital or institution 117 Walled St  
(e) Length of stay in hospital or institution (Ind. mon. or days)  
(f) In this community (Ind. mon. or days)

2. HOME (USUAL RESIDENCE) OF DECEASED:  
(a) State N.C. (b) County Durham  
(c) City or town Durham  
(d) Street or R.F.D. 117 Walled St  
(e) Is place of residence in corporate limits? yes  
(f) If foreign born, how long in U.S.A.?

3. FULL NAME Ida Harris  
(a) If veteran, same name  
(b) Maiden name Harris  
(c) Name of husband or wife John Harris  
(d) Age of husband or wife if still living

4. Date of death May 26, 1940  
(a) Month May (b) Day 26 (c) Year 1940  
(d) I certify that death occurred on the date above stated; that I attended deceased from May 11, 1940 to May 26, 1940 and that I had not seen him alive on May 26, 1940 immediately prior to death

5. Cause of death  
(a) Immediate cause of death Cancer of uterus  
(b) Due to Cancer of uterus  
(c) Due to Cancer of uterus  
(d) Other conditions (Indicate pregnancy within 2 months of death)  
(e) Major findings of operations  
(f) Of autopsy

6. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:  
(a) Accident, violence, or homicide (specify)  
(b) Date of occurrence  
(c) Where did injury occur? (City or town) (County) (State)  
(d) Did injury occur about, on, or near, in industrial place, in a public place?  
(e) While at work?  
(f) Name of injury OS + Kicks  
(g) Signature Ida Harris Date signed 3-27-40

7. Birth date of deceased (month, day and year)  
(a) AGE: 77 months 13 days 1 year  
(b) Birthplace (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)  
(c) Usual occupation Domestic  
(d) Industry or business  
(e) Name Nathan Rogers  
(f) Birthplace N.C.  
(g) Maiden name Marion Harris  
(h) Birthplace N.C.  
(i) Informant's Signature J. C. Rogers  
(j) Address 117 Walled St  
(k) City Durham (l) State N.C. (m) Date signed 5-28-40  
(n) County Durham (o) Location Harris Cemetery  
(p) Funeral director W. B. Rogers  
(q) Address Durham  
(r) Signature W. B. Rogers Date signed 5-28-40

Figure 14. Ida Harris Certificate of Death (NC State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Certificate Registration District 32-95, Certificate Number 239).

### Forrest Parker Jr. (1960-1961)

Forrest Parker Jr died on 10 March 1961. His death certificate identifies his parents as Addie Mae Marsh and Forrest Parker Sr. and noted that he was buried in the Harris Cemetery (Figure 15).

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS  
9047

### CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. 92-00 REGISTRAR'S CERTIFICATE NO. 83

1. PLACE OF DEATH  
(a) COUNTY Durham (b) TOWNSHIP Barton's Creek (c) CITY OR TOWN Durham  
(d) STREET, HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION Route 6  
(e) LENGTH OF STAY IN HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION (Ind. mon. or days)  
(f) IN THIS COMMUNITY (Ind. mon. or days)

2. HOME (USUAL RESIDENCE) OF DECEASED  
(a) STATE N.C. (b) COUNTY Durham  
(c) CITY OR TOWN Durham  
(d) STREET OR R.F.D. NO. Route 6  
(e) IS PLACE OF RESIDENCE IN CORPORATE LIMITS? yes  
(f) IF FOREIGN BORN, HOW LONG IN U.S.A.?

3. FULL NAME OF DECEASED Forrest Parker Jr.  
(a) MAIDEN NAME Forrest Parker Jr.  
(b) NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE Addie Mae Marsh  
(c) DATE OF BIRTH 10-1-1901  
(d) AGE (in years, months, and days) 59 years 10 months 1 day  
(e) DATE OF DEATH 3-10-61  
(f) I certify that death occurred on the date above stated; that I attended deceased from March 1, 1961 to March 10, 1961 and that I had not seen him alive on March 10, 1961 immediately prior to death

4. CAUSE OF DEATH  
(a) IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF DEATH Pneumonia  
(b) DUE TO Pneumonia  
(c) DUE TO Pneumonia  
(d) OTHER CONDITIONS (Indicate pregnancy within 2 months of death)  
(e) MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATIONS  
(f) OF AUTOPSY

5. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:  
(a) ACCIDENT, VIOLENCE, OR HOMICIDE (specify)  
(b) DATE OF OCCURRENCE  
(c) WHERE DID INJURY OCCUR? (City or town) (County) (State)  
(d) DID INJURY OCCUR ABOUT, ON, OR NEAR, IN INDUSTRIAL PLACE, IN A PUBLIC PLACE?  
(e) WHILE AT WORK?  
(f) NAME OF INJURY  
(g) SIGNATURE Forrest Parker Jr. DATE SIGNED 3-13-61

6. BIRTH DATE OF DECEASED (month, day and year)  
(a) AGE: 59 years 10 months 1 day  
(b) BIRTHPLACE (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)  
(c) USUAL OCCUPATION Farmer  
(d) INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS  
(e) NAME Forrest Parker Sr.  
(f) BIRTHPLACE N.C.  
(g) MAIDEN NAME Addie Mae Marsh  
(h) BIRTHPLACE N.C.  
(i) INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE Forrest Parker Sr.  
(j) ADDRESS Route 6, Durham, N.C.  
(k) CITY Durham (l) STATE N.C. (m) DATE SIGNED 3-13-61  
(n) COUNTY Durham (o) LOCATION Harris Cemetery  
(p) FUNERAL DIRECTOR W. B. Rogers  
(q) ADDRESS Durham  
(r) SIGNATURE W. B. Rogers DATE SIGNED 3-13-61

Figure 15. Forrest Parker Jr. Certificate of Death (NC State Board of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, Certificate Registration District 92-00, Certificate Number 83).

Research on other Jim and Ida Harris immediate family members was conducted to determine if there was documentation that would indicate other burials in the Harris Cemetery. This work examined documents from Irene Parker Harris, daughter of Tessie Harris and Dennis Parker; Addie Mae Marsh, daughter of Irene Parker Harris and Lawrence Marsh,

### ***Irene Parker Harris (1920-1996)***

On 5 April 1920, Jim and Ida Harris's daughter, Tessie Harris, gave birth to a daughter, Irene Parker Harris.<sup>6</sup> Irene Parker Harris's Social Security Death record in 1996 identifies her father as Dennis Parker (U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007). Dennis Parker is listed in the 1910, 1920, 1930, and 1940 census as living in the Barton Creek Township. Research found no information about Dennis Parker's relationship with Tessie Harris other than his name as "Father" on Irene Parker Harris's Social Security death record. His death date and burial location are unknown; however, it seems unlikely that he was buried in the Harris Cemetery.

Irene Parker Harris married Lawrence Marsh in 1933 (Figure 16). She died on 28 September 1996 in Durham (U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007). Her burial location is unknown; however, 1996 death date suggests that is unlikely that she was buried in the Harris Cemetery.

Lawrence Marsh died in Durham County on 8 February 2002 (North Carolina, Death Indexes, 1908-2004). His burial location is unknown; however, 2002 death date in Durham County suggests that is unlikely that he was buried in the Harris Cemetery.

State of North Carolina | Office of Register of Deeds  
Durham County | Feb - 16 1933

To any Ordained Minister of any Religious Denomination, or any Justice of the Peace of said County:  
I, Lawrence Marsh, having applied to me for a LICENSE for the marriage of Lawrence Marsh, of Durham, N.C., aged 20 years, color white, the son of Gustav Marsh and Mattie Marsh, the father now living, the mother living, resident of Barton Creek, N.C. and Irene Harris, of Wake Co., aged 16 years, color white, daughter of Jim Harris and Ida Harris, the father deaf, the mother deaf, resident of Wake Co.

Feb 16 1933, to the proposed marriage having been filed with me:  
And there being no legal impediment to such marriage known to me, you are hereby authorized, at any time within sixty days from the date hereof, to celebrate the proposed marriage at any place within the said county.

You are required, within sixty days after you shall have celebrated such marriage, to return this license to me, at my office, with your signature subscribed to the Certificate under this license, and with the blanks therein filled according to the form, under penalty of forfeiting two hundred dollars to the use of any person who shall sue for the same.

