

NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES

PROVIDING PERSPECTIVES ON THE PAST

A WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS

July 8, 2021

John Coffey
Coffey Grounds Chapel Hill, Inc.
127 Araya Lane
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516
Office: 919-942-6677
Cell: 919-923-9444
coffeygrounds@att.net

Subject: Pedestrian Reconnaissance Survey to Assess an Unnamed Cemetery (31CH1092), Chatham County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Coffey,

New South Associates, Inc. (New South), conducted a pedestrian reconnaissance survey to assess an unnamed cemetery in Chatham County, North Carolina (Figure 1). The previously unrecorded cemetery was first identified during a walkover of 1590 Hamlets Chapel Road by John Coffey (Parcel 1795, PIN 9754-76-5325). During the visit to the cemetery on June 18, 2021, New South identified approximately 27 individual burials marked with fieldstones, depressions from collapsed graves, and three stone piles (Figure 2). These surface indications of graves are spread across an area that measures approximately 60 x 100 feet (0.12 acre) on a slight rise within the parcel. The cemetery was recorded as 31CH1092, and a completed cemetery form was submitted to the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) (Appendix A).

Archaeological Reconnaissance

Sarah Lowry conducted the archaeological reconnaissance fieldwork. This work included a visual inspection of the area to identify the extent of visible markers, depressions, topography changes, and other characteristics that might indicate a cemetery. All identifiable markers, depressions, and other cemetery features were mapped (Figure 2). No ground disturbance or vegetation clearing were conducted.

There were an estimated 27 individual graves marked by surface depressions resulting from collapsed graves (Figure 3a) or local fieldstone markers placed in an upright position (Figure 3b). There were 15 graves marked with a fieldstone, seven marked with a fieldstone and a depression, and five unmarked depressions. None of the fieldstones were inscribed or cut. Graves are roughly arranged in rows and clusters. There are presumed to be additional unmarked graves, lacking a visible fieldstone or depression, that were not identified during the pedestrian survey.

Georgia/Headquarters

6150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083
T/770.498.4155
F/770.498.3809

South Carolina

1819 Hampton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
T/803.771.7083
F/803.771.7087

North Carolina

1006 Yanceyville Street
Greensboro, North Carolina 27405
T/336.379.0433
F/336.379.0434

Tennessee

118 South 11th Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37206
T/615.262.4326
F/615.262.3338



There were three stone piles mapped on the north side of the cemetery. Stone piles are generally interpreted as either stones being removed from an agricultural field, a historic grave marker, or a precontact Native American feature. In agricultural fields, stones are removed from the plow area and piled out of the way. The piles are all on the elevated ground of the cemetery and outside of the presumed historic plow area. However, it is possible that piled stones were used to mark graves in the historic period, as these features have been identified in other cemeteries in the southeast (Matternes and Davis 2010; Tankersley and Matternes 2014). Additionally, stone piles associated with precontact sites have been identified throughout the southeastern United States (Loubser and Frink 2009). These piles are considered unlikely to be precontact in origin, given their association with the historic marker features. Regardless, the stone piles should be interpreted as possible graves unless they are tested. They are within the cemetery boundary, and ground disturbance in their vicinity should be avoided in the same manner a grave would be avoided.

In addition to the grave markers, depressions, and stone piles, other indications of a cemetery were used to establish the cemetery boundary. Approximately six large oak trees in the vicinity of the markers were hypothesized to be associated with the interments (Figure 4a). The area outside of the markers was dominated by secondary growth pine trees. The ground within the cemetery boundary is also slightly elevated from the area outside the boundary, suggesting that the surrounding land may have been plowed. Cemetery ground cover consists of cemetery ivy (vinca or periwinkle), but there are no other funerary plantings visible (yucca, cedar trees) (Figure 4b).

