

## APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

### **Preparing Your Application:**

Please type or use black ink and use paper no larger than 11" x 17" for the required supporting information. Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission (HPC) staff is available to provide advice in the preparation of this application.

### **Filing Your Application:**

When completed, the attached application will initiate consideration of a property for designation as a local historic landmark. The application will enable the HPC to determine whether the property qualifies for designation.

Mail the application to Lincoln County HPC, 302 N. Academy St., Lincolnton, NC 28092. Submitted materials become the property of the HPC and will not be returned. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant for revision. HPC staff will contact applicants after receiving an application to discuss the next steps of the designation process (see Landmark Designation Q & A for more information). Please feel free to contact HPC with any questions at 704-748-9090, or e-mail at [lcmh@bellsouth.net](mailto:lcmh@bellsouth.net). HPC can be found on the web at [www.lincolncountyhistory.com](http://www.lincolncountyhistory.com).

### **Thank you very much for your interest in protecting HPC's historic resources!**

*\*The guidelines developed for this application are based on the evaluation process used by the National Register of Historic Places. National Register evaluation principles regarding criteria, category classifications, and integrity have been adapted for local applications.*

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#### **1. Name of Property**

Historic Name: Machpelah Presbyterian Church and Cemetery

Current Name: Machpelah Presbyterian Church and Cemetery

#### **2. Location**

Please include the full street address of the property, including its local planning jurisdiction. HPC Identification (PIN) and Real Estate Identification (REID) Numbers can be found at the Lincoln County GIS property information website at [www.lincolncounty.org](http://www.lincolncounty.org). Click on "County Government", then "Online Services" then click on "Lincoln County GIS System".

Street Address: 226 Brevard Place Road, Lincolnton, NC 28092

Planning Jurisdiction: Iron Station PIN Number: REID: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **3. Owner Information (If more than one, list primary contact)**

Name: Machpelah Presbyterian Church

Address: 226 Brevard Place Road, Iron Station, NC 28092

Phone: (704) 560-9576 Email: wclarknc@gmail.com

#### **4. Applicant/Contact Person (If other than owner)**

Name: Walter Clark

Address: 841 Beth Haven Church Road

Phone: 704.560.9576 Email: wclarknc@gmail.com

#### **5. Signatures**

*I have read the general information on landmark designation provided by the Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission and affirm that I support landmark designation of the property defined herein.*

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE USE ONLY: Received by: _____	Date: _____
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6. **General Date/Site Information**

A. Date of Construction and major additions/alterations: Church, ca. 1848

B. Number, type, and date of construction of outbuildings: N/A

C. Approximate lot size or acreage: 27 Acres

D. Architect, builder, carpenter, and /or mason: Stonecutters/Engravers: John Caveny (North Carolina), J. White (Charleston, South Carolina), L.H. Harrill (Shelby, North Carolina), Carolina Marble Works (Lincolnton, North Carolina)

E. Original Use: Historic Use: Religion/religious facility; Cemetery

F. Present Use: Historic Use: Religion/religious facility; Cemetery

G. Significance for Landmark Designation: Architecture

7. **Classification**

A. **Category (fill in type from below):** Building

- **Building** – created principally to shelter any form of human activity (i.e. house, barn/stable, hotel, church, school, theater, etc.)
- **Structure** – constructed usually for purposes other than creating human shelter (i.e. tunnel, bridge, highway, silo, etc.)
- **Object** – constructions that are primarily artistic in nature. Although movable by nature or design, an object is typically associated with a specific setting or environment (i.e. monument, fountain, etc.)
- **Site** – the location of a historic event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archeological value, regardless of the value of any existing structure (i.e. battlefields, cemeteries, designed landscape, etc.)

B. **Ownership (check one):** ☐ Private ☐ Public

C. **Number of Contributing and non-contributing resources on the property:**

A contributing building, site, structure, or object adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archeological values for which a property is significant because it was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity or is capable of yielding important information about the period.

	<b><u>Contributing</u></b>	<b><u>Non-contributing</u></b>
Buildings	<u>1</u>	<u>                    </u>
Structures	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Objects	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Sites	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>

D. **Previous field documentation (when and by whom):** 1985, Marvin Brown

*Please contact Jason Harpe at the Historic Properties Commission to determine if the property is included in the Lincoln County survey (704-748-9090)*

E. **National Register Status and date (listed, eligible, study list):** Study List application submitted in May 2016

*Please contact Jason Harpe at the Historic Properties Commission at (704-748-9090)*

8. **Supporting Documentation** (Please type or print and attach to application on separate sheets. Please check box when item complete.)

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A. **Required Photographs**

All photographs are required to be **digital, in JPEG (.jpg) format, and submitted on a recordable CD or DVD.** Please note the following requirements:

- **Minimum Standard:** 6.5" x 4.5" at a resolution of 300ppi (a pixel dimension of 1950 x 1350)
- **File Size:** There is no maximum or minimum for the file size of an image; however, smaller file sizes may be necessary when emailing images.
- **Proof Sheet:** Proof sheets are still required to show what is on a CD or DVD without having to load to disk. Proofs may be printed in either color or black and white as long as the images are crisp and legible. There should be a minimum of four and a maximum of six proofs per 8.5" x 11" sheet, with no image smaller than 3.25" on its longest side. Proofs should be labeled as they appear on the disk.
- **Naming Images:** Please label image files for the Local Designation Application as follows:  
LN\_PropertyName\_Description.jpg (ex. LN\_ABCHouse\_front\_façade.jpg)

For buildings and structures, include all elevations and at least one (1) photo of all other contributing and non-contributing resources, as well as at least one (1) photo showing the main building or structure within its setting. For objects, include a view of the object within its setting, as well as a variety of representative views. For sites, include overall views and any significant details.

