

TECHNICAL REPORT HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS



**THE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF THE NIPPER
CEMETERY (31WA2320) 12801 DURANT ROAD
(PIN# 1718077469) AND HONEYCUTT CEMETERY
(31WA2321) 12841 DURANT ROAD (PIN# 1718066883)
Bartons Creek Township, Wake County, North Carolina**

PREPARED FOR:

SCE Property Development, LLC
2501 Reliance Avenue
Apex, North Carolina 27539

May 2021

Technical Report 2020-155NC (01)



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GRUBB &
ASSOCIATES

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT BACKGROUND

This technical report details the historical background research and archaeological investigations conducted for a grave removal petition for the Nipper Cemetery (31WA2320) at 12801 Durant Road (PIN# 1718077469) and the Honeycutt Cemetery (31WA2321) at 12841 Durant Road (PIN# 1718066883) in Bartons Creek Township, Wake County, North Carolina. This work was conducted by Richard Grubb & Associates (RGA) on behalf of SCE Property Development, LLC.

Both the Nipper and Honeycutt cemeteries exist on parcels that are currently owned by SCE Property Development, LLC (Figure 1.1). The Nipper Cemetery lies on an 11.85-acre parcel and the Honeycutt Cemetery is sited on a 49.15-acre parcel which surrounds the Nipper Cemetery parcel. Both parcels are on the south side of Durant Road, approximately 0.25 miles west of the intersection of Durant Road and Honeycutt Road (see Figure 1.1).

A 31-lot subdivision to be called Shadow Creek Estates is proposed for the project area, which includes both cemetery parcels (Figure 1.2). This technical report was prepared in support of a Wake County Grave Removal Petition requesting permission from the Wake County Board of Commissioners to relocate the graves within the Nipper Cemetery (31WA2320) and Honeycutt Cemetery (31WA2321) to Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh. The purpose for the grave removal request is to accommodate the development of Shadow Creek Estates and to provide better protection of the remains by relocating them to a cemetery that has perpetual care provisions in place.

The authors of this report meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification for History, Architectural History, and Archaeology.

1.1 Environmental Setting

The Nipper Cemetery is located on the east side of an unpaved farm road that runs north-south through the project area (Figure 1.3). The cemetery lies southeast of the property's 1950s Ranch dwelling (currently vacant) and due south of a cluster of storage and agricultural buildings. The boundary of the Nipper Cemetery is marked by wood and metal fence posts which line its perimeter (Plates 1.1-1.2). The land on which the cemetery lies slopes slightly from west to east toward Honeycutt Creek, which lies along the parcel's east boundary. Grass grows outside the fence posts on the cemetery's north, south, east, and west sides. A large oak tree is centrally located at the west edge of the cemetery. A large, recently cut cedar tree and stump lies south of the cemetery.

The Honeycutt Cemetery is situated approximately 550 feet west of the Nipper Cemetery (see Figure 1.3). The Honeycutt Cemetery is roughly 200 feet west of the 1950s Ranch dwelling at 12801 Durant Road, and a derelict tennis court lies to the north of the cemetery. The cemetery lies in a wooded area of new growth trees, with the exception of a more mature oak tree near the center (Plates 1.3-1.4). The ground is littered with leaf debris and some low-lying weeds. The Honeycutt Cemetery is not marked by an enclosure. Like the Nipper Cemetery landform, the Honeycutt Cemetery terrain slopes slightly from west to east toward Honeycutt Creek.

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 either handcrafted or commercially produced. Gravemarker types can reflect differences in wealth, literacy, ethnicity, and religion. 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 a substantial distance over unimproved roads 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. Both the Nipper Cemetery and the Honeycutt Cemetery are rural family cemeteries that contain examples of folk burial practices from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, such as the use of fieldstones and crudely engraved vernacular markers to mark burial locations. In addition, the Honeycutt Cemetery includes modern gravemarkers such as low, rectangular, granite markers.

Church cemeteries can be found in rural, small town, and urban settings. They are characterized by their close proximity to their associated churches, with some dating prior to construction of the church building itself. Burials are typically arranged in linear fashion and are oriented east to 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 may no longer own ancestral land or affiliate with a church a place to bury their dead. These types of cemeteries can be privately-owned and managed or be 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.