No. 1

A. J. Barber  
Register of Deeds

1. Name of person applying for license.	8. License is full.	15. Father's name.
2. Name of person to be married, in full.	9. License is part.	16. Mother's name.
3. Birthdate.	10. License is annul.	17. Living or dead.
4. Age.	11. License is known; if not, state unknown.	18. Living or dead.
5. White or colored.	12. Name of person to be married, in full.	19. Residence, if known; if not, state unknown.
6. Name of man to be married.	13. Birthdate.	20. If such mother and father 15 years of age, state age.
7. Name of man to be married.	14. Age.	
	15. Other as required.	

Figure 16. Irene Harris and Lawrence Marsh Certificate of Marriage (Durham County NC, Register of Deeds, Marriage Records, 1741-2011).

<sup>6</sup> Irene Parker Harris' birth is documented in the 1930 Federal Population Census (Figure 9).



### Addie Mae Marsh (1937-2008)

In 1937, Irene Harris Marsh and Lawrence Marsh had a daughter, Addie Mae Marsh.<sup>7</sup> She had a son, Forrest Parker Jr., on 31 December 1960. Forrest Parker Jr. died on 10 March 1961. His death certificate indicates that his father was "Forrest Parker."

No information about a marriage between Addie Marsh and Forrest Parker has been located. Addie Mae Marsh died in Raleigh on 17 January 2008; the location of her burial is unknown; however, the 2008 death date indicates that it is unlikely she was buried in the Harris Cemetery. No information has been found for Forrest Parker except for his name on his son's (Forrest Parker Jr.) death certificate.

### Summary of Known and Possible Burials in the Harris Cemetery

Genealogical research found that it is likely that the Harris Cemetery has four generations of the Jim and Ida Rodgers Harris family (Table 2).<sup>8</sup> The cemetery has two burials that are identified by their gravemarkers (Tessie Harris Evans and Forrest Parker Jr.) and 11 other possible burials. The 11 possible burials include Ida Harris, whose death certificate states that she was buried in the Harris Cemetery, and her husband, Jim Harris, whose burial location is undocumented.

Also, the burial locations of Ida Harris's mother (Mariah Hunt Rodgers), father (Nathan Rodgers), brother (Moses A. Rodgers), and the six infants who were reported as being deceased in the 1900 and 1910 census are not known. All of these deaths preceded 1916, which was the year that Jim and Ida Harris bought the land. If Jim and Ida Harris bought the land they rented in 1900 and 1910, then it is possible that these burials may be in the Harris Cemetery.

Table 2. Documentation of Identified and Possible Burials in the Harris Cemetery by Generation.					
First Generation	Second Generation	Third Generation	Fifth Generation	Documentation	Birth-Death
Identified Burials - 2					
		Tessie Harris Evans		Inscribed Gravemarker 4	1904-1927
			Forrest Parker Jr.	Funeral Home Gravemarker 1	1960-1961
Possible Burials - 11					
Mariah Hunt Rodgers					d. 1900-1910
Nathan Rodgers					d. 1880-1900
	Moses A. Rodgers			Death Certificate (Wake County)	1886-1916
	Jim Harris				1867-1935
	Ida Harris			Death Certificate (Harris Cemetery)	1877-1940
		Infant 1		1900 census	d. 1897-1900
		Infant 2		1910 census	d. 1900-1910
		Infant 3			
		Infant 4			
		Infant 5			
		Infant 6			

<sup>7</sup> Her birth is reported in the 1940 Federal Population Census.

<sup>8</sup> Research found no evidence of burials in the Harris Cemetery from the fourth generation.

### Field Investigations

Following the background research, described above, a field investigation of the Harris Cemetery was conducted on 31 September 2019. A description of the work follows.

The investigation consisted of a systematic visual reconnaissance to determine the cemetery boundaries based on the distribution of graves and possible graves. While the field methods used are a reasonable and prudent effort and meet or exceed present professional standards for cemetery studies, the only method to guarantee locating every burial in a cemetery requires complete excavation, which is beyond the scope of this project.

The inspection for graves consisted of identifying grave locations based on one or more of the following.