History

The cemetery is not visible in the modern aerial imagery. The 1955 aerial view shows mature deciduous trees in the vicinity of the cemetery and secondary growth trees around them. Photographs show a dirt road or path to the south of the cemetery that is not visible today. Sy F. Robbins of the Chatham County Historical Society Preservation Committee performed deed research for the property and found no record of the cemetery (Appendix B). His research extended back to the Foushee family, property owners in the mid-nineteenth century, but did not find clear evidence of a house on the parcel. The 1901 will of property owner Elias Harris (1818-1901) indicates a residence was located somewhere on the then 75-acre parcel, likely constructed after his acquisition of the property in the 1870s (North Carolina Division of Archives and History 1901). The cemetery is not marked on any topographic maps (USGS topographic maps 1953 through 2019) or the soil survey map (1933).

The Map of Chatham County produced by Nathan Ramsey in 1870 does not mark the cemetery, however, the map does identify two dwellings immediately south of the cemetery belonging to T.A. Fooshee and George W. Fooshee (likely an alternate spelling of Foushee). Archival research indicates that there were many Fooshees and Foushees living in Chatham County at the time. A section of the subject parcel was likely associated with the Foushee family as early as 1850, while the remaining area was owned by Lucian Burnett. The section containing the cemetery was purchased by Elias Harris in stages between 1855 and 1880. Archival research reveals that Harris is not interred at the property but at the nearby Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church (FindAGrave.com 2011). In 1855, Harris purchased a 77.25-acre tract from Lucian Burnett (Chatham County Deed Book A-K: 329). Born around 1807, Burnett was a farmer and landowner

in Baldwin Township. A review of the 1850 and 1860 U.S. Federal Census Slave Schedules indicates that Lucian Burnett enslaved 29 people in 1850, and by 1860, a “L. Burnett” living in Chatham County enslaved 36 people.

In 1875, Harris acquired an adjoining tract associated with the estate of Gaston Foushee. Gaston Foushee received the parcel during the partition of lands owned by his father, William Foushee (Chatham County Deed Book A-S: 448). According to the 1850 U.S. Federal Census, William Foushee lived and worked as a farmer in Chatham County, with real estate holdings valued at \$1,500, and he enslaved 10 people. William lived with Happy Foushee, George W. Foushee (whose dwelling is later identified on the 1870 Map of Chatham County), Gaston Foushee, Thomas H. Foushee, Hastelin Foushee, John Foushee, and Margaret Foushee (U.S. Census Bureau 1850). George W. Foushee is buried at Mount Gilead Baptist Church cemetery in Pittsboro, however six members of the family, including Thomas Henry Foushee (1831-1901), Wesley Foushee, Happy Foushee (1830-1901), and John Foushee, are buried in the “Foushee Graveyard” in Bynum. While an exact location of the family graveyard is unknown, the town of Bynum is about two miles south of the subject parcel. The unmarked burial site could be located on land historically associated with the Foushee family, which extends across Hamlets Chapel Road (FindAGrave.com 2017).

While it is unclear if this cemetery is the “Foushee Graveyard,” archives demonstrate that the subject parcel was not owned by the Foushee family (specifically Thomas Henry Foushee) at the time of most of the graveyard’s internments, circa 1901. Surface features, the number of burials, and the knowledge that deeds and maps typically do not note the cemeteries of the enslaved suggest the cemetery contains burials of enslaved people owned by both the Burnetts and the Foushees prior to emancipation. No identifying information was found in the cemetery. No firm dates could be established for the use of the cemetery because no markers had any inscriptions, and no historic records identified had any cemetery information. The absence of modern funerary materials (e.g. funeral home markers, cemetery wreath wire, or formal grave markers) indicates that this cemetery was not used in the late nineteenth or twentieth centuries. The cemetery is hypothesized to date prior to mid-nineteenth century, and is in fair-to-good condition for its estimated age.

Recommendations

A lack of formal markers or nearby structures, combined with evidence that the nineteenth century property owners enslaved people prior to emancipation, supports the hypothesis that this cemetery is associated with enslaved Africans. This is supported by the title search indicating no record of a cemetery or intensive habitation of this section of the parcel after the Civil War.

The cemetery boundary was identified using the site topography, marker locations, and vegetation. Because there could always be additional unmarked graves, New South recommends placing a 10-meter (33 ft.) buffer around its boundary (expanding the 0.12-acre cemetery to 0.4-acre) (Figure 2). It is recommended that the cemetery boundary be mapped by a licensed surveyor and added to the property deed to record the cemetery. All ground disturbance in the cemetery and buffer should be avoided.