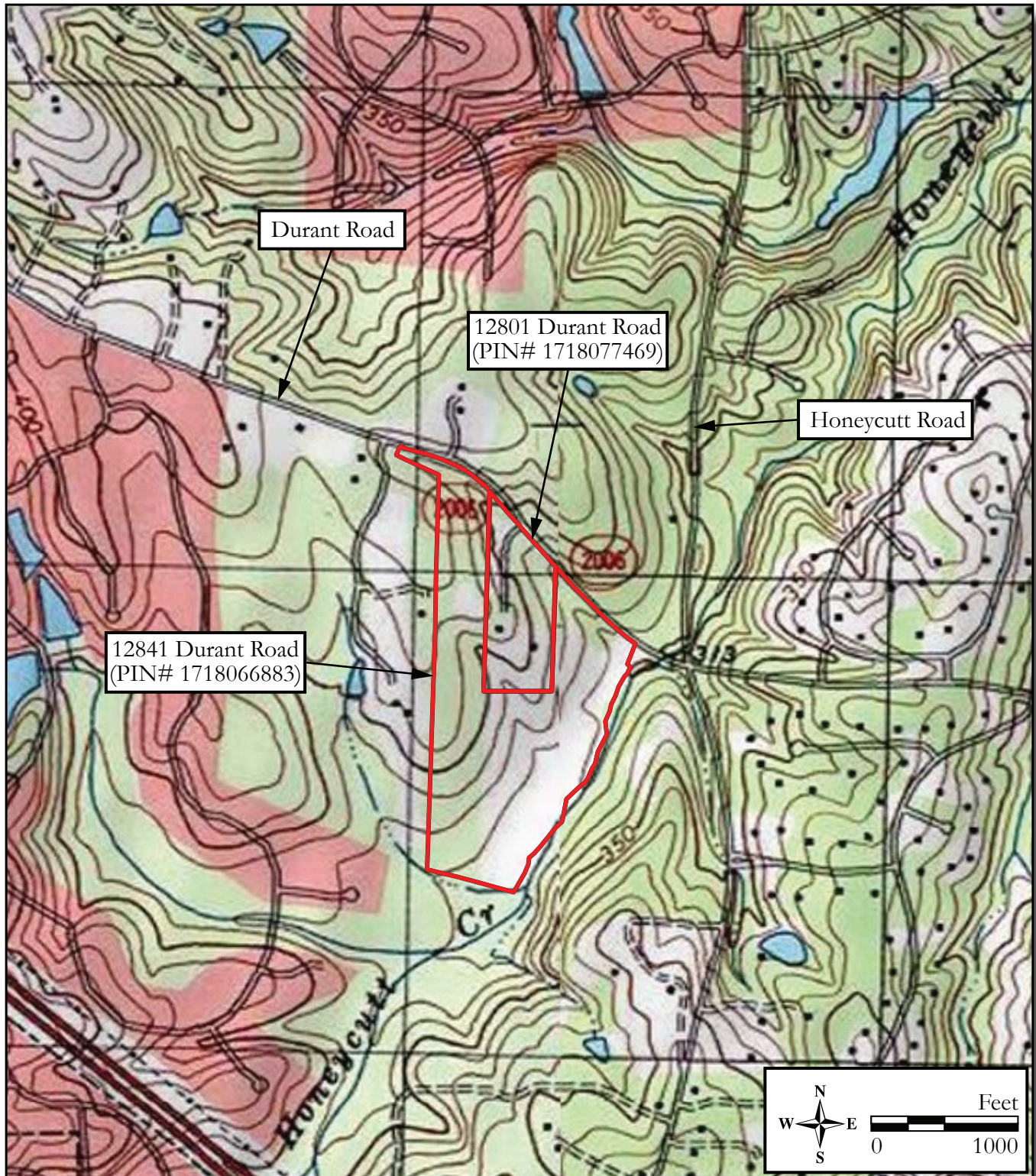


Figure 1.1: Project area showing 12801 Durant Road (PIN# 1718077469) and 12841 Durant Road (PIN# 1718066883) in Bartons Creek Township, Wake County, North Carolina (from U.S.G.S. Raleigh, NC 1980).





Figure 1.3: Nipper Cemetery (31WA2320) 12801 Durant Road (PIN# 1718077469) and Honeycutt Cemetery (31WA2321) 12841 Durant Road (PIN# 1718066883)
(https://services.nconemap.gov/secure/services/Imagery/Orthoimagery_Latest/ImageServer/WMServer?).



Plate 1.1: View of the Nipper Cemetery.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020



Plate 1.2: View of the Nipper Cemetery.

Photo view: South

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020



Plate 1.3: View of the
Honeycutt Cemetery.

Photo view: South

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020



Plate 1.4: View of the
Honeycutt Cemetery.

Photo view: South

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Historical Background Research

Background research was conducted for the following purposes: to locate previously identified historic properties (buildings and cemeteries) in and near the project area; to attempt to identify individuals interred at the Nipper and Honeycutt cemeteries; to glean personal information about those interred; and to notify next of kin.

Due to access restrictions in place at local research repositories due to COVID-19, all research was conducted online. A search of HPOWEB, the online planning and research Geographic Information System of the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (HPO), identified three recorded buildings within 0.5 miles of the project area: Honeycutt-Bailey Farm (WA1305), Honeycutt-Bailey Farm Tenant House (WA1304), and the Honeycutt House (WA1306) (Figure 2.1). All three resources have been demolished. A review of the site files of the North Carolina Cemetery Survey maintained at the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) determined that the Nipper and Honeycutt cemeteries were previously unrecorded. At RGA's request, the OSA assigned archaeological site file numbers 31WA2320 and 31WA2321, respectively, to the two cemeteries.

Three electronic cemetery databases (www.findagrave.com, www.cemeterycensus.com, and www.interment.net) were consulted and no recorded cemeteries were found within the project area. The Cemetery Survey Reports compiled by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s are available through the North Carolina State Archives digital collections. No records were found by searching for the surnames Nipper or Honeycutt.

The Wake County Cemetery Survey is an important tool for researching the county's cemeteries. These paper records, which are normally held at the Olivia Raney Local History Library, were accessed in January 2021 at the Wake County Planning Office in downtown Raleigh. No record was found for the Nipper Cemetery. A record was found for the Honeycutt Cemetery. Other sources of information consulted during this survey include maps and plats, deeds, estate records, wills, military records, marriage bonds, US Census data, and birth and death certificates.

The prior owners of both parcels, Bill and Edward Parker, were interviewed by RGA staff and they provided the history of their family's involvement with the parcel beginning in the early 1950s, as well as background information on the local history of the immediate area and the Nipper and Honeycutt families. Bill Parker shared documentary photographs of the cemetery taken by his father William B. Parker, Jr. in 1958 (Figure 2.2).

2.2 Field Methods

RGA staff Matthew Harrup, Ellen Turco, and Olivia Heckendorf visited the Nipper and Honeycutt cemeteries on June 26, 2020. The purpose of the site visit was to document the cemeteries on OSA cemetery site forms and inspect the cemeteries to estimate the number of graves and the cemetery limits. Non-invasive methods were used to estimate the number of burials. Locating every burial with certainty requires complete excavation, which is beyond the scope of the present survey.

Mechanical removal of soils and exposure are an accepted means to identify archaeological features and were carried out at both the Nipper and Honeycutt cemeteries (North Carolina Office of State Archaeology 2017). Under the direction of Mr. Harrup, who is a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA #17006), a John Deere 4400 front end loader with a flat bladed bucket was used for topsoil removal. Topsoil was removed in limited areas outside the known boundary of the cemetery and did not extend beyond three to six inches in depth. The

use of the flat blade minimizes potential for inadvertent impacts to deeper sediments and particular care was made to not disturb subsoils that could contain burial shafts. Although there is no standard depth for burial shafts in folk cemeteries, the shaft bottoms are generally anywhere between three and five feet below the ground surface. The purpose of the mechanical scraping was to expose the soils underlying the grass and leaf debris in order to ascertain if any soil changes were present, which may be suggestive of the presence of burials. The removal of topsoil would not have reached the depth of the interments, nor would it have disturbed them or other features, had they been present. Following mechanical excavations, Mr. Harrup troweled areas of the exposed ground surface to examine for soil changes or possible features. Soil discoloration can be caused by human activities or natural geological/soil formation processes. Soil changes can occur when a burial/interment is present or when other activities have occurred that required excavation (i.e., refuse pits, posts, utility trenches, etc.).

While the field methods employed represent a reasonable and prudent effort and meet both the present professional standards for cemetery studies, as well as the expected field methodologies of the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology (2017), they are limited in scope. The only method to guarantee locating every burial in a cemetery requires complete excavation.

Nipper Cemetery

The ground surface of the Nipper Cemetery was mostly clear with minimal leaf and pine litter and a few low growing weeds. The gravemarkers were clearly visible on the ground surface. Each gravemarker (headstone and footstone) was photographed using a digital SLR camera. Overall views of the site were also taken. All above ground features, including gravemarkers, fence posts, and assumed boundaries (no grave depressions were observed), were mapped using a Trimble Geo 7X geographic positioning system (GPS) unit and a scaled sketch map was made of the site. Data collected with the Trimble unit is not survey-grade and is intended to be used for planning purposes only. These maps were combined into a roughly scaled site map showing the locations of above ground features.

Grass areas east and north of the fence posts were systematically and mechanically scraped to determine if burials extended beyond the area demarcated by the fence posts (Plate 2.1). Very shallow sandy loam topsoil (i.e., within 3 to 6 inches of the present grade) was observed, which suggests that soil erosion had occurred at this location. As indicated in the Wake County Soil Survey, “The hazard of erosion is severe” for Cecil sandy loam soils (Cawthorn 1970:16). The subsoil consisted of a distinctive red clay. No atypical soil changes or cultural materials were observed in this area. The topsoil south of the fence could not be removed due to the presence of a felled cedar tree. Topsoil removal was not conducted on the west side of the cemetery due to the presence of the driveway. It is important to note that documentary photographs of the cemetery from 1958 depict the Nipper Cemetery with largely the same configuration and approximately the same number of graves as appears today upon visual inspection (see Figure 2.2). The results of the mechanical scraping corroborate this. The mechanical scraping suggests that the cemetery does not extend beyond its visual boundaries to the east and north.