- presence of an inscribed or uninscribed gravestone
- presence of a rectangular-shaped graveshaft depression
- detection of past ground disturbance associated with a burial pit

The survey resulted in identifying seven graves (Figure 17 and Figure 18). Four graves (Grave 1- Grave 4) are oriented east-west; three graves (Grave 5 – Grave 7) are oriented southwest-northeast. The significance, if any, of the difference in orientation is not known.

Five of the seven graves (Graves 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7) were identified by the presence of rectangular-shaped sunken graveshaft and an uninscribed fieldstone that had been placed at the head and foot of each grave. Two of the seven graves (Grave 1 and Grave 4) had legible gravemarkers that are discussed below.

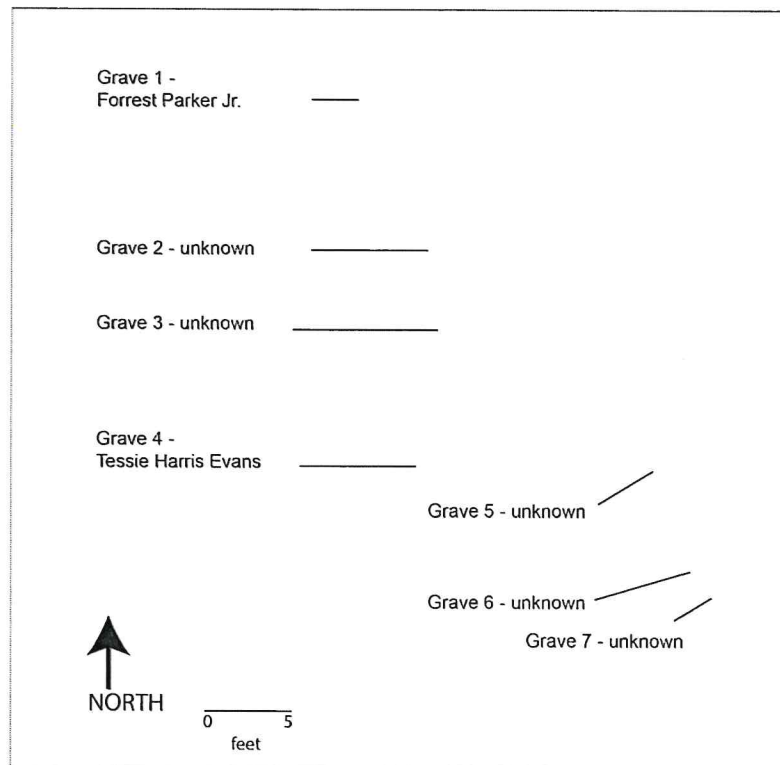


Figure 17. Plan Map of the Harris Cemetery.