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**B. Floor Plan (for buildings and structures)**

Please include a detailed floor plan showing the original layout, dimensions of all rooms, and any additions (with dates) to the building or structure. Drawings do not have to be professionally produced nor do they need to be to exact scale, but should accurately depict the layout and dimensions of the property.

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**C. Maps**

Include two (2) maps: one (1) clearly indicating the location of the property in relation to the local community, and one (1) showing the boundaries of the property. Tax maps with the boundaries of the property are preferred, but survey or sketch maps are acceptable. Please show street names and numbers and all structures on the property.

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**D. Historical significance (Applies to all classifications)**

Note any significant events, people, and/or families associated with the property. Please clearly define the significance of the property in the commercial, social or political history of Lincoln County or of the local community. Include all major property owners of the property, if known. Include a bibliography of sources consulted.

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**E. Architectural description, significance and integrity (for buildings, structures and objects)**

For **buildings and structures**, describe significant exterior architectural features, additions, remodeling, alterations and any significant outbuildings. For **objects**, describe the physical appearance of the object(s) to be designated in context of the history of the local community or of Lincoln County. For example, a building or structure might be a community's only surviving example of Greek Revival architecture or it may be a unique local interpretation of the Arts and Crafts movement. An object might be a statue designed by a notable sculptor. Include a description of how the building, structure or object currently conveys its historic integrity. For example, does it retain elements of its original design, materials, location, workmanship, setting, historic associations, or feeling, or any combination thereof? Please include a bibliography of sources consulted.

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**F. Property boundary, significance and integrity (Applies to all classifications)**

Describe the land area to be designated, address any prominent landscape features. Clearly explain the significance of the land area proposed for designation and its historical relationship to the **building(s), structure(s) or object(s)** located within the property boundary or, in the case of **sites**, the historical event or events that make the land area significant. For **buildings and structures**, the designated land area may represent part of or the entire original parcel boundaries, or may encompass vegetative buffers or important outbuildings. For **objects**, the designated land area may continue to provide the object's historic context (i.e., a statue's historic park setting). For **sites**, the designated area may encompass a landscape that retains its historic integrity (i.e. a battlefield encompassing undisturbed historic view sheds).

## 8A. Required Photographs



Figure 1. South Elevation



Figure 2. Southwest Corner



Figure 3. West Elevation



Figure 4. Northwest Corner



Figure 5. Northeast Corner



Figure 6. Southeast Corner



Figure 7. Interior, southwest corner



Figure 8. Interior, northeast corner



Figure 9. Interior, northeast corner. Photo taken from gallery.



Figure 10. Interior and staircase, southeast corner.



Figure 11. Staircase landing and gallery.



Figure 12. Brevard Place Road, camera facing east



Figure 13. Brevard Place Road, camera facing west



Figure 14. Intersection of Old Plank Road and Brevard Place Road



Figure 15. Intersection of Old Plank Road and Brevard Place Road



Figure 16. Intersection of Old Plank Road and Brevard Place Road



Figure 17. Intersection of Old Plank Road and Brevard Place Road



Figure 18. West Elevation. Showing church, cemetery, and portion of property to the south of Brevard Place Road.