Honeycutt Cemetery

The ground surface of the Honeycutt Cemetery was covered with leaf debris. The gravemarkers were clearly visible on the ground surface. The three gravemarkers with legible inscriptions were photographed using a digital SLR camera, as was a sampling of the fieldstone markers. In addition, several overall views of the cemetery were taken. A field map of the gravemarkers was made by taking hand measurements due to the Trimble’s limits under the heavy tree cover of the Honeycutt Cemetery.

Due to the density of trees, only the northwest side of the Honeycutt Cemetery was systematically and mechanically scraped to determine if any cultural markers extended beyond the visual boundaries of the cemetery. Upon visual inspection of the area, it was determined that there were remains of an old farm road along the southeast boundary of the cemetery. As with the Nipper Cemetery, very shallow sandy loam topsoil (i.e., within 3 to 6 inches of the present grade) was observed. This suggests that the soil has eroded at this location. No soil changes were observed outside of the known cemetery boundary and no cultural material was observed.



Figure 2.1: Location of previously recorded historic resources near the project area (HPOWeb and https://services.nconemap.gov/secure/services/Imagery/Orthoimagery_Latest/ImageServer/WMSServer?).



Figure 2.2: Nipper Cemetery, circa 1958, north end of cemetery facing southwest with Marker 25 in foreground (Courtesy Bill Parker).



Plate 2.1: Topsoil scraping just outside the east fence line and known cemetery boundary of the Nipper Cemetery.

Photo view: South

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020

3.0 RESULTS OF RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK AND NRHP EVALUATION

3.1 Cemetery Description

Nipper Cemetery

For the purpose of this report, the Nipper Cemetery is identified as such because “Nipper” is the sole surname visible on the gravemarkers. The cemetery is an example of a rural family cemetery that contains examples of folk burials from the early twentieth century (Figure 3.1; Plates 3.1-3.8). While the exact number of graves within the Nipper Cemetery is not known, the estimated number based on surface features is approximately 15.

Wood and metal fence posts demarcate the perimeter of the 20-foot by 40-foot area where the estimated 15 graves are found. Currently there is no fencing spanning the posts; however, historical photographs show a barbed wire fence enclosing a reverse L-shaped area. Barbed wire was a typical fencing material which was used to exclude grazing livestock. The ground surface of the cemetery is mostly clear with minimal leaf and pine litter and a few low-growing weeds. *Stomatium agninum*, known commonly as Lamb’s Tongue or Lamb’s Ear, a traditional folk funerary planting, was observed at the south end of the cemetery. Gravemarkers were clearly visible on the ground surface. No gravemarkers were observed west of Markers 21-28, which is in keeping with the reverse L-shaped fence layout in the 1958 documentary photographs (see Figures 2.2 and 3.1). Although grave depressions, which occur when coffins disintegrate and collapse over time, are common in nineteenth- and twentieth-century cemeteries prior to the widespread use of underground burial vaults, none were observed in the Nipper Cemetery.

Fifteen graves are identifiable on the ground surface. Thirteen of the graves are marked with two stones, assumed to mark the head and foot ends of the graves. In the cases of Marker 17 and Marker 20, which are single fieldstones, it is not clear if these mark the head and foot of a single grave, or if they denote separate graves. For the purposes of this report, it is assumed that they mark two separate interments, and that each stone was originally one of a pair and the second gravemarker was displaced. A total of 28 gravemarkers were observed. Twenty-five of the gravemarkers are undressed fieldstones, which would have been collected locally. A few of them display signs that they were shaped in a rough fashion. Three gravemarkers bear handcrafted inscriptions (Marker 4, Marker 15, and Marker 18) (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Inscribed Gravemarkers at the Nipper Cemetery.

Grave Marker	Name Text	Stone Description	Date Text
4	Illegible	Script; roughly dressed fieldstone with disc-on-tablet shape.	Illegible: possibly Cora H. “H”s are visible on the first and second lines.
15	Nathan (?) Nipper	Rectangular cut headstone with block lettering. Footstone is also rectangular cut.	Born May 1911
18	Homey Nipper	Large rectangular cut headstone with block lettering.	At Rest; Illegible

William McDonald Parker, Jr. photographed the cemetery in 1958 “after one of the Nipper family’s visits when the cemetery was cleaned” (Personal Communication with Bill Parker, son of William Parker) (see Figure 2.2). These historical images depict a typical Wake County folk cemetery in the middle of the twentieth century, prior to suburbanization. A fence made of wood posts and barbed wire enclosed the cemetery, which at this time encompassed the reverse L-shape, with the current northwest quadrant excluded from the fenced area (see Figure 3.1). The cemetery surface was clear of vegetation exposing the sandy soil. Earth was “mounded” over the length of the graves and grave goods, such as pottery jugs and flowers were left to honor the dead.