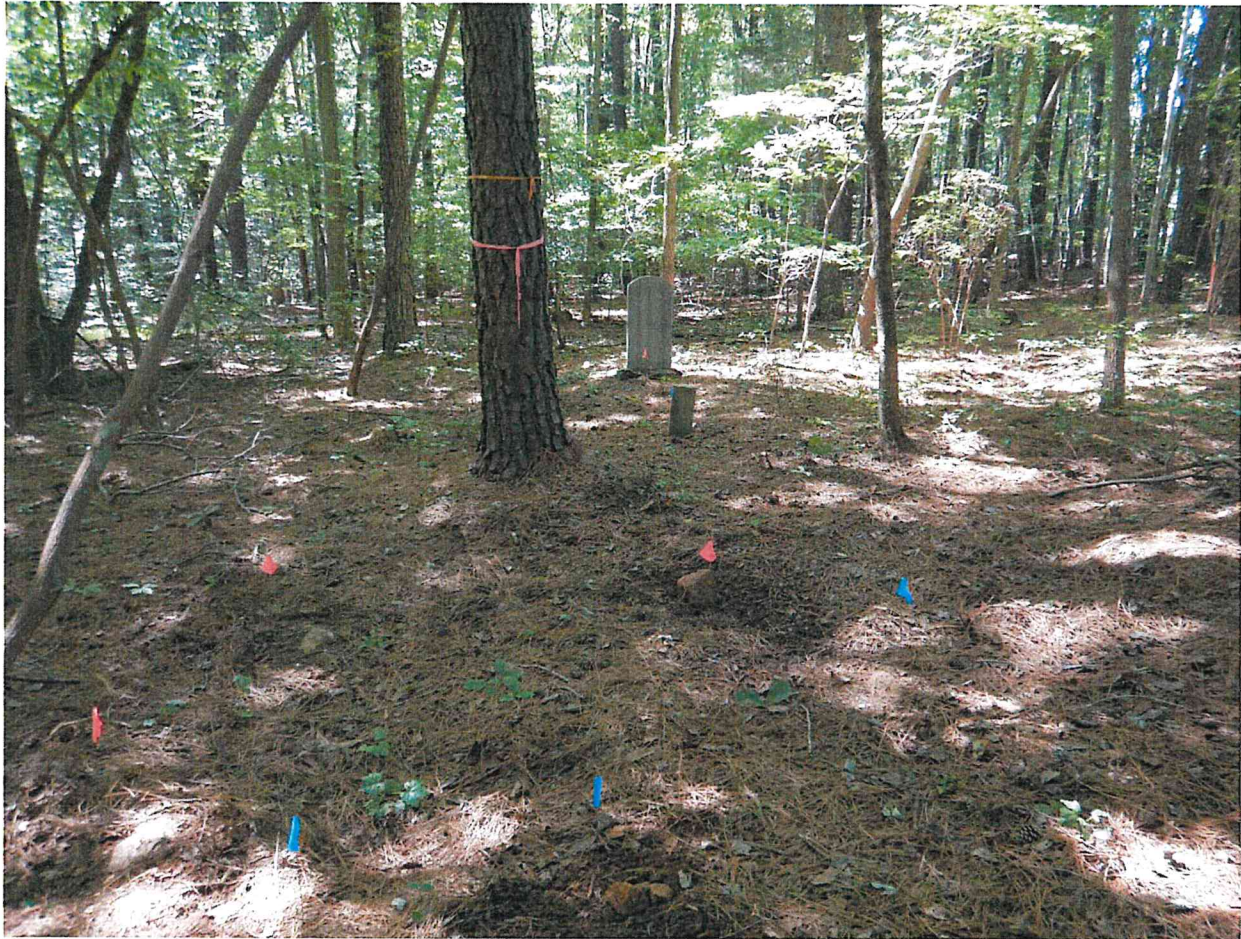


Figure 18. Harris Cemetery, view west showing Graves 5, 6, and 7 (pin flags: head pink and foot blue) and Grave 4 (Tessie Harris Evans).



***Tessie Harris Evans (1904-1927) - Grave 4 - Figure 19 and Figure 20***

Tessie Harris was born in 1904 to Jim and Ida Harris and married Arthur Evans in 1921. Her grave is marked with a headstone and footstone of cast cement. Her headstone is inscribed with her married name (Tessie Evans) and her date of birth (4 May 1904) and death (1 June 1927). The gravemarker also includes an inscription that she was the daughter of "Jim & Ada Harris" and "Not Lost, Blest Thought, But Gone Before, Where We Shall Meet To Part No More." There is no inscription on her footstone.



Figure 19. Tessie Harris Evans (1904-1927)  
Headstone, view west.



Figure 20. Tessie Harris Evans (1904-1927)  
Headstone and Footstone, view west.



***Forrest Parker Jr. (1960-1961) - Grave 1 - Figure 21***

Forrest Parker Jr., the great-grandson of Tessie Harris Evans, was born on 31 December 1960 to Addie Mae Marsh, the daughter of Irene Harris Marsh and her husband, Lawrence Marsh. Forrest Parker Jr. died on 10 March 1961 and was buried in the Harris Cemetery. His grave was identified by a small shallow rectangular-shaped depression in the ground, a fallen funeral home gravemarker, and a glass flower vase.



Figure 21. Forrest Parker Jr. (1960-1961) Funeral Home Gravemarker.

### Project Results

The focus of the investigation was to locate information about the age of the cemetery and who may have been buried there in addition to conducting an archaeological field investigation to identify and map known and possible burials. The purpose was to provide information for the proposed relocation of the cemetery to a place where they will receive perpetual care and to accommodate the sale of the property for subsequent residential development by Marquis Homes.