Figure 19. Southeast Corner of cemetery



Figure 20. South Elevation of cemetery



Figure 21. Northeast Corner of cemetery



Figure 22. North Elevation of cemetery



Figure 23. North Elevation of cemetery



Figure 24. North Elevation, Graham Family Box Tombs



Figure 25. North Elevation, Graham Family Box Tombs



Figure 26. North Elevation, General Joseph Graham Box Tomb



Figure 27. North Elevation of cemetery



Figure 28. South Elevation of cemetery

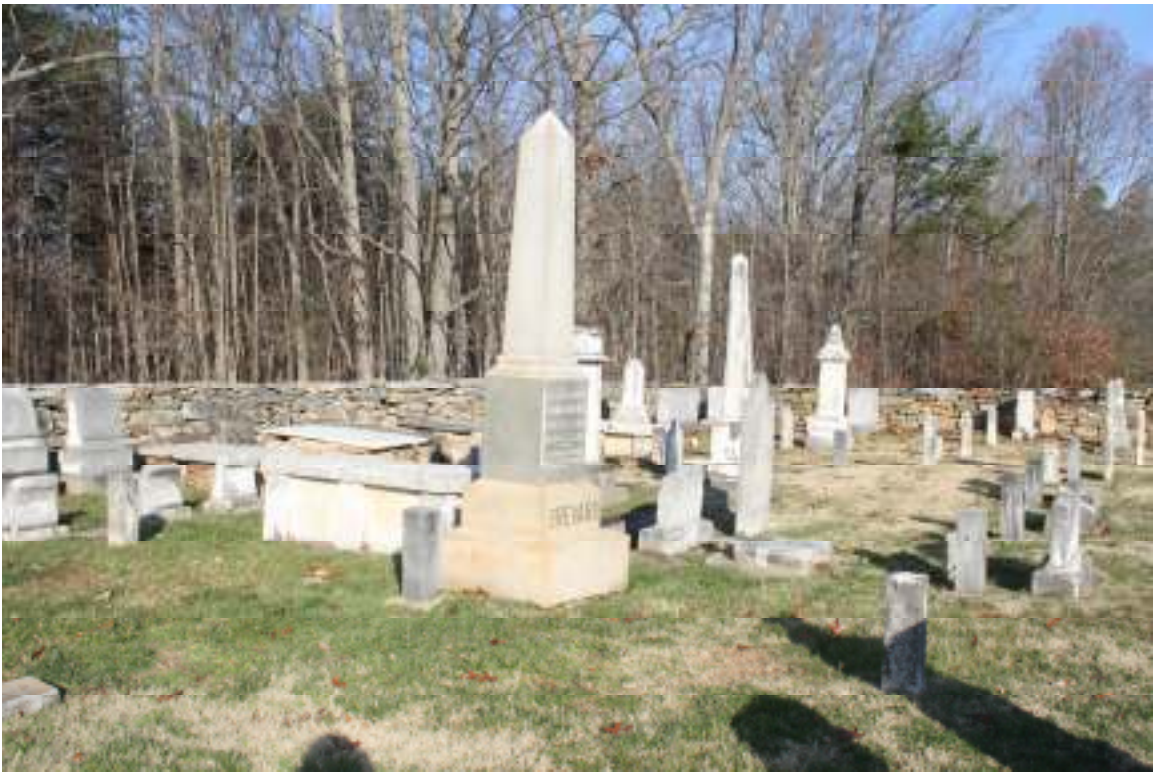


Figure 29. Brevard Family Plot



Figure 30. Harriet Brevard Forney Tablet



Figure 31. Captain Alexander Brevard Monument

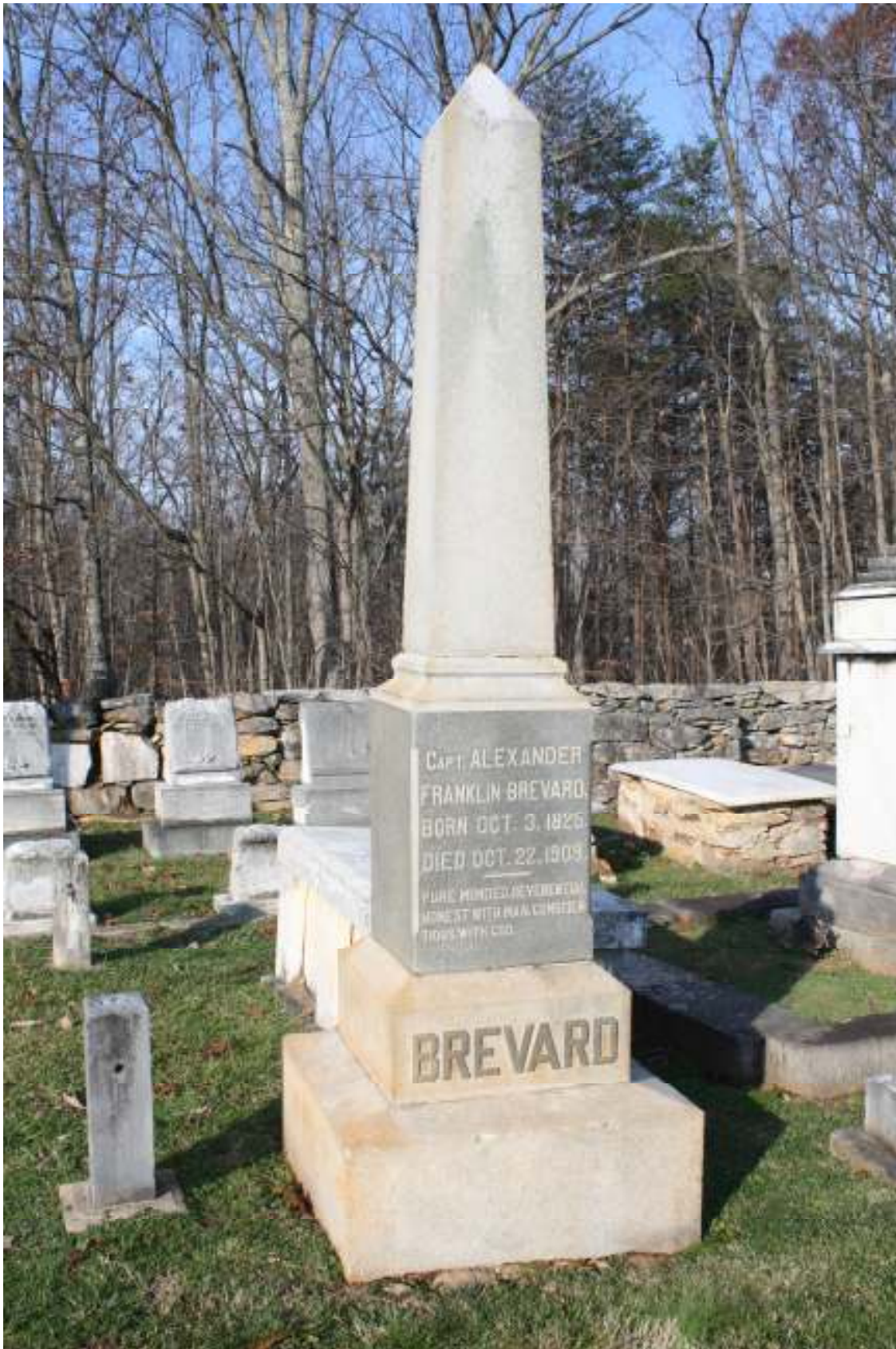


Figure 32. Captain Alexander F. Brevard Granite Monument



Figure 33. Ephraim Joseph Brevard Marble Monument



Figure 34. Dr. Cyrus Hunter Marble Gravestone



Figure 35. Rev. Alfred Brevard Marble Monument



Figure 36. North Elevation, Judge T.W. Brevard Marble Pedestal Tomb



Figure 37. North Elevation, Rev. Robert Hall Morrison Marble Monument



Figure 38. Sarah Harriett Brevard Marble Gravestone



Figure 39. Machpelah Church, 1930s

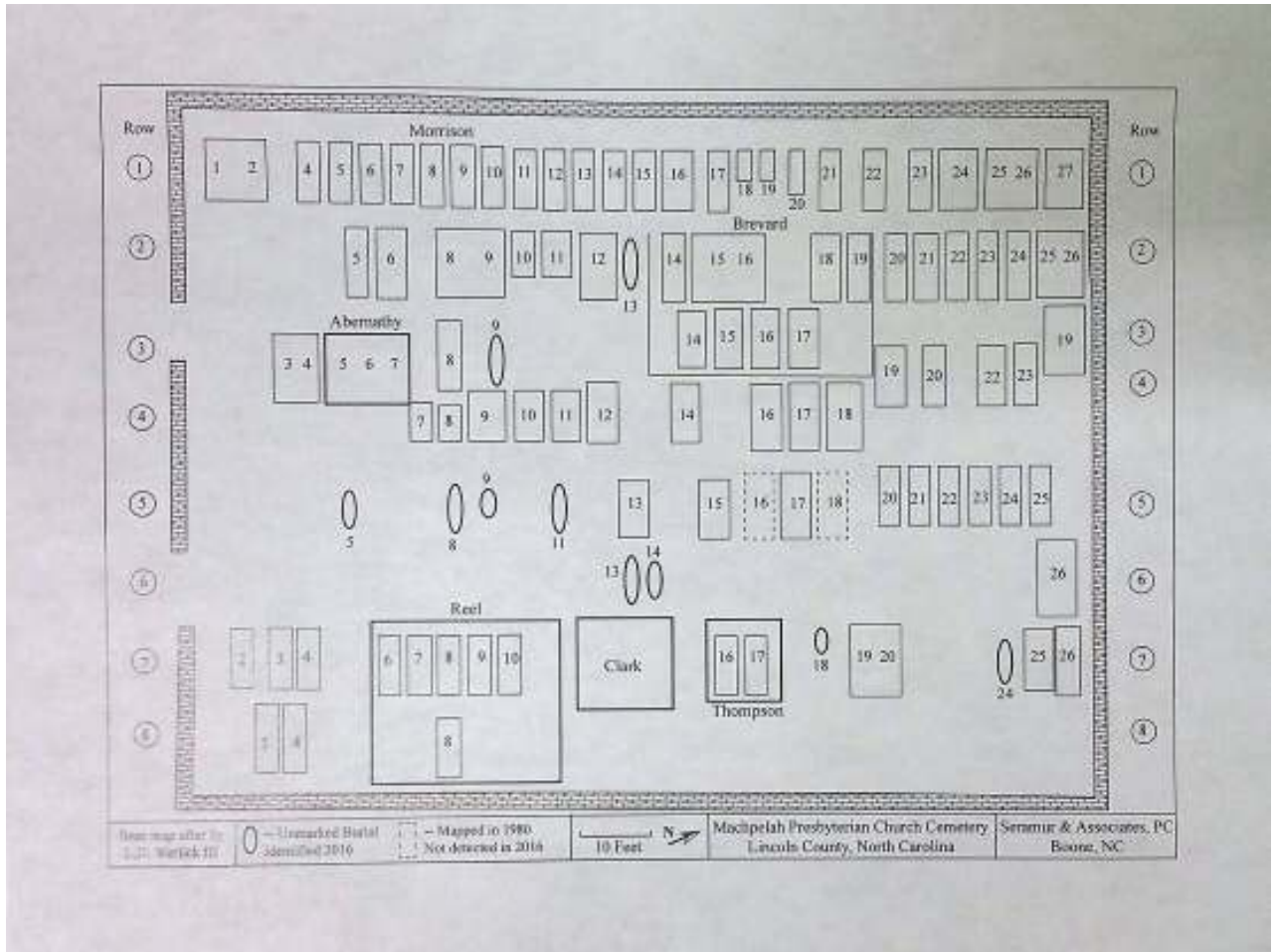


Figure 40. Machpelah Church, 1930s



Figure 41. Rev. Robert Hall Morrison Marble Monument, 1911

## 8B. Floor Plan

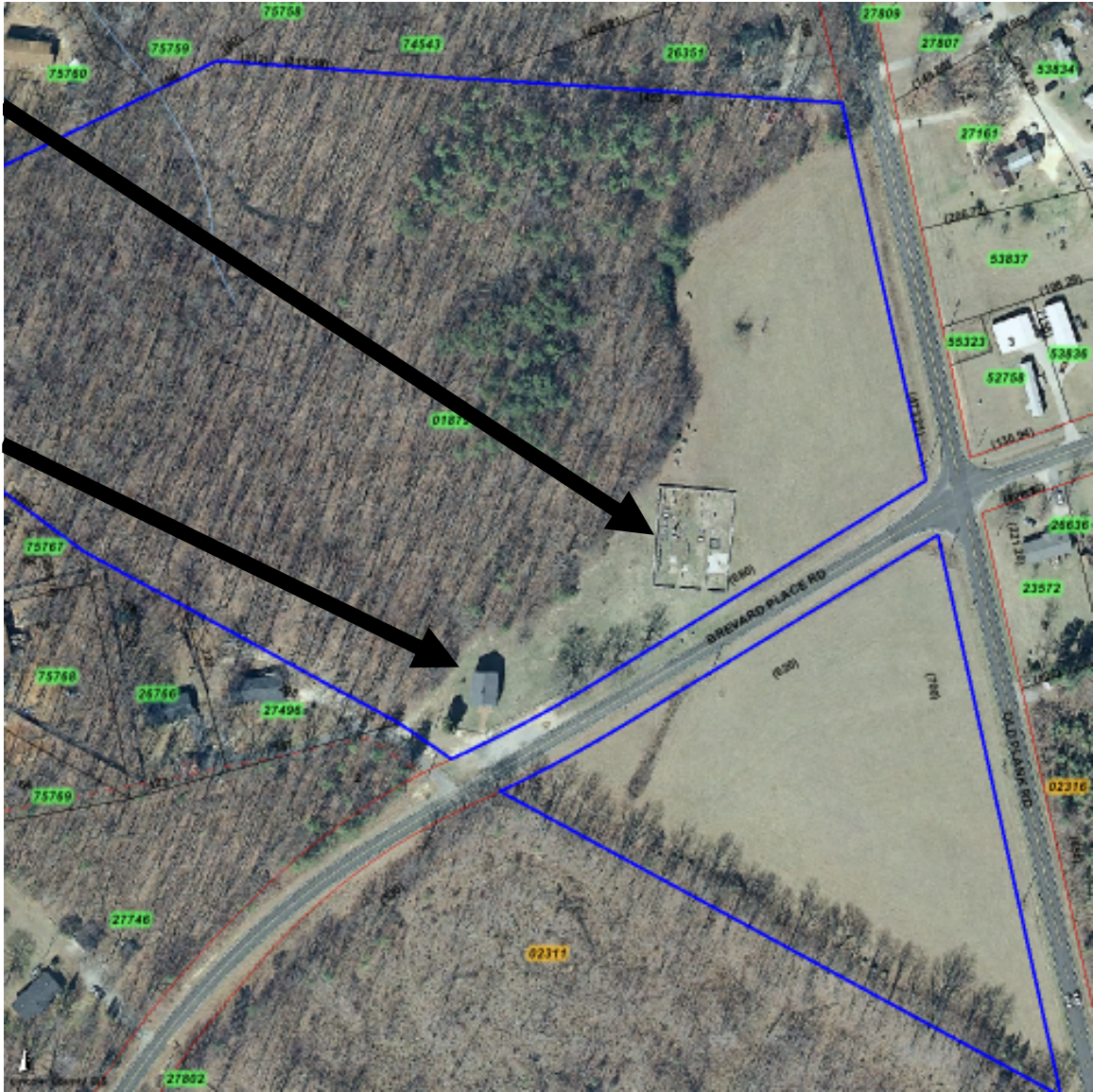


Map prepared by Keith Seramur of Seramur Associates after completing a Ground Penetrating Survey in 2016.

## 8C. Maps

Cemetery

Church



*Landmark boundary Map*