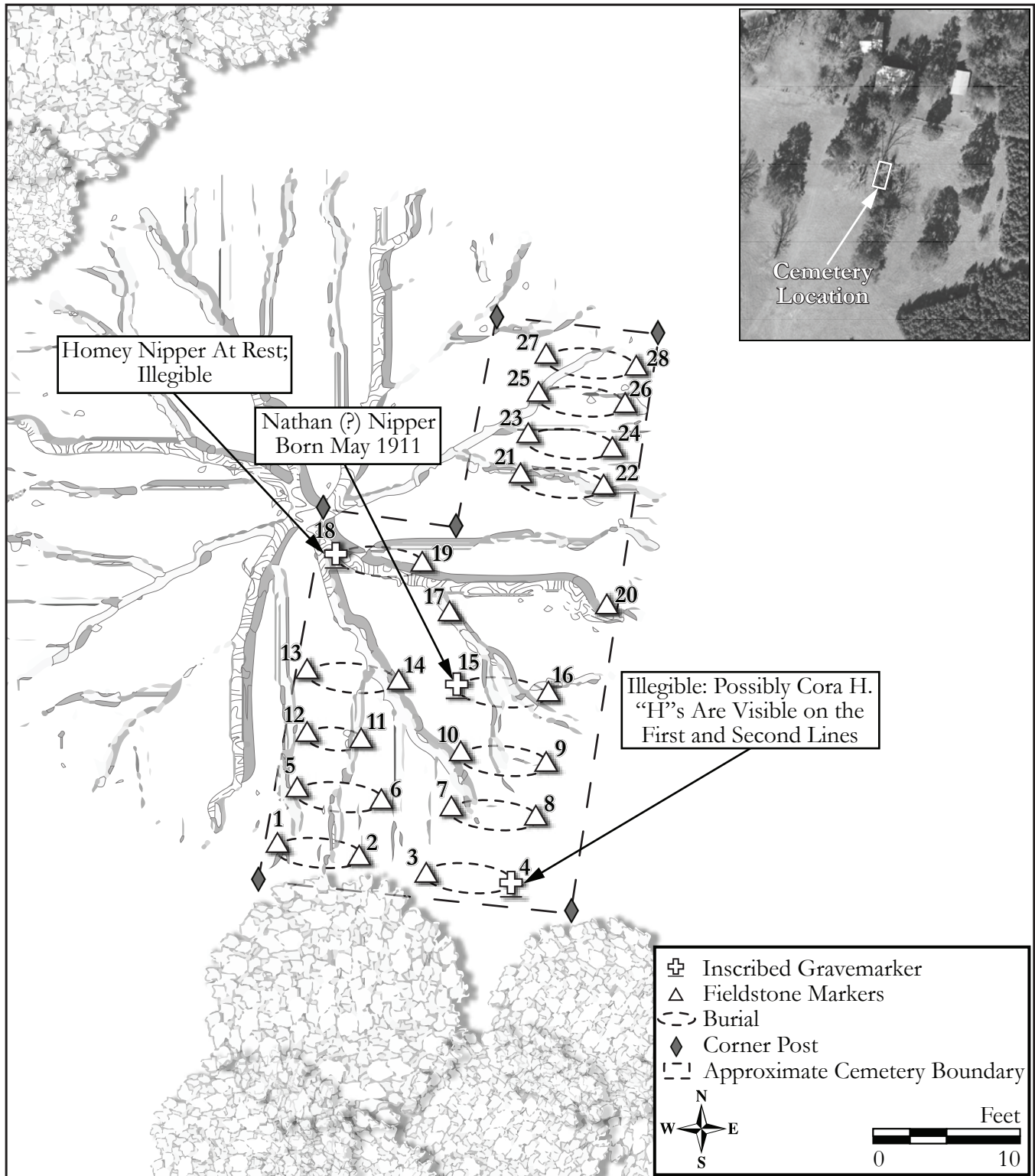


Figure 3.1: Sketch map of the Nipper Cemetery
(Created by David Strohmeier, Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. 2020; revised 2021).

The Wake County Cemetery Survey contained one record for a “Nipper Cemetery” in the general vicinity of the project area. It is unlikely that this record is for the Nipper Cemetery that lies in the project area. There were many Nippers residing in this part of Wake County in the early twentieth century. The Wake County Cemetery Survey record listed the names of David Howard Nipper, William Horace Nipper, Z.W. and L. Nipper, and Mrs. Lavinia Cross none of which are names found in the project area’s Nipper Cemetery. The 1940 US Census lists Z.W. and L. Nipper on Blount Street in Raleigh, and earlier censuses indicate that the pair resided at that address for most of their adult lives. They are buried at Six Forks Baptist Church. Their two sons, David Howard and William Horace Nipper, both died in childhood and their exact burial locations are unknown. Lavinia Cross also lived on Blount Street.

Honeycutt Cemetery

The Honeycutt Cemetery is identified as such because “Honeycutt” is the sole surname visible on the gravemarkers, and because Honeycutt descendants have confirmed this area as the burial place of their ancestors. The Honeycutt Cemetery is an example of a rural family cemetery that contains examples of folk burials from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Figure 3.2; Plates 3.9-3.15). While the exact number of graves within the Honeycutt Cemetery is not known, the estimated number based on surface features is between 15 and 31.

Based on the arrangement of visible burials, the Honeycutt Cemetery appears to have a rectangular shape, and its dimensions are approximately 55 feet by 60 feet. There are no fence posts or any other materials to delineate the cemetery’s perimeter. The cemetery is sheltered by heavy tree cover and its ground surface is littered with leaf debris and low-growing weeds. Gravemarkers were clearly visible on the ground surface. One potential grave depression was observed along the northeast edge of the Honeycutt Cemetery.

A total of 30 gravemarkers and one unmarked grave depression are identifiable on the ground surface. Three of the interments are marked by commercially-produced gravemarkers with legible inscriptions. The gravemarkers for “Richard” Dowd Honeycutt and Martha Fleming Honeycutt are low, rectangular granite gravestones. These gravemarkers appear modern and were likely placed in the decades that followed the couple’s deaths. This later date of placement may explain what is assumed to be a misspelling of the name of Richardson Dowd Honeycutt, the family patriarch identified through genealogical research whose birth and death dates correspond with those on the gravemarker. Melvina Helen Honeycutt Hudson, identified as Helen Hudson, has a grave marked by a marble tablet on a double base (Table 3.2). The remaining 27 gravemarkers are uninscribed and undressed fieldstone markers.

The Wake County Cemetery Survey contained one record for the Honeycutt Cemetery in the project area. The record lists the graves of “Richard” Dowd Honeycutt, Martha Fleming Honeycutt, and Helen Hudson.

3.2 Parcel History/Chain of Ownership

John H. Honeycutt and Talitha Watkins Honeycutt are the first persons to be associated with the parcels within the project area (Table 3.3). In 1850, the Honeycutts operated a 350-acre farm in Bartons Creek Township valued at \$1,000 (US Census 1850). They grew cotton, corn, vegetables, hay and raised a variety of livestock (Lally 1992:307). By 1860, the couple had increased their crop yields, from two bales of cotton in 1850 to 12 bales, and their farm had doubled in value (US Census 1860). The increase in farm productivity was likely attributable to the Honeycutt’s use of enslaved labor. John H. Honeycutt enslaved six people in 1860: two women, ages 28 and 26; one young man, aged 17; and three small children, ages seven, two, and one-half years of age (US Census 1860). The enslaved people resided in three “slave houses” on Honeycutt’s property, the locations of which are not known (US Census 1860). The six enslaved people counted in Honeycutt’s household would have placed the