Activities that may disturb a known cemetery are subject to North Carolina G.S. 65-12, *Abandoned and Neglected Cemeteries*, or G.S. 70-3, *Unmarked Human Burial and Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act*. If avoidance is not possible, these statutes spell out the process and procedures for

disinterment and inadvertent discoveries. Consultation with the Office of State Archaeology would be required to determine the exact legal path for disinterment. Please note that this process requires a public hearing of the County commission, notification of next of kin, advertisement in a newspaper for four consecutive weeks prior to the planned work, physical disinterment, and reburial in a modern cemetery.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES, INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah Lowry".

Sarah Lowry, MA, RPA
Director of Geophysics/Archaeologist

REFERENCES CITED

FindAGrave.com

- 2011 Elias H. Harris Gravesite. *Find A Grave Memorial 66917096*. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/66917096/elias-h-harris>, accessed July 1, 2021.
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- 2009 An Archaeological and Ethnohistorical Appraisal of a Piled Stone Feature Complex in the Mountains of North Georgia. *Rock Art Research* 26(1):25–27.

Matternes, Hugh, and Valerie Davis

- 2010 A Survey of Select Parcels Adjacent to the New Hope United Methodist Church and Jackson Family Cemeteries, Fulton County, Georgia. New South Associates, Inc., Stone Mountain, Georgia.

North Carolina Division of Archives and History

- 1901 Wills and Estate Papers (Chatham County), 1663-1978. *Ancestry.com*. Archival, https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/601218:9061?tid=&pid=&queryId=b7e3eea2cb7634cd8aa2f54f888549f4&_phsrc=kyM1282&_phstart=successSource, accessed April 14, 2021.

Tankersley, Matthew, and Hugh B. Matternes

- 2014 Phase I Archaeological Survey of SR 347/Lanier Islands Parkway from Lake Lanier to McEver Road, Hall County, Georgia. New South Associates, Inc., Stone Mountain, Georgia.

U.S. Census Bureau

- 1850 1850 United States Federal Census for Chatham County, NC. *Ancestry.com*. Archival, accessed April 13, 2021.

Figure 1. Cemetery Location in Chatham County.