The Harris Cemetery has the attributes of the Pioneer and Transitional cemetery models.

It follows the Pioneer Model in being small and being located on elevated land. Most of the graves were laid out in an east-west direction and neatly aligned with the headstones, when present, on the west end of the grave. This is consistent with the Christian method of positioning the coffin or shroud covered body in the grave with the head to the west and feet to the east. Three graves (Graves 5-7) were oriented southwest-northeast; the significance of this difference is unknown (see Figure 17).

Attributes of the Transitional Model include the presence of a commercially produced gravestone with an epitaph. However, there is an absence of cemetery vegetation typically found in a Transitional Model cemetery, such as magnolia and crape myrtle trees, flowering shrubs (roses, azaleas, and forsythia), or other cemetery vegetation (yucca, English ivy, and periwinkle).

Research found evidence that up to four generations of the Jim and Ida Harris family may be interred in the cemetery (Table 3).<sup>9</sup> These are identified as Tessie Harris Evans and Forrest Parker Jr. and possibly 11 others that include Jim and Ida Harris, Ida Harris's parents (Nathan and Mariah) and brother (Moses), and perhaps Jim and Ida Harris's six infants that were listed in the 1900 and 1910 Federal Population Census.

Table 3. Summary of Identified and Possible Burials at the Harris Cemetery by Generation.				
First Generation	Second Generation	Third Generation	Fifth Generation	Birth-Death
Identified Graves – 2				
		Tessie Harris Evans		1904-1927
			Forrest Parker Jr.	1960-1961
Possible Graves – 11				
Mariah Hunt Rodgers				b. 1860 d. 1900-1910
Nathan Rodgers				d. 1880-1900
	Moses A. Rodgers			1886-1916
	Jim Harris			1867-1935
	Ida Harris			1877-1940
		Infant 1		d. 1897-1900
		Infant 2		d. 1900-1910
		Infant 3		
		Infant 4		
		Infant 5		
		Infant 6		

<sup>9</sup> Research found no evidence of burials in the Harris Cemetery from the fourth generation.



### Significance Evaluation

Four general significance criteria are used to determine eligibility of a property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Properties may be considered eligible for inclusion if they:

- a) are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
- b) are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- c) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction; or
- d) have yielded or may be likely to yield information important to our understanding of prehistory or history.

The Harris Cemetery is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion a, as it is not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. There is no suggestion that it is associated with the lives of persons significant to our past; therefore, Criterion b does not apply. Criterion c evaluation finds that this cemetery does not represent the work of a master and it does not have high artistic values, nor does it embody distinctive characteristics of a type cemetery that would warrant preservation. Under Criterion d, there is only a small possibility for bone preservation sufficient for physical analysis; therefore, the cemetery is unlikely to yield information important to our understanding of the history or prehistory of the region.

### Summary of Due-Diligence Efforts to Notify Next-of-Kin

A legal notice of the proposed relocation of graves at the Harris Cemetery was published in the *Raleigh News & Observer* and the *Durham Herald Sun* on September 13, 20, 27, and October 4, 2019 (Figure 22 and Figure 23). These notifications were published to comply with state law.<sup>10</sup> The purpose was to attempt to notify next-of-kin about the proposed cemetery relocation and locate persons with interest in, or knowledge about, the graves on this property. No response was received to the four weekly legal advertisements seeking information related to the Harris Cemetery.



Figure 22. Legal Notice for the Proposed Relocation of the Harris Cemetery (*Raleigh News & Observer* September 13, 20, 27 and October 4, 2019).



Figure 23. Legal Notice for the Proposed Relocation of the Harris Cemetery (*Durham Herald Sun* September 13, 20, 27 and October 4, 2019).

<sup>10</sup> North Carolina General Statute 65-106 - The party effecting the disinterment, removal, and reinterment of a grave containing a decedent's remains under the provisions of this Part shall, before disinterment, give 30 days' written notice of such intention to the next of kin of the decedent, if known or subject to being ascertained by reasonable search and inquiry, and shall cause notice of such disinterment, removal, and reinterment to be published at least once per week for four successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where such grave is located, and the first publication shall be not less than 30 days before disinterment. Any remains disinterred and removed hereunder shall be reinterred in a suitable cemetery.