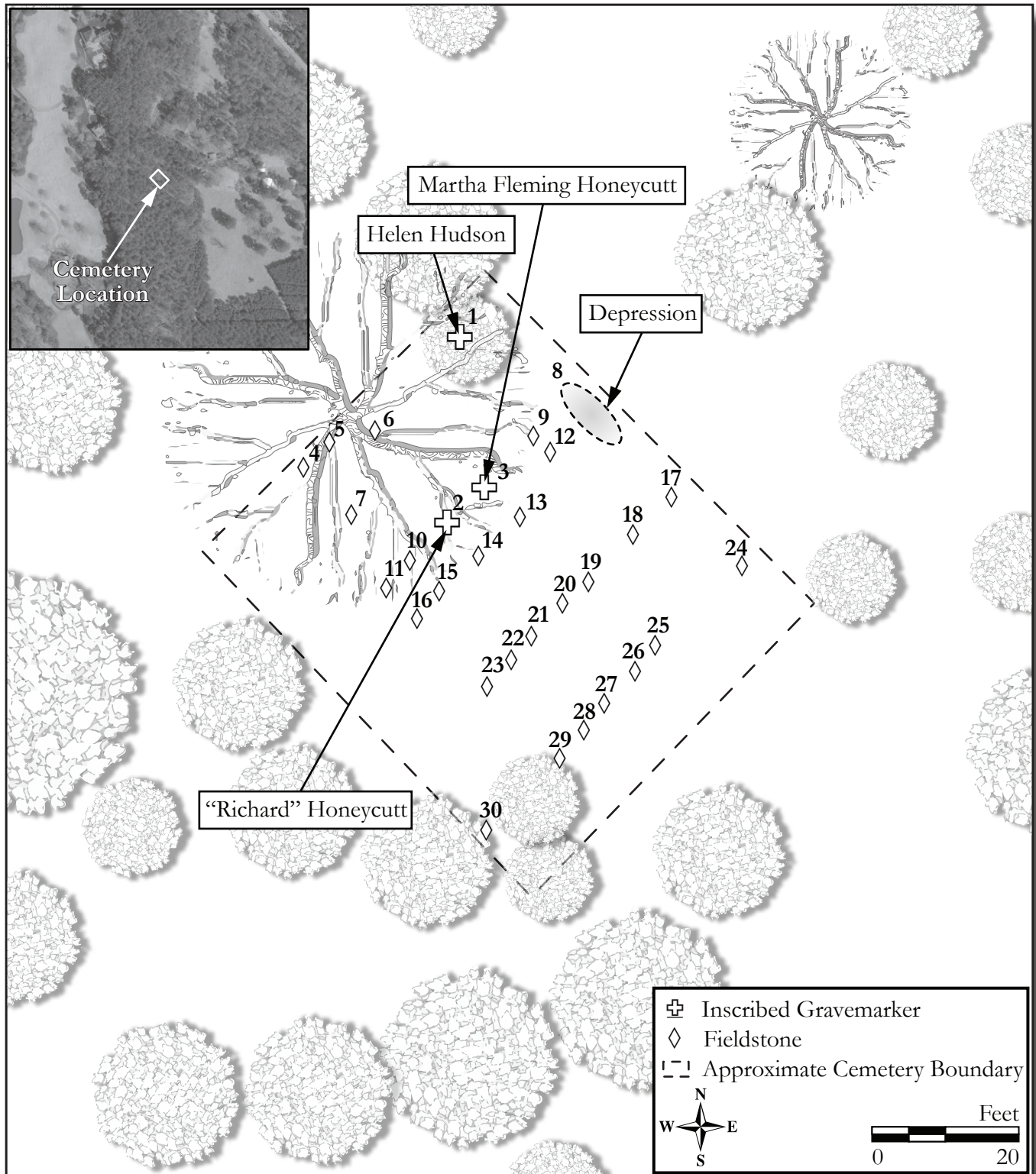


Figure 3.2: Sketch map of the Honeycutt Cemetery
(Created by David Strohmeier, Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. 2021).

Table 3.2: Inscribed Gravemarkers at the Honeycutt Cemetery.

Grave Marker	Name Text	Stone Description	Date Text
1	Helen wife of J. W. Hudson	Marble tablet on a double base with block lettering.	Born Nov. 8 1854 Died May 8 1921
2	Richard D. Honeycutt	Low, rectangular granite marker with block lettering.	Jan. 12, 1844 May 17, 1910
3	Martha Fleming Honeycutt	Low, rectangular granite marker with block lettering.	Feb. 1847 Feb. 19, 1909
4	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
5	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
6	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
7	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
8	No marker	Depression	
9	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
10	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
11	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
12	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
13	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
14	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
15	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
16	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
17	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
18	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
19	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
20	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
21	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
22	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
23	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
24	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
25	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
26	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
27	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
28	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
29	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	
30	No inscription	Roughly dressed fieldstone.	

Honeycutt family outside the county's "planter elite" of 129 families who owned large plantations with over 20 slaves, but among the county's upper third of free white families who enslaved fewer than 20 slaves (Lally 1994:15-16).

John H. "Jack" Honeycutt (c. 1812-c. 1865) married Talitha Watkins (c. 1810-c. 1892) in 1843 (Van Comer 2020). The couple had eight children: Richardson Dowd (1844-1910), John H. (1845-?), William Manly (1846-?), David Oscar (1847-?), Mary (1848-?), James Marion (1850-?), Araminta (1852-1920),

and Melvina Helen (1854-1921), known as Helen. Richardson Dowd Honeycutt and his wife Martha Fleming Honeycutt (1847-1909) are buried in the Honeycutt Cemetery. Richardson and Martha's low rectangular granite gravestones appear modern and were likely placed in the decades that followed the couple's deaths. Melvina Helen Honeycutt Hudson (1854-1921) is also interred at the Honeycutt Cemetery. Her grave is marked with a marble tablet on a double base. Helen married J.W. Hudson in 1893 (Ancestry.com 1893). The graves of Richard (Richardson), Martha, and Helen are the only interments with inscribed gravestones; at least 26 uninscribed fieldstone markers were observed.¹

John H. Honeycutt died in 1865. His oldest son Richardson Dowd (R.D.) Honeycutt, who would have been about 21 years of age at the time, was named executor of the will. John H. Honeycutt left all his "real estate together with all of my personal property" to his "beloved wife," Talitha Honeycutt. Talitha inherited a life estate which stipulated that upon her death the property be equally divided between the couple's eight children (Ancestry.com 1865). The 1870 US Census recorded Talitha Honeycutt as the head of household residing with five of her eight children. William Manly, John H., and Mary were not recorded in the home by the census taker in 1870 (US Census 1870). Also residing in the household were Georgie Justice, a 53-year-old Black man listed as a "farm laborer," and Mary and Corrinna Justice, ages 23 and 12, who were also Black and listed as "domestic servants." It is not known, if these people were formerly enslaved by the Honeycutts, but it would not have been an uncommon arrangement for formerly enslaved people to remain on the land of their former enslavers after emancipation. The Justices place of interment is not known; it is possible, but not confirmed, that they are interred in one of the fieldstone-marked graves at the Honeycutt Cemetery.

It is assumed that Talitha died prior to 1892 because that year R.D. Honeycutt and his siblings sold "lot number five" of the lands of John H. Honeycutt to Helen Honeycutt for one dollar (Wake County Deed Book [WCDB] 124, page 268). The Wake County estate records could not be accessed due to COVID-19, so it is unknown if the survey map referred to in the deed survives; however, the 61-acre description in the 1892 deed matches the size of the project area (PIN# 1718077469, 1718066883) today. Ariminta Honeycutt and her husband Allen Bailey were living on the adjacent Honeycutt lot number four, in the now demolished, Honeycutt-Bailey Farm (WA1305; see Figure 2.1) (WCDB 155, page 172). The 1892 deed indicates that some of the Honeycutt siblings were residing in Tennessee at the time; perhaps others lived on John Honeycutt's other lots.

Helen Honeycutt died intestate on May 8, 1921 and was buried in the Honeycutt Cemetery on the land she owned. Her husband J.W. Hudson inherited the land, and in 1922 passed it to his daughter Ariminta (WCDB 402, page 363).² The land passed out of the Honeycutt family's ownership in 1944 when Ariminta Honeycutt sold the 61-acre parcel to S.D. Alexander (WCDB 905, page 623). Alexander held the tract briefly before selling it to C.S. Arnold in 1945 (WCDB 929, page 98). Arnold sold the tract to John A. Farrior in 1945 (WCDB 929, page 301). William B. Parker, Jr. and Matilda McDonald Parker purchased the tract from Farrior in 1952 (WCDB 1098, page 567). The current property owner, SCE Property Development, LLC, acquired the parcel from the Parker Estate on March 26, 2021 (WCDB 18421, page 244).