## 8D. History and Historical Significance

### Machpelah Presbyterian Church

The Machpelah Presbyterian Church and Cemetery property was originally owned by iron manufacturer and Revolutionary War General Joseph Graham. In 1837, Moses W. Alexander and Violet Graham Alexander, daughter of Gen. Graham, purchased from John R. Witherspoon and his wife Sophia, Joseph Graham, Robert Hall Morrison and wife Mary, and William A. Graham the "surplus or outlands belonging to the estate of Joseph Graham."<sup>1</sup> One of the tracts of land in this transaction was 161 acres that included the "family graveyard" that is "a little North East from where the Old Dutch church stood."<sup>2</sup> On May 19, 1849, Moses and Violet Alexander sold the 161 acres "surrounding 25 acres reserved exclusively for the use of the Church and Family Graveyard" to Ephraim and Robert Brevard.<sup>3</sup> On December 15, 1859, Violet Alexander sold to C. L. Hunter, J. F. Johnston, Lewis Dellinger, and David Summerow, Trustees of Macpelah Presbyterian Church, 25 acres on which the church and cemetery now stand.<sup>4</sup>

Captain Alexander Brevard, an iron manufacturer with business ties to Gen. Graham, bequeathed several hundred dollars upon his death in 1829 for the construction of a church building near the cemetery, but it was another twenty years before enough money was secured to build the church.<sup>5</sup> The thirty-by-forty-foot building was erected in 1848 at a total cost of \$1,050, and the church was recognized by the Concord Presbytery the same year.