

# PLG-GR-002291-2020

## Grave Removal Petition

Outlier Graves at the Old Cemetery of Friendship  
Chapel Missionary Baptist Church  
1323 South Franklin Street (Wake Forest Area)

January 19, 2021

Keith Lankford, Planner III

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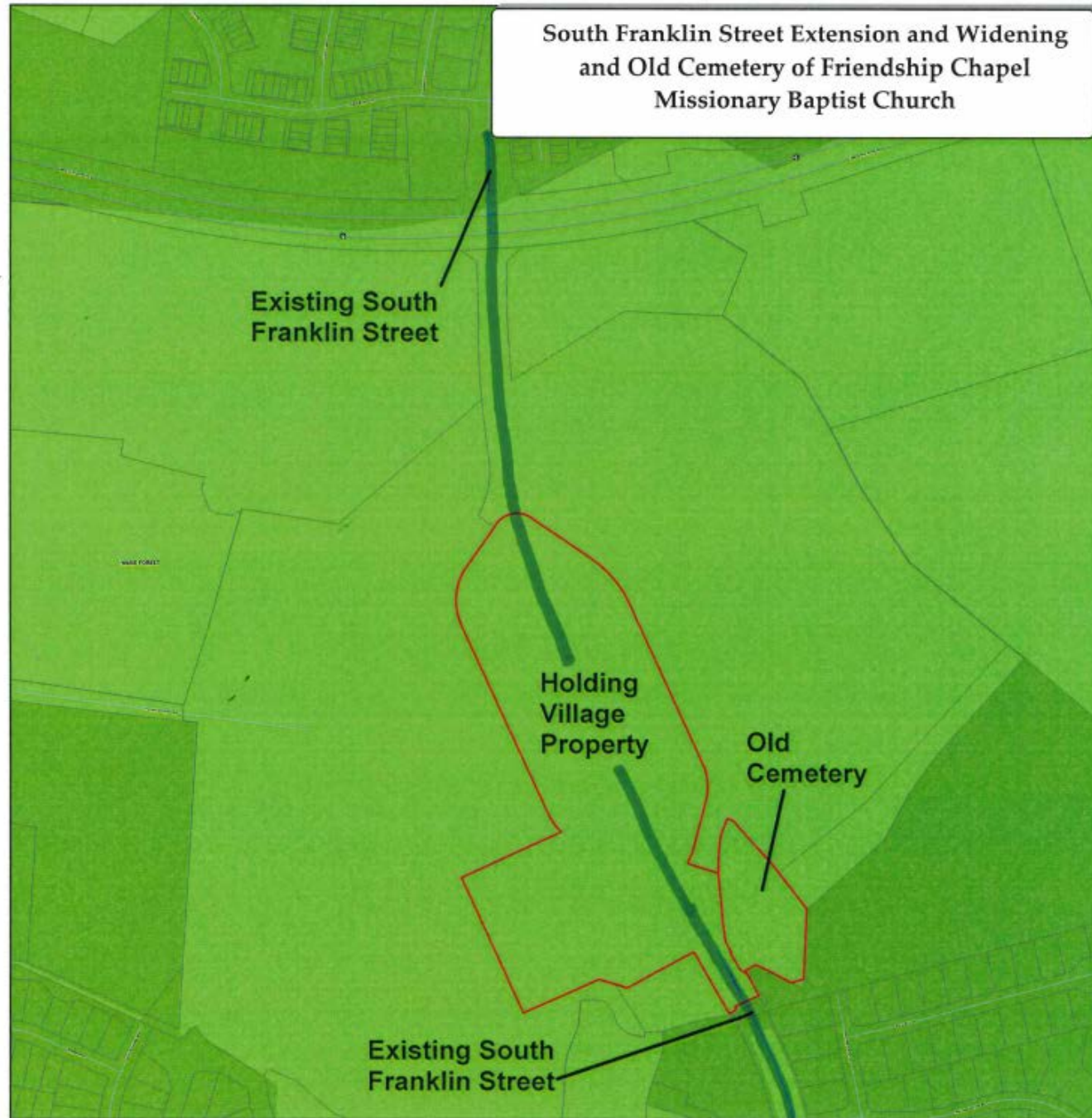
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# Purpose of Grave Removal

To accommodate the extension, and widening, of South Franklin Street as required by the Town of Wake Forest as part of a pending residential development and to preserve the burials within their original historical context and protect them from the pending road improvements.