Although the Nipper Cemetery is on land that has been associated with the Honeycutt family since the nineteenth century, it remains unclear who is interred in the Nipper Cemetery. Identifying those interred in the Nipper Cemetery is difficult due to the lack of inscribed gravemarkers and, the three gravemarkers (#s 4, 15, and 18) that are inscribed are handcrafted and the text unclear. The Nipper family was known to be present and farming in the Bartons Creek Township in the early twentieth century, establishing what had grown into a large dairy farm by the 1930s. The US Census population

1 The gravemarker in the Honeycutt Cemetery is marked "Richard D. Honeycutt, Jan 12, 1844 to May 17, 1910." It is assumed to mark the grave of Richardson Dowd Honeycutt since the inscribed birth and death dates correspond with the known dates of Richardson Dowd Honeycutt. Richardson's gravemarker is placed next to that of his wife's, "Martha Fleming Honeycutt, Feb. 1847; Feb 19, 1909." These two plain, granite cut block gravemarkers do not appear to date from the 1910s, and were likely placed decades later, perhaps to replace earlier ones. This may also explain the incorrect spelling of Richardson's first name.

2 Ariminta is assumed to be named after her aunt Ariminta, the sister of her mother Helen Honeycutt. It was not uncommon for names to be spelled inconsistently among family members and in historical documents and records.

Table 3.3: Chain of Ownership for Tract 3 of the Project Area (contains both the Nipper and Honeycutt Cemeteries).

Date of Document	Date Recorded	Book/ Page	Grantor	Grantee	Notes
3/26/2021	3/26/2021	18421/244	William B. Parker and Matilda Parker	SCE Property Development, LLC	
9/15/1952	9/16/52	1098/567	John A. Farrior and wife, Dora Farrior	William B. Parker, Jr. and wife, Matilda McDonald Parker	61 Acres; lot 5 assigned to Helen Honeycutt in the division of lands of JH Honeycutt
11/27/1945	11/30/1945	929/301	CS Arnold	John A. Farrior	61 Acres
11/8/1945	11/8/1945	929/98	SD Alexander	CS Arnold	61 Acres
9/25/1944	10/2/1944	905/623	Arimenta Hudson Watkins Lowery and husband AB Lowery	SD Alexander	61 Acres
10/11/1922	10/14/1922	402/363	JW Hudson	Arimenta Hudson Watkins ²	61 Acres; Arimenta only child of JW Hudson and Helen Honeycutt
12/15/1892	1/5/1894	124/268	RD Honeycutt, Et als (siblings)	Helen Honeycutt	61 Acres; lands of JH Honeycutt

² Arimenta is assumed to be named after her aunt Ariminta, the sister of her mother Helen Honeycutt. It was not uncommon for names to be spelled inconsistently among family members and in historical documents and records.

schedules of 1870 through 1940 document Nipper family members residing in Bartons Creek Township and working in agriculture as “farmers” and “farm laborers.” As a side note, one African American Nipper family was identified. In 1900, James and Helon Nipper were working as farmers and heading a household of six children. Interestingly, the family is listed as “black” in 1900 and as “mulatto” in 1910, with the exception of Helon, who is listed as “black” in both records.

As neighbors, the Nipper and Honeycutt families could have intermarried, although a search of online genealogical records did not find any records which indicated this. For the purposes of this report, it is assumed that both the Nipper and Honeycutt cemeteries meet the definition of Abandoned Cemetery under NC GS 65-85 as one that has “ceased from maintenance or the use of the person with the legal right to the real property with the intent of not again maintain the real property in the foreseeable future.”

3.3 National Register of Historic Places Evaluation

The National Register Criteria for Evaluation are the guidelines by which properties are assessed for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). 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 National Register criteria. Cemeteries are in a small category of properties that are not usually considered for listing in the National Register unless they meet additional special requirements, called Criteria Considerations, in addition to meeting at least one of the regular Criteria (A-D below) and possessing physical integrity. To be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, 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 distinctive 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).

Nipper Cemetery

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 Nipper Cemetery was not found to be associated with any such significant events or historical trends. The cemetery is an example of a multi-generational family burial ground, a type of cultural resource that is ubiquitous throughout Wake County. Therefore, the Nipper Cemetery is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

Research did not identify the individuals interred within the Nipper Cemetery. Therefore, the Nipper Cemetery could not be evaluated for its association with important individuals and is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

Properties 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 Nipper Cemetery's collective landscape features of openness, minimal tree cover, and fieldstone gravemarkers are typical of nineteenth- and twentieth-century family graveyards in Wake County. The fieldstone and vernacular handcrafted markers are not distinctive examples of funerary art or craftsmanship. As an entity, the cemetery does not possess the requisite "distinctive features" to be eligible for the National Register. Therefore, the Nipper Cemetery is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.

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

Honeycutt Cemetery

The Honeycutt Cemetery was not found to be associated with any significant historical events or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national levels. The cemetery is an example of a multi-generational family burial ground, a type of cultural resource that is ubiquitous throughout Wake County. Therefore, the Honeycutt Cemetery is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

Only three gravemarkers within the Honeycutt Cemetery have legible inscriptions. This includes the gravemarkers of Richard Dowd Honeycutt (assumed to be Richardson Dowd Honeycutt), Martha Fleming Honeycutt, and Helen Hudson (also known as Melvina Helen Honeycutt Hudson). Research did not uncover any additional individuals interred within the Honeycutt Cemetery. The identified Honeycutts interred within the cemetery and their descendants were not identified as persons significant in the past. Therefore, the Honeycutt Cemetery is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

The Honeycutt Cemetery's collective landscape features of heavy tree coverage, undressed fieldstone markers, a marble marker, and modern granite gravemarkers are typical of nineteenth- and twentieth-century family graveyards in Wake County. The fieldstone markers and the modern granite gravemarkers are not distinctive examples of funerary art or craftsmanship. As an entity, the Honeycutt Cemetery

does not possess the requisite “distinctive features” to be eligible for the National Register. Therefore, the Honeycutt Cemetery is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.

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

A 31-lot subdivision to be called Shadow Creek Estates is proposed for construction at 12801 and 12841 Durant Road (PIN#s 1718077469 and 1718066883). The purpose of this grave removal petition is to accommodate the construction of Shadow Creek Estates and to provide better protection of the remains by relocating them to a cemetery with perpetual care. The three most common planning options for graves in the path of suburban development are: 1) preservation in place; 2) relocation on site; and 3) relocation off site to another cemetery.

The Nipper Cemetery lies on Lot 26 of the proposed Shadow Creek Estates subdivision plan, while the Honeycutt Cemetery lies on Lot 6 (see Figure 1.2). The subdivision plan does not allow for the Nipper and Honeycutt cemeteries to be preserved in place or relocated on site (Options 1 and 2). Relocation of the Nipper Cemetery and Honeycutt Cemetery graves to the Oakwood Cemetery, at 701 Oakwood Avenue, Raleigh (PIN# 1714110503) is the preferred relocation option (Option 3).

Plate 3.1: Nipper Cemetery
markers 1 and 2.

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020



Plate 3.2: Nipper Cemetery
close up of marker 4.