<sup>6</sup> An advertisement included that "bids are asked for building brick church at Brevard and Graham graveyard...church to be 44 by 28 feet, with stone foundation 3 feet above ground and fifteen feet from sills to plate."<sup>7</sup> It also added that the building was to have "three doors and ten windows, all to be

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<sup>1</sup> Violet Graham was born on August 31, 1799, the daughter of General Joseph Graham and Isabella Davidson Graham. She married Dr. Moses Winslow Alexander on December 27, 1821, and they lived in Charlotte. Both Moses and Violet are buried at Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville.

<sup>2</sup> Lincoln County Deed Book 37, Pages 217-218. Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

<sup>3</sup> Lincoln County Deed Book 49, Pages 372-374.

<sup>4</sup> Lincoln County Deed Book 49, Page 590.

<sup>5</sup> Alexander Brevard's Will, "North Carolina Probate Records, 1735-1970," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1-19423-57348-29?cc=1867501> : 21 May 2014), Lincoln > Wills, 1824-1838, Vol. 01 > image 99 of 489; county courthouses, North Carolina." Accessed 10 May 2016.

<sup>6</sup> William L. Sherrill, *Annals of Lincoln County, North Carolina; Containing Interesting and Authentic Facts of Lincoln County History Through the Years 1749 to 1937* (Charlotte, N.C.: Charlotte Observer Press, 1937), 140.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

completed in neat and workmanlike manner."<sup>8</sup> The church was named Machpelah after the nearby cemetery.