Petitioner:	Deborah Joy, Legacy Research Associates
On Behalf of:	Current property owners Scott Lay for Holding Village LLC
Location:	1323 South Franklin Street (PIN 1840551011)
Zoning:	Residential (Wake Forest Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, ETJ, Area)
Number of Graves in Petition:	Approximately 2—Actual number cannot be determined with certainty until the site is fully excavated.

# Cemetery Location



# Need for Grave Relocation

- County and town staff evaluated the potential impact of the proposed development upon the Old Cemetery and believed that there may be some encroachment.
- Holding Village had a detailed GPR study performed, modified their site design, and entered into negotiations with the church to provide land to better protect the cemetery in exchange for two small areas that they needed.
- The petitioner was **not** able to avoid encroachment upon these two outlier graves given the required alignment of the South Franklin Street improvements, thus necessitating their relocation to inside the Old Cemetery's new boundaries.
- Holding Village also agreed to construct a fence around the cemetery

# Land Swaps

To church/cemetery  
Areas 1, 2 and 3      7,480 sq ft  
(provides protection of 15 graves)

To Holding Village  
Areas A and B      766 sq ft

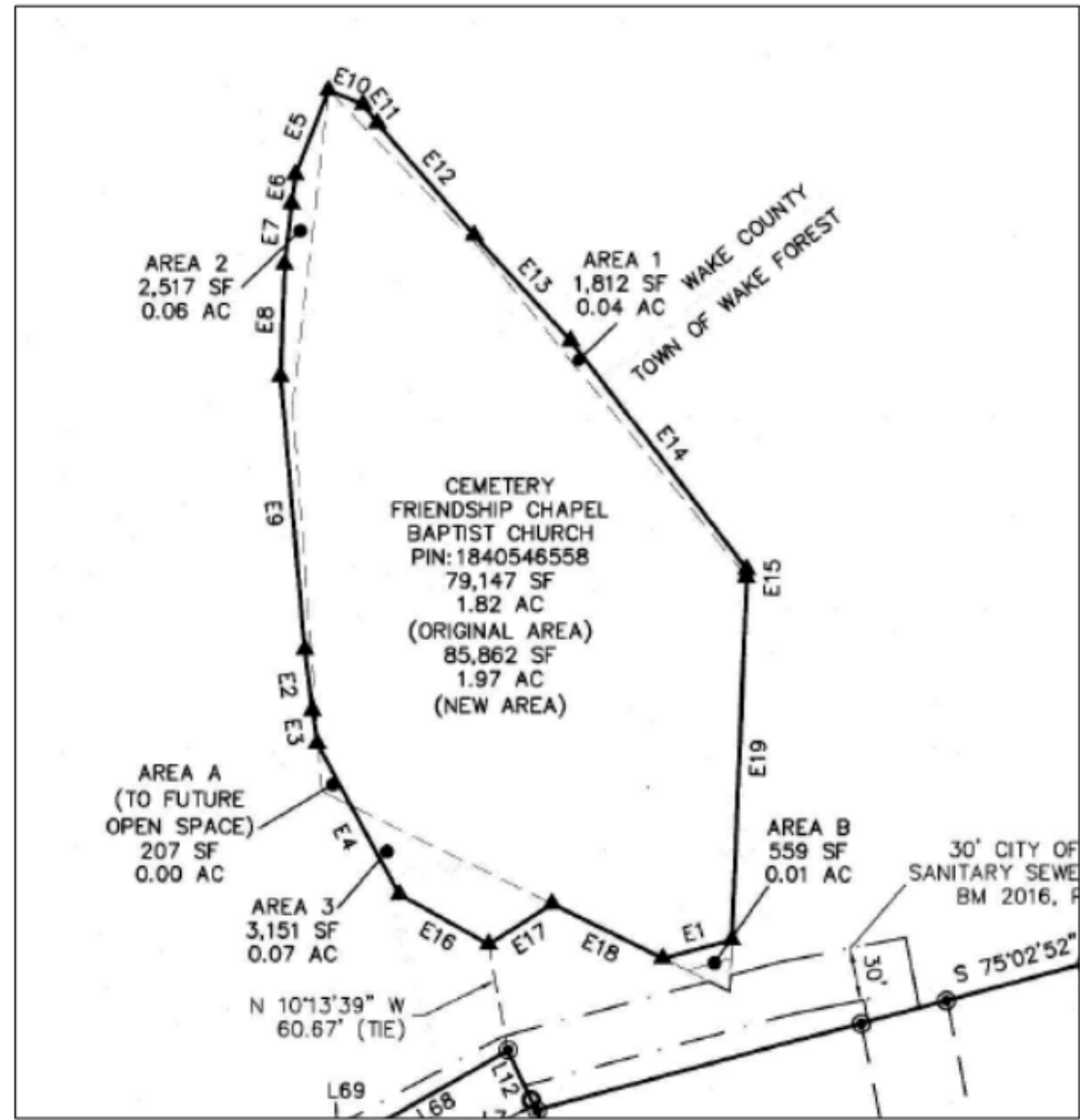


Figure 1. Excerpt of Recombination Plat showing land swaps Area A and Area B conveyed by Friendship Chapel to Holding Village and Areas 1, 2, and 3 conveyed by Holding Village to Friendship Chapel (Wake County Register of Deeds, Book of Maps 2020, Page 345).

# Cemetery History and Preservation

- This cemetery is well documented with a local historic landmark designation.
- The Wake Forest Historic Preservation Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office have approved the proposed changes, including the relocation of these two outlier graves.
- WFHPC issued Certificates of Appropriateness
- Pastor and chairman of the board of trustees have provided a letter supporting the land swaps, construction of the protective fencing, and the relocation of these two outlier graves

# Cemetery Summary

- There are no inscribed markers, or field stones, for these two outlier graves.
- Burials within the adjacent Old Cemetery are believed to range from the 1870s to 1950, although no age can be assigned to these two graves.
- The petitioner was unable to conduct genealogical research for any living next of kin because of the lack of inscribed tombstones and no formal church burial records.
- No next of kin have been identified





Figure 4. Grave 1 and Grave 2 on Holding Village Property, view northwest.