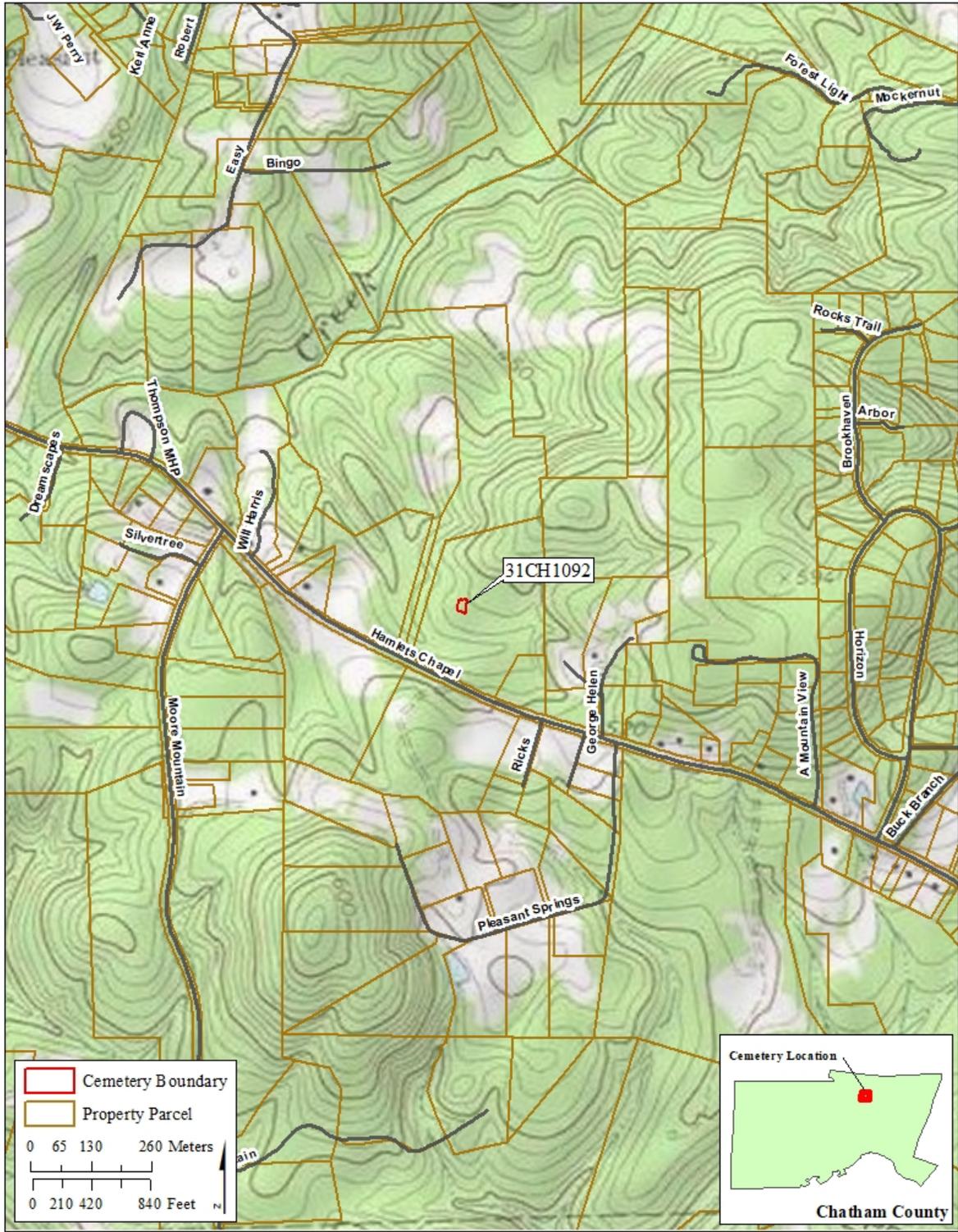


Image Source: USGS Bynum 7.5' Quadrangle

Figure 2. Cemetery Map.