### **Proposed Perpetual Care Cemetery Reinterment Site**

The two graves with inscribed gravemarkers (Tessie Harris Evans and Forrest Parker Jr.) and the five identified graves with uninscribed gravemarkers at the Harris Cemetery will be relocated to Oakwood Cemetery at 701 Oakwood Avenue in Raleigh, North Carolina (PIN 1714110503) where they will receive perpetual care.

If other graves, such as the Jim and Ida Harris infants, are identified during the exhumation of graves at the Harris Cemetery, then they will be reinterred at the proposed reinternment location at Oakwood Cemetery.

The Tessie Evans gravemarker will be reset at the reinterment site. Given the condition of the Forrest Parker Jr. temporary funeral home marker, it will be buried with his remains and a new small marker with his name and his birth and death dates will be placed at his grave.

In addition, a permanent marker for the Harris Cemetery will be set at the reburial site. Figure 24 is the proposed wording for the marker. The marker that will identify the reinterment location at Oakwood Cemetery will be revised, if necessary, to account for the actual number of graves reinterred at the proposed Harris Cemetery reinternment location. Figure 25 is an aerial image of the proposed location of the Harris Cemetery burials and Figure 26 is a photograph of the proposed relocation area.

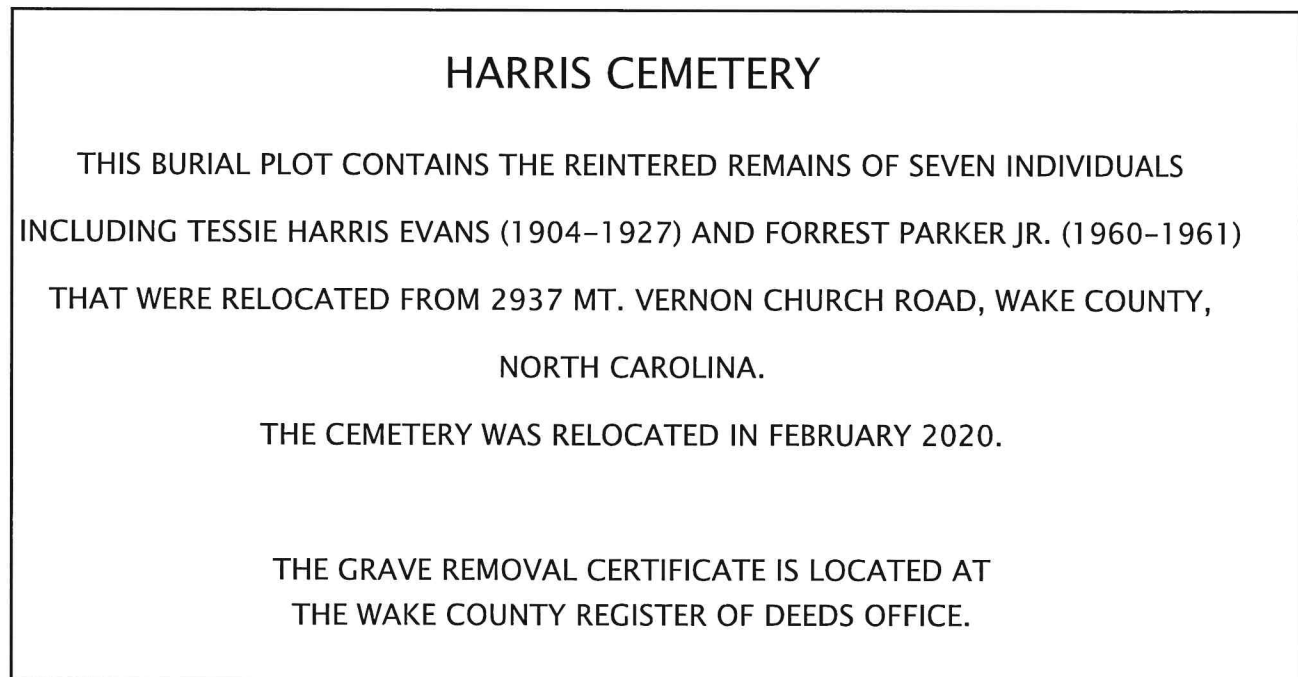


Figure 24. Proposed Marker for the Harris Cemetery Burials at Oakwood Cemetery.