# Reinterment Site

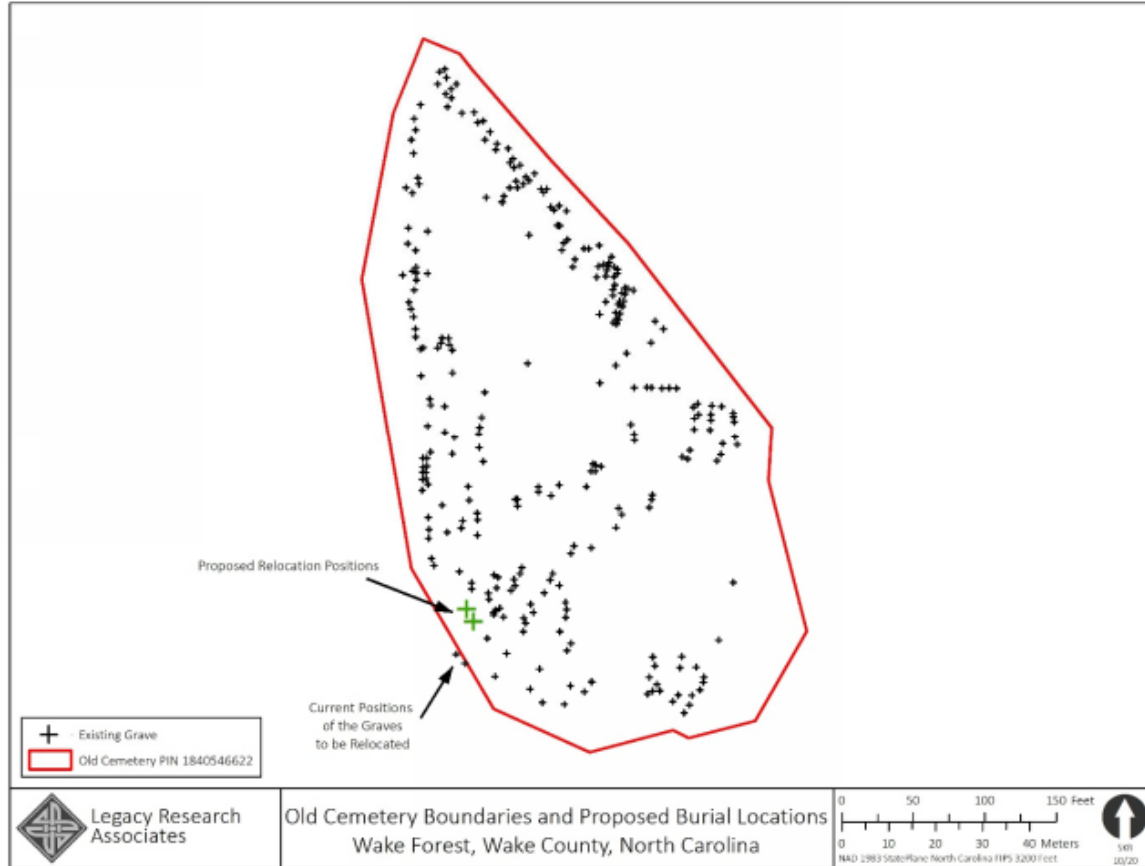


Figure 3. Map of the Old Cemetery showing the GPR location of the two unmarked outlier graves on Holding Village property and their proposed reinterment location within the Old Cemetery.

## Cemetery Map



Figure 7. Proposed Reinterment Site of Grave 1 and Grave 2 within the Old Cemetery, view north.

## Reinterment Site

# Staff Findings

1. The petitioner has fulfilled all of the requirements as outlined by the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. Removal is necessary to accommodate the extension, and widening, of South Franklin Street as required by the Town of Wake Forest as part of a pending residential development.
3. The remains will be reinterred about 30 feet to the NE within the new boundaries of the Old Cemetery where they will be preserved within their original historical context and protected from the pending road improvements.
4. No opposition to the removal and relocation of the cemetery.

# Staff Findings

5. The relocation of these two outlier graves to within the Old Cemetery would not be detrimental to the general welfare of the county.
6. The pastor and chairman of the board of trustees of Friendship Chapel Missionary Baptist Church are supportive of the relocation of these two outlier graves to within the Old Cemetery's boundaries.
7. The Wake Forest Historic Preservation Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office have approved the relocation of these two outlier graves, the adjustments to the cemetery boundaries, and the construction of the protective fencing.

# Planning Staff Recommendation

That the Board of Commissioners APPROVE the disinterment, relocation, and reinterment of the cemetery as requested.

# Public Hearing



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# Suggested BOC Motion

That the Board of Commissioners:

1. Holds a public hearing and approves the disinterment, relocation, and reinterment of the cemetery as requested.
2. Directs county staff to continue receiving public comments on this item until January 20, 2021 at 5:00PM, and to place this item on the agenda of the February 1, 2021 Board meeting.