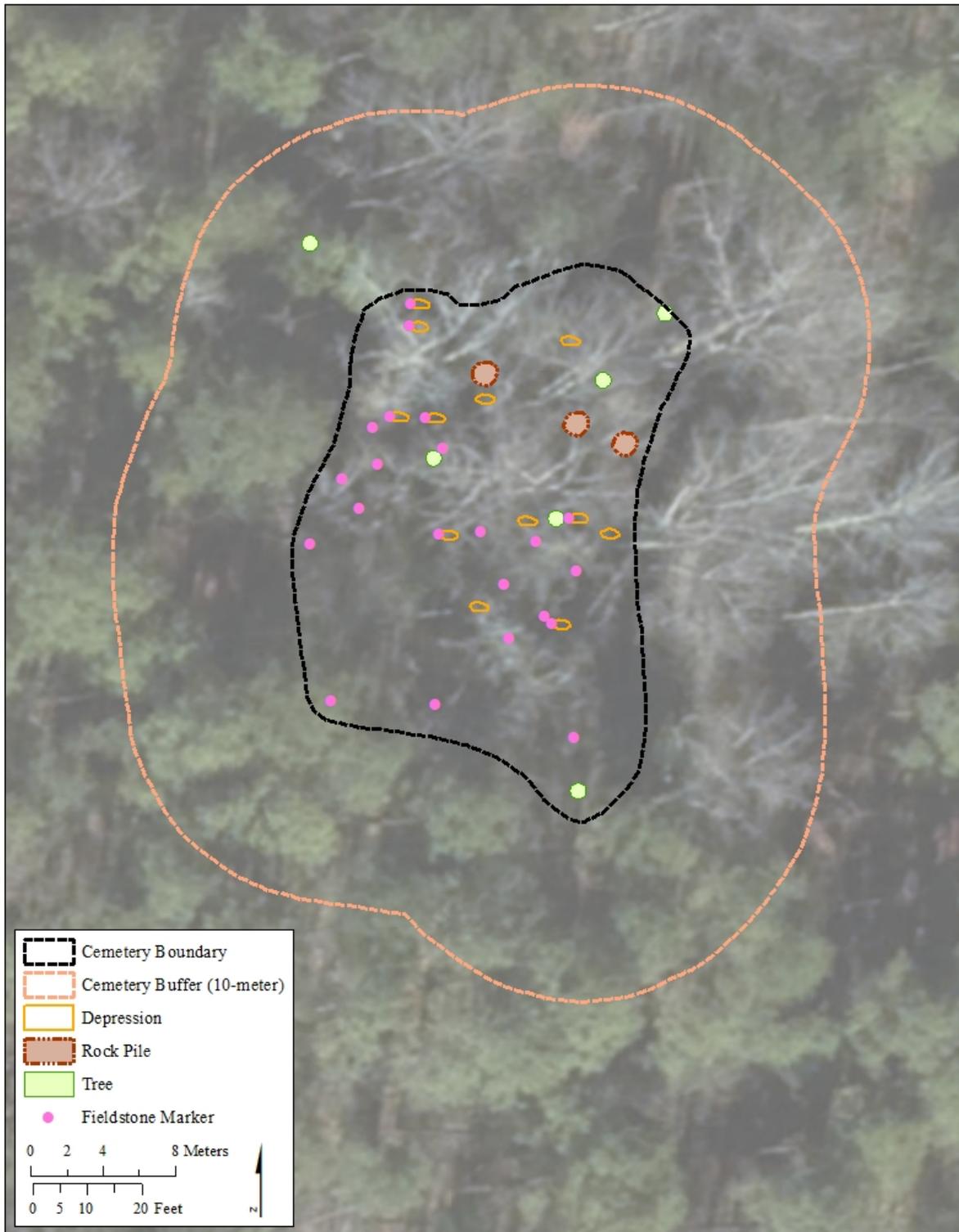


Figure 3. Selected Photographs of Graves.



a. Example of a Depression



b. Example of a Fieldstone

Figure 4. Landscape Photographs



a. Photo of Oak Tree in Cemetery



b. Photo of Vinca in Cemetery

Appendix A – Site Form

Description

Public cemetery _____ Entity Name _____

Private cemetery: Family _____
Church (Name, denomination) _____
Fraternal/Organization (Name) _____
Other (explain) _____

Status: in use _____ Size of cemetery (approx) _____
maintained _____
neglected _____ Number of graves (approximate) _____
abandoned _____

Is the cemetery enclosed? Yes Type of enclosure: wall
No fence
hedge
other _____

Condition of enclosure
Good
Poor
Other _____

Number of marked graves _____ unmarked graves _____ legible markers _____

Period of use began _____ Period of use ended _____

Date of earliest marker _____ Date of most recent marker _____

Marker type(s) wood concrete
limestone ceramic
granite encased paper
marble other _____

If unusual markers present, please describe:

****Please use the table attached to list the individuals buried in the cemetery and provide transcriptions of any marker inscriptions****

Cultural Affiliation: Native American White
African American Unknown
Slave Other _____

Are historic or prehistoric artifacts present?
Yes Describe _____
No
Unknown

OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY USE

National Register Status	Criterion			
	A	B	C	D
Determined Eligible				
Placed on the Study List				
Approved for Nomination by NRAC				
Currently listed on NRHP				
Removed from NRHP				
Not eligible after evaluation				
Unassessed				
North Carolina Archaeological Record Program				
Form reliability				
Complete				
Incomplete				
Unreliable				
Date listed _____				
Locational reliability				
Accurate				
Unknown				
Unreliable				
Within 100 meter radius				
Within 500 meter radius				
Within 1 km radius				
Form Checked by _____				
Date _____				

Please mail completed form, map and any photographic attachments to:

Rosie Blewitt-Golsch
Site Registrar
Office of State Archaeology
4619 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4619

Please contact Rosie Blewitt-Golsch (rosemarie.blewitt@ncdcr.gov, 919/807-6558) or Sam Franklin, GIS Specialist (samuel.franklin@ncdcr.gov, 919/807-6563) with any questions.