Rev. Dr. Robert Hall Morrison, while serving as the pastor of Unity Presbyterian Church in Triangle, become the first pastor at Machpelah. The church held services under Rev. Morrison from 1848 to 1889, although they were briefly halted near the end of the Civil War in 1865. From 1865 to 1892, the church's membership declined due to the death of many of its members and other members moving to other area churches.<sup>9</sup>

Pastors from neighboring Presbyterian churches used Machpelah intermittently between 1892 and 1901. The congregation resumed services in 1903 under Rev. W. H. Wilson, the church's second pastor, but Wilson died one year later. Under Wilson's pastorate the church reached a total of 30 members. Wilson was preceded by a number of pastors until the mid-1970s, such as Rev. W. H. Walsh (1903-1905), Rev. Charles H. Little, Rev. J. L. Ray, Rev. T. G. Tate, Rev. F. B. Rankin, Rev. C. L. Wilson, Rev. W. E. Furr, Rev. W. T. Smith, J. K. Parker Jr, and W.H. Matherson. Rev. W. T. Smith served Machpelah while the pastor at Unity Presbyterian, and during the 1930s, the membership at Machpelah reached forty-six members. In 1976, the Presbyterian Church decided to dissolve the congregation, but their decision was reversed because of the church's historical significance. The church and cemetery are now overseen by the Machpelah Presbyterian Church Preservation Committee.<sup>10</sup>

## **Machpelah Cemetery**

The Machpelah Cemetery was started in 1801, with the burial of Polly Graham, daughter of General Joseph Graham. General Graham and his brother-in-law, Captain Alexander E. Brevard, were both local manufacturers of iron who owned large tracts of land in eastern Lincoln County. The cemetery is located midway between General Graham's home at Vesuvius, now Vesuvius Vineyards, to the north, and Captain Brevard's home at Mount Tirzah to the south. They placed the cemetery near the road now known as Old Plank Road, which lead from Lincolnton to Beatties Ford and to Charlotte, and enclosed the cemetery with a rock wall. The wall was later expanded to encompass its current boundaries.

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> "Macphelah Presbyterian Church and Cemetery", Reference File at the Lincoln County Historical Association, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

Machpelah Cemetery became a public burying ground when the brick church building was completed. The most notable people buried in the cemetery are from the Graham, Brevard, Morrison, and Johnston families.

Notable members of the Graham family buried at Machpelah include General Joseph Graham, James Graham, and William Alexander Graham Jr. General Joseph Graham was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania on October 13, 1759, and married Isabella Davidson, daughter of Major John Davidson and Violet Winslow Wilson Davidson, on August 2, 1787. During the American Revolution he served under Generals Rutherford and Sumner in a campaign near Charleston, South Carolina, and participated in the battle of Charlotte. In total, Graham commanded Patriot troops in fifteen engagements. After the war, he was Commissioner in Mecklenburg County (1783-84) and was Sheriff of Mecklenburg County in 1784-1785. He was elected to the State Senate from Mecklenburg County from 1788-1792, and was elected to serve on the board of trustees for the University of North Carolina in 1789. He was engaged in the iron industry in Lincoln County beginning in 1789, and he built the Vesuvius furnace and his house at the furnace in the 1790s. He died in 1836.<sup>11</sup>

James Graham, a lawyer and Congressman from the Rutherford district, was the fourth child of General Joseph and Isabella Davidson Graham. He graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1814, studied law in Hillsborough, and attained admission to the bar in 1818. He began his law practice in Rutherford County, and served in the North Carolina House of Representatives from 1822 to 1824 and 1828 to 1829. In 1832 he was a successful Anti-Jacksonian candidate for the US House of Representatives and served one term and part of another. Graham appeared to have won reelection in 1834, and he began his second term in March 1835, but his seat was declared vacant in March 1836. He then ran for it in the ensuing special election, which he won. Graham, by now a Whig, then won reelection to two full terms and served from December 1836 to March 1843. He was an unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1842, but reclaimed his seat in 1844, serving one term, 1845 to 1847. Graham did not run again in 1846, and moved to Rutherfordton, where he owned a plantation.<sup>12</sup>

William Alexander Graham, Jr. was born on December 26, 1839, in Hillsborough, North Carolina, the son of Governor William Alexander and Susannah Sarah Washington Graham. He received an A.B. degree from

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<sup>11</sup> Sherrill, *Annals of Lincoln County*, 109,111-114.

<sup>12</sup> <http://ncpedia.org/biography/graham-james>. Accessed 10 June 2015.

Princeton University in 1860, and earned the rank of Major during the Civil War. He served in the State Senate from 1874 to 1882, and was a leader in the Farmers' Alliance. He served in the State Legislature in 1905, and was a trustee for North Carolina State University from 1901 to 1906. He became the Commissioner of Agriculture for North Carolina in 1908, and was re-elected in 1912, 1916, and 1920. He edited *General Joseph Graham and his Papers on North Carolina Revolutionary History* in 1904. He died in Raleigh on December 24, 1923, and is buried at Machpelah Cemetery in Iron Station.<sup>13</sup>

The cemetery's largest family plots contain the burials of the Brevard family, and they are encircled by marble posts with both flat and pointed tops. Some notable members of the Brevard family buried at Machpelah are Captain Alexander Brevard, Judge Theodorus W. Brevard, and Judge Brevard's daughter Caroline Mays Brevard.