Photo view: West

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020

Plate 3.3: Nipper Cemetery
markers 5 and 6.

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020



Plate 3.4: Nipper Cemetery
markers 15, Nathan (?)
Nipper, and 16.

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020

Plate 3.5: Nipper Cemetery
close up of Nathan Nipper
marker.

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020



Plate 3.6 Nipper Cemetery
markers 18 (Homey Nipper)
and 19.

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020

Plate 3.7: Nipper Cemetery
close up of marker 18
(Homey Nipper).

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020



Plate 3.8: Nipper Cemetery
markers 27 and 28.

Photo view: East

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020



Plate 3.9: Overview of the Honeycutt Cemetery.

Photo view: Southwest

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020



Plate 3.10: Honeycutt Cemetery fieldstone gravemarkers at the base of a tree.

Photo view: West

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020

Plate 3.11: Honeycutt Cemetery gravemarker of Helen Hudson (Melvina Helen Honeycutt Hudson).

Photo view: Southwest

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020

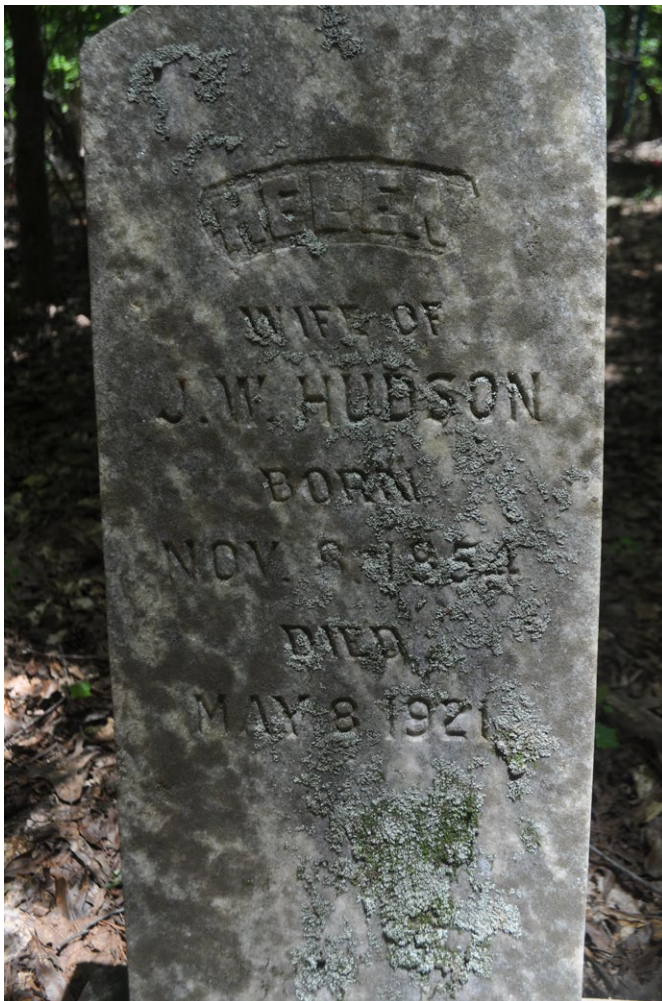


Plate 3.12: Honeycutt Cemetery detail of Helen Hudson's gravemarker.

Photo view: Southwest

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020



Plate 3.13: Honeycutt Cemetery modern gravemarker of Richard Dowd Honeycutt.

Photo view: Southeast

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020



Plate 3.14: Honeycutt Cemetery modern gravemarker of Martha Fleming Honeycutt.

Photo view: Southeast

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020



Plate 3.15: Honeycutt Cemetery uninscribed fieldstone gravemarker.

Photo view: Southeast

Photographer: Ellen Turco

Date: June 26, 2020

4.0 PROPOSED RELOCATION OF THE NIPPER CEMETERY AND HONEYCUTT CEMETERY/DUE DILIGENCE

4.1 Summary of Due Diligence Efforts

It can be challenging to identify the individuals buried in abandoned family cemeteries, particularly when these cemeteries contain unmarked graves, or uninscribed markers, such as the case with both the Nipper and Honeycutt cemeteries. Property records can identify historical property owners who may be associated with the cemetery. However, it is important to note that rural cemeteries in the South may contain the remains of enslaved persons, tenant farmers, or sharecroppers who occupied the land but did not own it.

In an attempt to identify Honeycutt and Nipper descendants, a legal advertisement was placed in *The News & Observer* on December 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2020 (Figure 4.1). This notification was placed to identify the next-of-kin to the interred, or persons with interest in, or knowledge about the graves within the project area. No responses to the legal advertisement have been received to date.

No potential Nipper next of kin were identified during due diligence. Identification of potential next-of-kin for the Nipper Cemetery is complicated by two factors, 1) that the subject parcel was never owned by members of the Nipper family; and 2) only two gravemarkers are incised with names, those of Homey Nipper and the second marker that is thought to read “Nathan” Nipper but is less legible. These names were not found in US Census records from 1850-1940, city directories, deeds, local history books, maps, or newspapers. In addition, a general internet Google search was conducted as well as searching the Find-A-Grave database online. Bill and Edward Parker, the adult children of the previous property owner, provided photographs of the Nipper Cemetery taken when they were young children in 1958 by their father William Parker. The photographs were taken after Nipper descendants had visited the cemetery to tend the graves. This event was the most recent interaction with Nipper descendants the Parkers could recall.

The descendants of W.D. Honeycutt were identified through searches on Ancestry.com and obituaries from *The News & Observer* through Newspapers.com. In addition, general internet Google searches along with Wake County iMaps were consulted to obtain descendant addresses. Letters describing the location of the cemetery and its proposed relocation were sent to the four identified descendants on January 5, 2021 (Table 4.1). To date, three responses have been received and are summarized in the table below.

Additional next of kin or potential next of kin identified prior to the disinterment and reinterment will be sent notification letters and their comments on the proposed relocation solicited.

4.2 Proposed Reinterment Location

The proposed site for reinterment of the Nipper and Honeycutt cemeteries is Section J of the Oakwood Cemetery at 701 Oakwood Avenue, Raleigh (PIN# 1714110503) (Figure 4.2; Plate 4.1). Each set of remains will be placed in individual wood boxes. All inscribed markers will be reset at the reinterment site in Oakwood Cemetery. All fieldstone markers will be buried in the wood boxes with their corresponding remains. The remains within each cemetery will be reinterred at Oakwood within the same order or spatial relationship to preserve any possible family relationships. The two cemeteries will be reinterred adjacent to each other at Oakwood Cemetery. Two new commemorative markers commemorating the Honeycutt and Nipper cemeteries will be made and installed at the group reinterment site in Oakwood Cemetery within six months of the reinterment.

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 the Wake County Environmental Services staff will observe the removal of the remains. The funeral director will file a Removal of Graves Certificate and accompanying maps showing the interment order at both the original cemeteries and the reinterment site at Oakwood. The certificate will be filed with the Wake County Register of Deeds within 30 days after the work is completed. After the reinterment work is complete, letters will be sent to the identified descendants to advise them of the completion of the work and other relevant details.

Table 4.1: Descendants of Richardson Dowd Honeycutt Notified by Letter.