Appendix B – Deed Research

By Sy F. Robbins, Chairman - Chatham County Historical Society Preservation Committee

Coffey Parcels 1795 and 68866

(Draft 5/16/21) – By Sy F. Robbins, Chairman, CCCHA Preservation Committee

1795 (vacant, Hamlets Chapel Rd) (20.00 acres) (Plat 28-15)

- 2005 Louise Farrell Harris (widow) to Walter F. & Dan F. Harris (1% int.) (20.00ac) 1166/974
Tract #5 of Plat 28-15 “Property of W.F. Harris Estate” 3/26/80 (1166/974)
- 1980 Louise H. Mann et al. to Louise F. & W. Frank Harris (20.00ac) 433/868
Louise H. & Leon R. Mann, Hilda H. & Lynwood W. Potts, Mildred E. & T. Wesley Harris, and Dorothy H. & Earl D. Thompson; Tract #5 of Plat 28-15 “Property of W.F. Harris Estate” 3/26/80 (433/868)
- 1979 Mary Rebecca (Herndon) Harris (9/25/99-2/2/79) wife of Wm F. Harris to children Will-?
1959 William Franklin Harris (12/27/85-4/30/59) to wife Mary R. & children Will-?
Wm Franklin Harris Jr., Thomas Wesley Harris, Hilda Lee Potts, Dorothy Thompson, & (Ruby) Louise H. Mann (?)

Parcel A – Wm M. Foushee Tract (71 acres)

- 1941 Mrs. T.S. Harris (widow) et al. to W.F. & Mary H. Harris (qc) (1st Tract) (71ac) I-Q/2
Mrs. T.S. Harris, widow, Lucille Harris, single, G.F. Harris, single, S.L. Harris & wife, R.L. Harris & wife, W.J. Hannon & wife (all of Chatham Co.), Wade Atwater & wife, J.F. Thompson & wife (of Orange Co.), C.G. Harris & wife (of Alamance Co.), R.H. Harris & wife, W.M. Harris & wife, and L.M. Harris, single (of Durham Co.) (I-Q/2)*
- 1938 Dora Olivia (Foushee) Harris (5/28/58-6/12/38) to children Will-?
Lillie Lee Thompson; Robert Henry Harris; Walter Martin Harris; Leaton Madison Harris; George F Harris; William F Harris; Samuel Leroy Harris; Thomas S Harris
- 1899 John Wesley Harris (1853-1899) to wife Dora Olivia Harris Will-?
- 1887 Elias & Rutha Harris to J.W. Harris (71ac) (\$500) B-R/592
adjoining Elias Harris, Jesse Pilkington, Grace N. Mann et al. situate on the waters of Haw River and Wilkerson’s Creek, being a portion of the land of W.M. Foushee and known as the Store Tract (B-R/592)
- 1875 Mary Ann Foushee (by guardian) to Elias Harris (71ac) A-S/448
M.A.F. minor orphan of H. Gaston Foushee, by guardian W.F. Foushee; on the waters of Haw River and Wilkerson Creek adjoining Elias Harris, Jesse Pinkerton, Isaac A. Mann, and B.R. Ward, being the land drawn by Gaston Foushee, dec. in the partition of the lands of Wm Foushee, known as the store tract (A-S/448)

Parcel B (9¼ acres on Raleigh Road at School House on Buck Mountain)

- 1941 Mrs. T.S. Harris (widow) et al. to W.F. & Mary H. Harris (qc) (2nd Tract) I-Q/2
Mrs. T.S. Harris, widow, Lucille Harris, single, G.F. Harris, single, S.L. Harris & wife, R.L. Harris & wife, W.J. Hannon & wife (all of Chatham Co.), Wade Atwater & wife, J.F. Thompson & wife (of Orange Co.), C.G. Harris & wife (of Alamance Co.), R.H. Harris & wife, W.M. Harris & wife, & L.M. Harris, single (of Durham Co.) (I-Q/2)*
- 1888 Happy Foushee to J.W. Harris (9¼ ac) (\$93) C-B/472
beginning on the Raleigh Road at John Atwater’s spring branch, bounded E-(?), N-(?), W-Harris & the school house lot, S-Raleigh Road (C-B/472)

Parcel C (¾ acres at Hillsboro Road and the Creek)

- 1941 Mrs. T.S. Harris (widow) et al. to W.F. & Mary H. Harris (qc) (3rd Tract) (¾ ac) I-Q/2