Captain Alexander Brevard, son of John Brevard, was born in Rowan (now Iredell) County, North Carolina, and fought under General Washington in New Jersey and in 1779, on account of feeble health, was advised by Washington to return home to recuperate. As soon as his health was restored, he rejoined the Southern Army under General Horatio Gates and was transferred later to the command of General Greene. He served during the greater part of the war. After the war, he married to Rebecca (March 20, 1762 - November 24, 1824), daughter of Col. John Davidson. In 1791, Captain Brevard and Gen. Joseph Graham came to Lincoln County and bought from Gen. Peter Forney an interest in the iron business and engaged in iron manufacture. Brevard engaged in the manufacture of iron and in agricultural pursuits until his death on November 1, 1829. Brevard left Mount Tirzah Forge to his son Robert A. Brevard, who operated it until 1870, and Rehoboth Furnace to his son, Ephraim Brevard, who operated it until 1852, when he sold it to F. M. Reinhardt and Bartlett Shipp when it was known as Reinhardt Furnace. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and, upon his death, willed money to help build Machpelah Presbyterian Church.<sup>14</sup>

Judge Theodorus W. Brevard, son Captain Alexander Brevard, was born in 1804, and was a Judge of County Court in Alabama; Comptroller of Florida (1855-1860); and namesake of Brevard County, Florida. Judge Brevard and his wife, Caroline Mays Brevard, moved to Lincolnton after the Civil War

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<sup>13</sup> Sherrill, *Annals of Lincoln County*, 368-369.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, 100.

and operated a boarding school in the old North State Hotel in Lincolnton during the 1870s. He died in 1877, and shares a marble pedestal tomb with his sons, Dr. E.A. Brevard (1839-1871) and Lt. S.M. Brevard (d.1864), and his daughter Caroline Mays Brevard (1860-1920). Caroline Mays Brevard was a graduate of Columbia University, a history professor at Florida State College for Women (now part of Florida State University), and author of the *The History of Florida*.<sup>15</sup>

Other individuals buried at cemetery that are significant historically include the Rev. Dr. Robert Hall Morrison, Captain Joseph Graham Morrison, and Dr. Cyrus L. Hunter. The Rev. Dr. Robert Hall Morrison was born on September 8, 1798, in the Rocky River Section of Cabarrus County, NC, and graduated from the University of North Carolina. He attended Princeton Theological Seminary, and the Concord Presbytery ordained him in 1820. He served as pastor at the Providence Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, at a Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, and at Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. Dr. Morrison was the first president of Davidson College, served for three years, and then retired to his farm and house "Cottage Home" in Lincoln County. He served Unity Presbyterian Church in Denver for forty years, and, while there, organized Castanea Grove and Machpelah. He died in Lincoln County on May 13, 1889.<sup>16</sup>

Captain Joseph Graham Morrison, son of Rev. R.H. Morrison attended Virginia Military Institute before joining his brother-in-law "Stonewall" Jackson as aide-de-camp during the Civil War.<sup>17</sup> Dr. Cyrus L. Hunter (1807-1881) was a local physician, historian, trustee of Davidson College from 1836 to 1870, author of *Sketches of Western North Carolina*, and one of the organizers of the Historical Society of North Carolina in 1875.<sup>18</sup>

## **8E. Architectural description, significance and integrity**

The Machpelah Presbyterian Church and Cemetery is locally significant under the architecture criterion as a rare local example of a mid-nineteenth brick church building with Greek Revival style detailing. The cemetery is locally significant under the same criterion for having gravestones and monuments with distinctive characteristics of forms with artistic merit from the nineteenth century. The cemetery is equally significant for containing the graves of numerous persons who made outstanding contributions to the

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<sup>15</sup> *ibid.*, 100, 225, and 308.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 251-253.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, 252, 308

<sup>18</sup> "The Historical Society," *The People's Press* (Winston-Salem, NC), 20 May 1875.

history of Lincoln County and North Carolina. The church and cemetery maintain a high level of material integrity.

The Machpelah Presbyterian Church and Cemetery are located at 224 Brevard Place Road in Iron Station, Lincoln County, North Carolina. Iron Station, named for the iron industry that flourished in Lincoln County from the 1780s to the 1880s, is an unincorporated area in the Ironton Township of eastern Lincoln County, seven miles east of Lincolnton. The church and cemetery are situated on 27 acres that straddle Brevard Place Road near its intersection with Old Plank Road. To the east of the church and cemetery is a small park of mobile homes, brick Ranch Homes, Tucker's Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, and Tucker's Grove Campground near Brevard Place Road's intersection with Highway 73. Iron Station's population is 754, and it covers an area between Highways 27 and 73.

Historically, Iron Station has been largely farmland, with four iron furnaces (Vesuvius, Madison-Derr, Rehoboth/Reinhardt, and Stonewall) located within a five-mile radius. The area has some housing developments built from the 1960s to the 1990s, but it is still predominantly a rural landscape. Within its geographic boundaries are some of Lincoln County's most historic resources, such as Magnolia Grove, Smith-Dellinger Cemetery, Bradshaw Cemetery, Old Dutch Meeting House Church Cemetery, Major William A. Graham House and Round Barn, Tucker's Grove Campground, Vesuvius Furnace, and Ingleside.

Northeast of the church and cemetery, along Old Plank Road, is a very small community named Machpelah. Named for the church, this community had a post office as early as 1881, and a one-room school by 1900. The post office was discontinued in 1908, and the one-room school was replaced with a larger brick school building when Lincoln County schools went through consolidation in 1922 and 1923. This brick school burned in 1957. A small green DOT road sign denoting "Machpelah" is the only remaining identification for this small community.