Name	Address	Date Sent	Response
Tanya W. Harrison (daughter of Carolyn Honeycutt Waterman)	5404 Mintas Walk, Raleigh, NC 27614	January 5, 2021	Contacted RGA by phone on February 2, 2021. Requested and was granted permission to bring her mother (Carolyn Honeycutt Waterman) to the site prior to grave removal to photograph the graves. Site visit conducted May 1, 2021.
Tracy W. Green	508 Northwood Drive, Raleigh, NC 27609	January 5, 2021	No response.
Carolyn Honeycutt Waterman (great grandchild of Richard Dowd Honeycutt)	462 Big Willow Way, Rolesville, NC 27571	January 5, 2021	Initial phone conversation with RGA January 15, 2021. Requested and was granted permission to visit the site prior to grave removal to photograph the graves. Site visit conducted May 1, 2021. Ms. Waterman's husband, Dan Waterman, stated that he may want to speak at public hearing. He was informed of tentative May 17 public hearing date and was put in touch with Keith Lankford for instructions.
Walter Honeycutt IV (great grandchild of Richard Dowd Honeycutt)	65 Fairfield Lane, Lillington, NC 27546	January 5, 2021	Email response received January 8, 2021. RGA escorted Mr. Honeycutt to the site to visit the graves. Initially he requested that the three marked Honeycutt graves be moved to Mount Vernon Baptist Church, but after investigating the feasibility with the church agreed that Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh is an acceptable alternative.



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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Ad Number	Identification	PO	Cols	Lines
788247	0004827248	Disinterment of 40 Graves (12801 Durant Road)		1	29

Attention:

RICHARD GRUBB & ASSOCIATES, INC.
525 WAIT AVENUE
WAKE FOREST, NC 27587

In the matter of the intention to submit a grave removal petition to the Wake County Board of Commissioners for the disinterment and removal of approximately 40 graves from two private cemeteries located at 12801 Durant Road, Raleigh, Wake County, NC, and their proposed reinterment at Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina. First Carolina Properties will pay all costs associated with the grave removal, if approved. The Nipper cemetery contains approximately 15 graves, including two inscribed grave markers for Homey Nipper and Nathan (?) Nipper. The Honeycutt cemetery contains approximately 25 graves including three inscribed grave markers for Helen, wife of J.W. Hudson (b. November 8, 1854, d. May 8, 1921); Richard D. Honeycutt (b. January 12, 1844, d. May 17, 1910); and Martha Fleming Honeycutt (b. February 1847, d. Feb 19, 1909). Anyone having information about these graves or the next of kin, please contact Olivia Heckendorf at 919-909-2645 or oheckendorf@rgaincorporated.com.

N&O: December 10, 17, 24, 31, 2020

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, 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 RICHARD GRUBB

4 Insertion(s)

Published On:

December 10, 2020, December 17, 2020,
December 24, 2020, December 31, 2020

, Accounts Receivable Specialist



Figure 4.1: Affidavit of Publication for Legal Advertisement in *The News & Observer*.

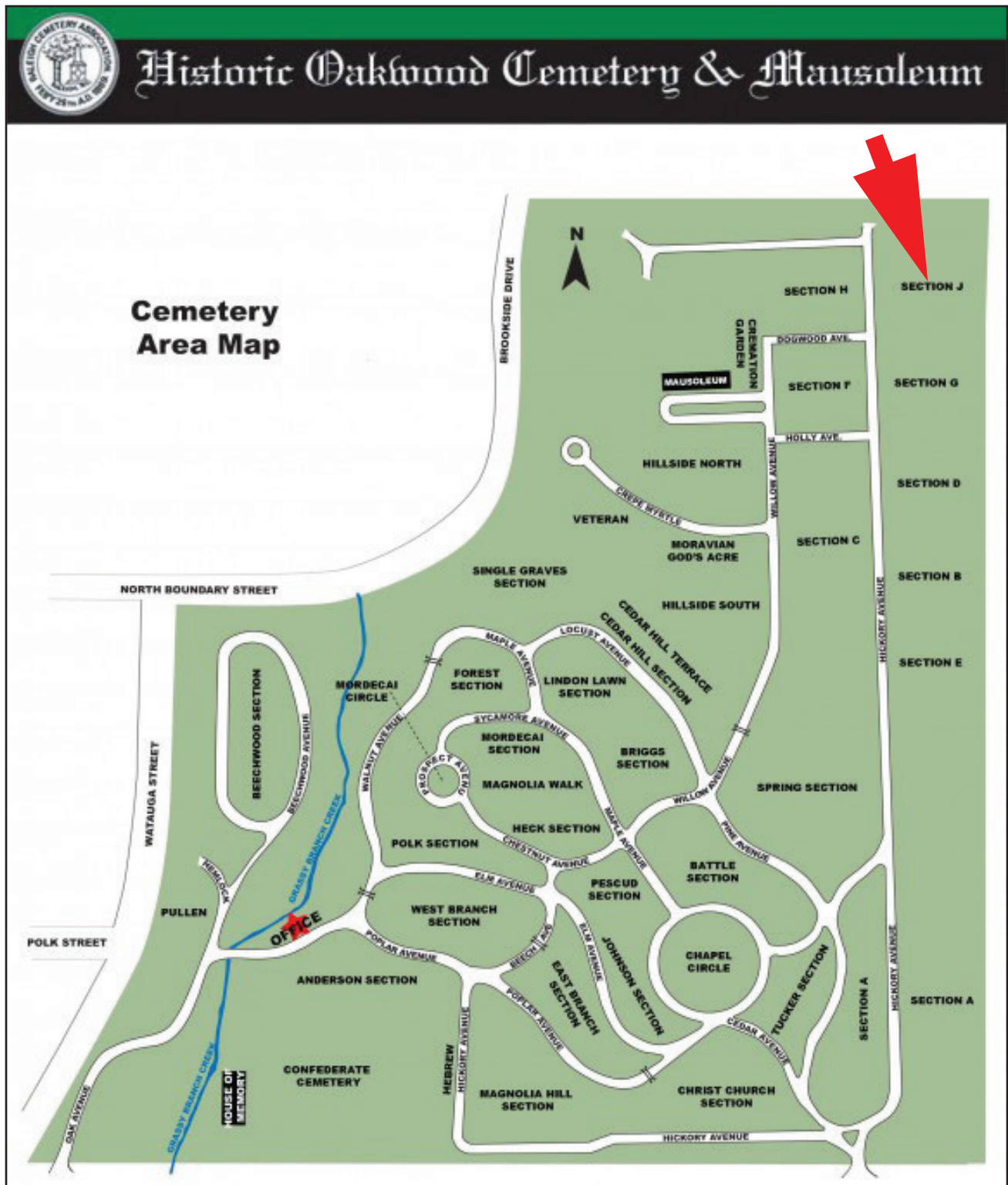


Figure 4.2: Map of Oakwood Cemetery showing Section J, proposed reinterment site for Nipper and Honeycutt Cemeteries.



Plate 4.1: Proposed reinterment site, Section J, Oakwood Cemetery, 701 Oakwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC.

Photo view: North

Photographer: Robin Simonton

Date: February 7, 2021

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