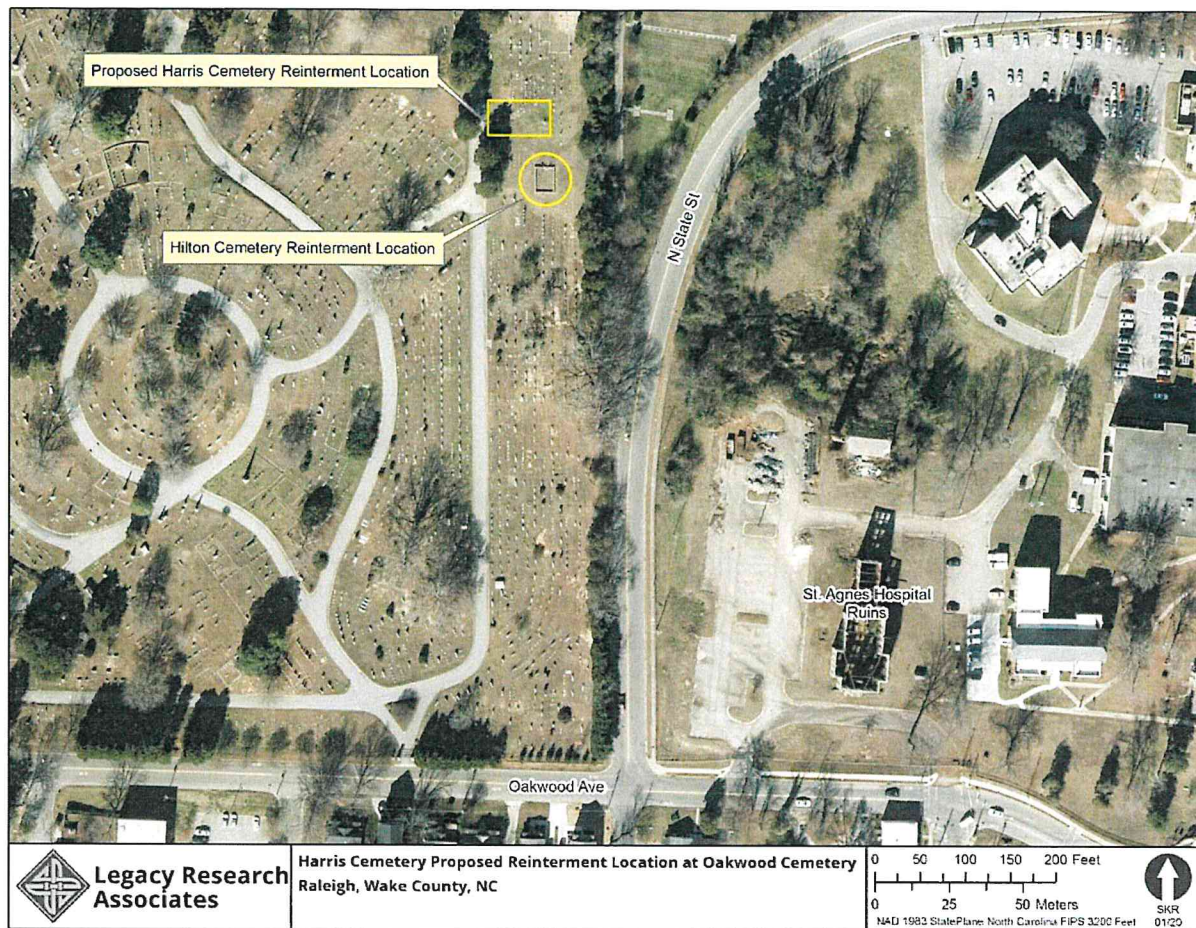


Figure 25. Proposed Reinternment Location for the Harris Cemetery Burials at Oakwood Cemetery.



Figure 26. Proposed Reinternment Location for the Harris Cemetery Burials at Oakwood Cemetery.



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