- Mrs. T.S. Harris, widow, Lucille Harris, single, G.F. Harris, single, S.L. Harris & wife, R.L. Harris & wife, W.J. Hannon & wife (all of Chatham Co.), Wade Atwater & wife, J.F. Thompson & wife (of Orange Co.), C.G. Harris & wife (of Alamance Co.), R.H. Harris & wife, W.M. Harris & wife, & L.M. Harris, single (of Durham Co.) (I-Q/2)*
- 1938 Dora O. (Foushee) Harris (5/28/58-6/12/38) to children Will-?
Lillie Lee Thompson; Robert Henry Harris; Walter Martin Harris; Leaton Madison Harris; George F. Harris; William F Harris; Samuel Leroy Harris; Thomas S. Harris
- 1899 Elias Harris to Dora O. Harris (¾ ac) D-G/351
beginning where a branch crosses the Hillsboro road, bounded S-road, then North along road leading from barn between the two dwelling house east of the cotton house, N-?, W-branch (D-G/351)
- 1855 see Parcel D
Parcel D – Lucian Burnett Tract (77¼ acres)
- 1928 Annie Carter (widow) to W.F. Harris (“Elijah Harris Place” on Mt. Pleasant Rd) G-Q/77
adjoining West Harris, Lucy Gattis, ? Mann et al. life right settled on POFP by husband E.H. Harris (G-Q/77)
- 1901 Elias H. Harris (1813-1901) to wife Annie, then grandson George Harris Will F-251
home tract of 74 acres (Second Clause, Will F-251)
- 1855 Lucian Burnett to Elias Harris (77¼ ac) (\$231.70) A-K/329
beginning at the ford of the Creek below the old Mill site on said Creek, bounded S-public road, E-Wm Foushee, Thos. Farrar, N-38 poles ((Burnett?)), W-bank of the Creek (A-K/329)

68866 (vacant, Hamlets Chapel Rd) (21.99 acres) (Plat 2020-300)

- South 6.497 acres (Lot B2 of Plats 93-75, 2017-219 & 2020-300)
- 2017 Donna H. & David W. Mann to Coffey Grounds of Chapel Hill, Inc. (6.497ac) 1935/1082
Lot B2 of Plat 2017-219 (1935/1082)
- 1990 Mildred E. Harris to Donna H. & David W. Mann (20.02ac) 562/345
Tract #6 of Plat 28-15 “Property of W.F. Harris Estate” 3/26/80 (562/345)
- 1980 Louise H. Mann et al. to Mildred E. & T. Wesley Harris (20.02ac) 433/864
Tract #6 of Plat 28-15 “Property of W.F. Harris Estate” 3/26/80 (562/345)
- 1979 see 1795
North 15.494 acres (Lot B3 of Plat 2020-300)
- 2020 Hamlet’s Chapel Associates Inc. to Coffey Grounds of Chapel Hill, Inc. (67.5ac) 2094/963
102.547 acres minus 35.010 acres Tract A “Property of Hamlet’s Chapel Associates, Inc. Surveyed for Jeffrey P. Dotson” Plat 2018-160 & Deed 1997/693 (2094/963)
- 2005 Theodore R. Parrish et al. Hamlet’s Chapel Associates Inc. (correction) 1221/744
- 2005 Theodore R. Parrish et al. Hamlet Chapel Associates Inc. 1213/81
with 60’ ROW from SR 1525 (see 1069/919 and 2003-194) (1213/81)
- East & West
- 1986 Nonie Andrews (wid.) & Emma Crowder to Theodore R. Parrish et al. (102.45ac) 499/380
Survey “Property of Willie H. Andrews” prepared by Wm O. Yates 5/1/78 (499/380)
((Includes tax parcels p/o 68866, 61669, p/o 2001, p/o 1830, p/o 94070, & 93043))
- West 64½ acres
- 1985 Nonie E. Andrews (widow) to Mebane Lumber Company Inc. (Timber) (64½ ac) 479/485
- 1972 Willie H. Andrews to Willie H. & Nonie E. Andrews (2nd Tract) (64½ ac) 369/79
- 1955 William & Pearline Bynum to Willie H. Andrews (64½ ac) (\$450) L-W/366
- 1944 Charles Bynum to William Bynum (64½ ac) J-E/550