The church stands at the property's western boundary line, and is setback forty feet from Brevard Place Road. A stone wall, built by a church benefactor in 2008, angles away from the building's front doors creating a border along the building's south elevation. A brick walkway leading from the parking area to the front doors bisects the stone wall. The stone wall continues north at a right angle near the church's southwest corner. A heavily wooded area stretches north from the church's rear to the property's northwest corner, and along the northern boundary. The cemetery and

surrounding stone wall is located two hundred yards to the east of the church, and the two are separated by a large grassed field and small trees.

The portion of the property on which the church stands is level, but the property slopes slightly to the east towards the cemetery and slightly to the south towards Brevard Place Road. The property slopes south away from the cemetery towards Brevard Place Road, and the portion of the 27-acre tract to the south of Brevard Place road slopes east towards Old Plank Road. This is an open, grassed field.

### **Architectural Context Statement**

Machpelah Presbyterian Church is the only antebellum church building currently standing in Lincoln County that maintains a high level of architectural integrity. Albeit a few coats of white paint, Machpelah looks much as it did when it was built in 1848. The only other antebellum church building standing in Lincoln County is Salem Lutheran and United Church of Christ on Startown Road in Lincolnton, which was built in 1848 as a replacement for an earlier log structure built prior to 1814. But, this building's integrity was comprised when the congregation added a tower in 1914, and an educational annex in 1937.

### **Architectural Description**

#### **Church**

The church is a two-story, front-gabled building with a north-south orientation and a foundation of cut stone. The building's walls are of Flemish-bond brick coursing, and the brick is molded into cornices at the side elevations. Tall nine-over-one double hung wooden sash windows with symmetrical Greek Revival-style window surrounds with corner blocks are at the north, east, and west elevations. The window shutters were added in 2006. The building was first painted white during the 1950s, and was last painted during the 1990s. The north gable end was stuccoed above the two windows, and the asphalt-singled roof is pierced by a chimney stack that no longer services the building.

Cut-stone steps with pairs of metal handrails lead to paired paneled doors that open to the building's interior. The interior retains its original wood flooring, pews and slave gallery. The slave gallery has wood flooring. The pulpit, believed to be original, was reduced in size on an unknown date. All interior walls are plaster painted white, and the ceiling's tongue-and-groove

boards are covered with acoustical tiles. Originally, the ceiling was plastered. The church replaced the plaster with wooden boards during the 1930s, and the acoustical tiles were added during the 1970s.

## **Cemetery**

The Machpelah Presbyterian Church Cemetery contains gravestones and monuments of various materials and forms that date from the earliest burial in 1801 to 2011. The cemetery was originally a family burial ground for both the Graham and Brevard families before the church was built in 1848. The cemetery's gravestones and monuments are enclosed by a square, dry-stacked stone wall. The four-feet-tall wall was built originally by Gen. Joseph Graham and Capt. Alexander Brevard, and was enlarged at an unknown date. Stone steps on the interior and exterior of the enclosure's west wall have an undetermined purpose, but may be part of the earliest section. Two large openings are on the south wall.

The gravestones and monuments are aligned linearly, north to south, and all face east. There are a total of seven rows, and between each row is an area wide enough to walk. The entire cemetery is grassed, but three of the family plots have marble rock in their plot enclosures.

The cemetery has four family plots encircled by granite and concrete coping, but two Brevard family plots are encircled by marble posts connected by chains. One plot has marble posts with a flat top and the letter "B" is engraved on them, and the other has marble posts with a pointed top resembling small obelisks. The monument for Capt. Alexander Brevard, Rebecca D. Brevard, Eloisa Davidson Hayne, and two children of Eloisa Hayne is enclosed by large soapstone coping, and is within one of the Brevard family plots.

The earliest gravestone forms are box tombs, tablets, ledgers, obelisks, pedestal tombs, and a monument for Capt. Alexander Brevard (d. 1829), Rebecca D. Brevard (d. 1824), Eloisa Davidson Hayne (d. 1820), an infant daughter of William Edward and Eloisa D. Hayne (d. 1807), and Alexander Brevard Hayne (d. 1814) that has inset marble panels. Later gravestones from the mid- to late-twentieth century are typically marble and granite die-on-base forms with granite or marble lawn-style markers flush with the ground serving that serve as footstones. A few lawn-style markers that serve as headstones do not have accompanying footstones. One of the gravestones is a lawn-style concrete marker with the name of the deceased and his attributes created by embedding electrical wire in the concrete.

The most significant gravestones are those that were made of gravestone and monuments forms from the early nineteenth century with artistic merit of stonecutters and engravers from the Caveny and White families, and the firms of L.H. Harrell, Shelby, and Carolina Marble Works of Lincolnton. The Brevard monument has an inset marble panel made by John Caveny for Capt. Alexander Brevard, and two marble panels by J. White of Charleston, South Carolina. The panel for Rebecca Brevard is engraved "J. White 1828." Other gravestones by J. White include the marble tablet of Jane McWhorter Brevard (d. 1824), and Sarah Harriett Brevard (d. 1829). L. H. Harrill made the marble obelisk of Ephraim Joseph Brevard (d. 1885), and the marble tab-in-socket of R. A. Brevard (d. 1879). The marble pedestal tomb of Susan Ida Dellinger (d. 1883) was produced was the Carolina Marble Works shop in Lincolnton.

#### **8F. Property boundary, significance and integrity**

##### **Verbal Boundary Justification**

The local landmark boundaries follow the parcel lines of Parcel 01879 as shown with a heavy blue lines on the Lincoln County GIS map at one inch = 100 feet. This map is included in Section 8 C. of this report.

##### **Boundary Justification**

The boundaries encompass 27 acres at 225 Brevard Place Road in Iron Station, Lincoln County, North Carolina, which is acreage historically associated with the church and cemetery.