- *beginning in Wilkerson's Creek in W.A. Foushee's line, thence with the Creek to Mrs. Ann Harris...adjoining John Atwater (J-E/550)*
- 1909 Hannah Hobby to Charles Bynum (64½ ac) E-N/539
adjoining Wilkerson's Creek, Mrs. Ann Harris, John Atwater (E-N/539)
- 1901 Elias H. Harris (1813-1901) to daughter Hannah Hobby (75ac) Will F-251
tract of land adjoining the House Tract lying northeast of the same and adjoining the lands of Foushee and others containing 75 acres (Third Clause, Will F-251)
- 1855 see 1795
East 39 acres
- 1982 Willie Henry Andrews (3/31/08-3/5/82) to wife Nonie Will-?
1956 Terrell's Chapel Church (AME) Trustees to Willie Henry Andrews 250/510
1951 Harriet Baldwin Andrews (10/15/77-6/12/51) to Terrell's Chapel Church Will K-400?
(Will Item 3) with life estate for son Willie H. Andrews (see 250/510)
- 1946 Dock F. Andrews (11/19/55-1/22/46) to wife Harriet Will-?
1922 Henry & Ada Atwater to D.F. Andrews (39ac) G-B/49
bounded S & W-West Harris, E- Charley Cotton & Buck Mountain School House Lot (col.), N-Chas. Bynum; being the John Atwater (col.) place (G-B/49)
- 1910 John W. Atwater (1840-1910) to son Henry? Will-?
b.09 John Atwater (E-N/539)
b.01 Foushee et al. (Will F-251)
b.88 John Atwater (C-B/472)

Narrative

The subject parcels were both originally part of Elias Harris' holdings, which he obtained from Lucian Burnett in 1855, and from the Wm Foushee estate in 1875 and 1888.

The 1855 deed contains no reference to structures, and it highly unlikely that Lucian Burnett lived on the tract; however, Elias Harris' will (probated in 1901) refers to his "home tract" of 74 acres, so a house was built on the property (probably after 1870, since no house appears on the 1870 Ramsey map). It is unclear whether this house stood on either of the subject parcels.

The 1875 purchase by Harris from the Foushee estate describes the 71-acre parcel as the "store tract" without any detailed description. Again, nothing shows on the 1870 Ramsey map, so the possibility that remnants of this store are located on the subject properties needs to be considered.

The 1888 purchase indicates that the Buck Mountain School was located on the west side of the parcel, and that after purchase, Elias Harris owned all the land surrounding it. (Elias Harris and Happy Foushee had sold the ½-acre piece of land to School District No. 18 in 1882, see deed B-C/341.) Its exact location is unclear, but it probably was located east of the subject parcels. Nevertheless, artifacts related to the school might still be located on the subject parcels.

The ¾-acre parcel sold by Elias Harris to Dora O. Harris in 1899 references multiple structures, including dwelling houses, a barn, and a cotton house; all these were probably located west of the subject parcels.

Elias Harris' will gave a 75-acre tract to his daughter Hannah Hobby; this tract is described as lying northeast of the "Home Tract" and probably makes up the northern portion of the subject

parcels. Subsequent deeds for this tract do not indicate its use as a residence, and the 1985 timber deed from Nonie Andrews (479/485) further corroborates that this remained undeveloped land.

The tract located northeast of the subject parcels, owned by the Atwater and Andrews families, appears to have had a house on it, since Willie H. Andrews was given a life estate by his mother around 1950; this structure should not be relevant to the subject proposal.

In summary, the land was, and partly still is, in the ownership of the Harris family, starting with Elias Harris in the mid-1800s. None of the relevant deeds mention a cemetery, and it is unlikely that any of the dwellings or agricultural structures mentioned in the deeds were located on the subject parcels; the same is true for the store and schoolhouse. Nevertheless, care should be taken when surveying and clearing the land to look for evidence of these structures.

Prepared by Sy F. Robbins, Chairman, Chatham County Historical Society Preservation Committee