

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

AL-IV-A-125

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Sumner Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Yale Street north of U.S.

Route 40

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

CODE

024

COUNTY

Allegany

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: cemetery

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Sumner Cemetery Association

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Mrs. Virginia Williams, 419 Pine Place

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21502

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Prospect Square

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland,

STATE

Maryland 21502

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

AL-IV-A-125

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sumner Cemetery is located on the north side of Yale Street in Cumberland, Maryland, just east of the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery. Just south of Sumner on the south side of Yale Street is Greenmount Cemetery. There are houses to the north and east of Sumner.

The two-acre plot, deeded to the local black community in 1884, is situated on a hillside somewhat steeper at the top than at street level.

The gravestones in Sumner Cemetery are not as ostentatious as those of the white cemetery that borders it on the west. However, its stones are impressive considered in the context of the economic statues of the blacks here in the late 1800s and early 1900s. From all indications most of the markers here were made by local black craftsmen.

The old gravestones are made of sandstone, cement or brick. Some of the newest ones are of granite and marble.

The inscriptions on the sandstone markers have been lost in many cases due to weathering. Most had designs of circles and straight lines or flowers and leaves carved into them. On a few there is a fist with the index finger pointing to the sky. Children's graves were indicated by small resting lambs.

The cement gravestones appear to have been cast in a mold. Those that are broken or badly cracked show the interior to be made of small stones or gravel. These markers have only the name, year of death and sometimes the birth date on them.

The simplest of the stones are those constructed of brick and covered with cement or plaster. The inscriptions on these are badly worn or nonexistent and there are no decorative designs.

In the oldest section the plots are divided by cement walls or iron railings. Most of the more impressive stones are found here. Behind this area, at the north end of the cemetery are the gravestones of four blacks who served as soldiers in the Union Army during the Civil War.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1892 BUILDER/ARCHITECT ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Laboring Sons of Cumberland

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sumner Cemetery was established for the black community of Cumberland by the Laboring Sons of Cumberland in 1892. The people buried here represent a cross-section of the city's black population, including those from many backgrounds, birthplaces, fields of service and businesses. Some came to Allegany County as slaves; some as freed men.

The blacks buried here participated in the development and operation of many of the businesses and industries in Cumberland. Some of them as draymen brought the "grocery store" to many local communities. One was an assistant to Dr. Koon, a doctor of note and later Mayor of Cumberland. Also found here are railroad workers on the B & O and Western Maryland Railroads; servants of prominent citizens, including Governor and Mrs. Lowndes; waitresses at the Queen City and Windsor Hotels; stonemasons who helped to build the Pinto Tunnel and other stone bridges in the tri-state area; preachers; seamstresses; beauticians; Eastern Star members and custodians of banks and schools.

The land the cemetery stands on was sold by Thomas J. McKaig to the Laboring Sons of Cumberland in 1877 for \$400. Another deed was drawn up in 1884 from McKaig's executors to the same organization which by then had become legally incorporated under the laws of Maryland. (Deed dated 3/21/1884). The Lutheran cemetery was already on the adjacent property by 1884.

The Laboring Sons of Cumberland was founded by William H. Campbell, George Jackson and Peter Fagans, all of whom are buried in Sumner Cemetery. (This organization has passed out of existence as all of its members have died).

William H. Campbell, (1850-1940), the son of George and Matilda Campbell, was born in Westernport, Maryland on January 6, 1850. He was a waiter at the Queen City Hotel for many years and a custodian at the old Mechanic Street School and the Frederick Street School, all in Cumberland. In 1899 he worked at the Hotel Gladstone in Frostburg, Maryland. Mr. Campbell helped to build the A.M.E. Church on Frederick Street in Cumberland.

George Jackson, (1855-?), was born June 15, 1855 in the slave quarters on Jamison's Farm at Rush, Maryland. For many years he had coal-yards next to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks on Polk Street in Cumberland.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mr. Jackson hauled coal in dump-carts driven by horses; in addition, he did general hauling while still in the coal business. He also had horse carriages for hire, later replacing them with taxicabs.

Peter Fagans, (1858-1932), spent his boyhood days at the home of General Robert E. Lee at Lexington, Virginia, following the Civil War. He was proud of the fact that he had often ridden TRAVELER, the famous horse that bore General Lee in his campaigns. Nothing is known of his family. An expert calaminer (a white washer or plasterer), he worked in many homes in the Cumberland area and helped his black friends build and plaster their homes. Politeness and piety were two of his outstanding characteristics. He was caretaker of Sumner Cemetery for many years and a well-known colored Evangelist. Mr. Fagans often aided people in trouble and raised money for worthy causes. On July 11, 1899, he delivered a lecture from a wagon on North Liberty Street in Cumberland. He was stout-lunged, and he produced some clinching arguments in behalf of the cause he often espoused. He held camp meetings at Union Grove Camp in Ridgeley, W. Va. and organized choirs who sang Negro Spirituals in local churches and camp meetings. He was very active in community affairs. He was a member and also caretaker of the old McKendree Methodist Church on Centre Street in Cumberland.

Also buried in the cemetery are the following:

- (1) five soldiers of the Union Army, Unit 30 of the United States Colored Troop-Captain Frederick Burgee, Abraham Traid, Samuel Kenner, Samuel McTarry and Thomas Simpson; the latter four are buried together at the top of the cemetery with small tombstones inscribed with "U.S.C.T." and their names. Captain Burgee is buried in a family plot.
- (2) George Hall (1832-1894)
Minerva Brown Hall (1826-1905)
George Hall helped to lay part of the Western Maryland Railroad track. His wife was employed by Governor Lowndes. They were both Methodists.

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- (3) Charles S. Meekins (1870-1950)
Olivia Hall Meekins (1876-1948)

Charles Meekins worked for many years as a waiter in the hotels and was a maintenance man at Footer's Dye Works and other places of business. He was a 32nd Degree Mason and a member of the Laboring Sons. Mrs. Meekins was a member of the Court of Calanthe and the Eastern Star, and very involved with several church societies. Both were lifelong members of the choir at McKendree Methodist Church. Their three daughters all went on to higher education.

- (4) William Russel Davis (ca. 1859-?)
Susan Davis (ca. 1856-?)

William Davis was a drayman and his wife a licensed midwife, who delivered most of the town's babies from circa 1880 to circa 1928. She also assisted Dr. Koon and was a member of the Board that built the Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. The Davises had fourteen children, thirteen of whom are also buried at Sumner.

- (5) Annie Able (? -1908)
Allen Toyer
Della Able Davis
Lucy Toyer
Annie Able

Mrs. Annie Able and her four children are burried here. She was born a slave and brought to Cumberland as a house servant. As a freed woman she supported herself as a laundress. Allen Toyer, a harness race driver, was the only black veterinarian in Cumberland. Lucy Toyer and Della Davis worked as a servant and singer, respectively.

- (6) Helen Massey Collins (1889-1955)

attended Hampton Institute for three years. She married Ellsworth Collins, a Stonemason and contractor who helped build the Pinto Tunnel.

- (7) Annie Hall Massey Wilson (1826-1940)
Robinson Massey (1859-1900)
Jerome P. Wilson (1853-1925)

Annie Hall First married Robert Massey, a barber and they had four children. After his death she married Jerome Wilson, an elevator operator at Schwarzenbachs Department Store. Annie Wilson was employed by the Lowndes

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

and was a member of the Eastern Star. She and Mr. Wilson were trustees at McKendree Methodist Church.

- (8) William Henry Hall (1860-1948)
Helen Hall (1863-1944)

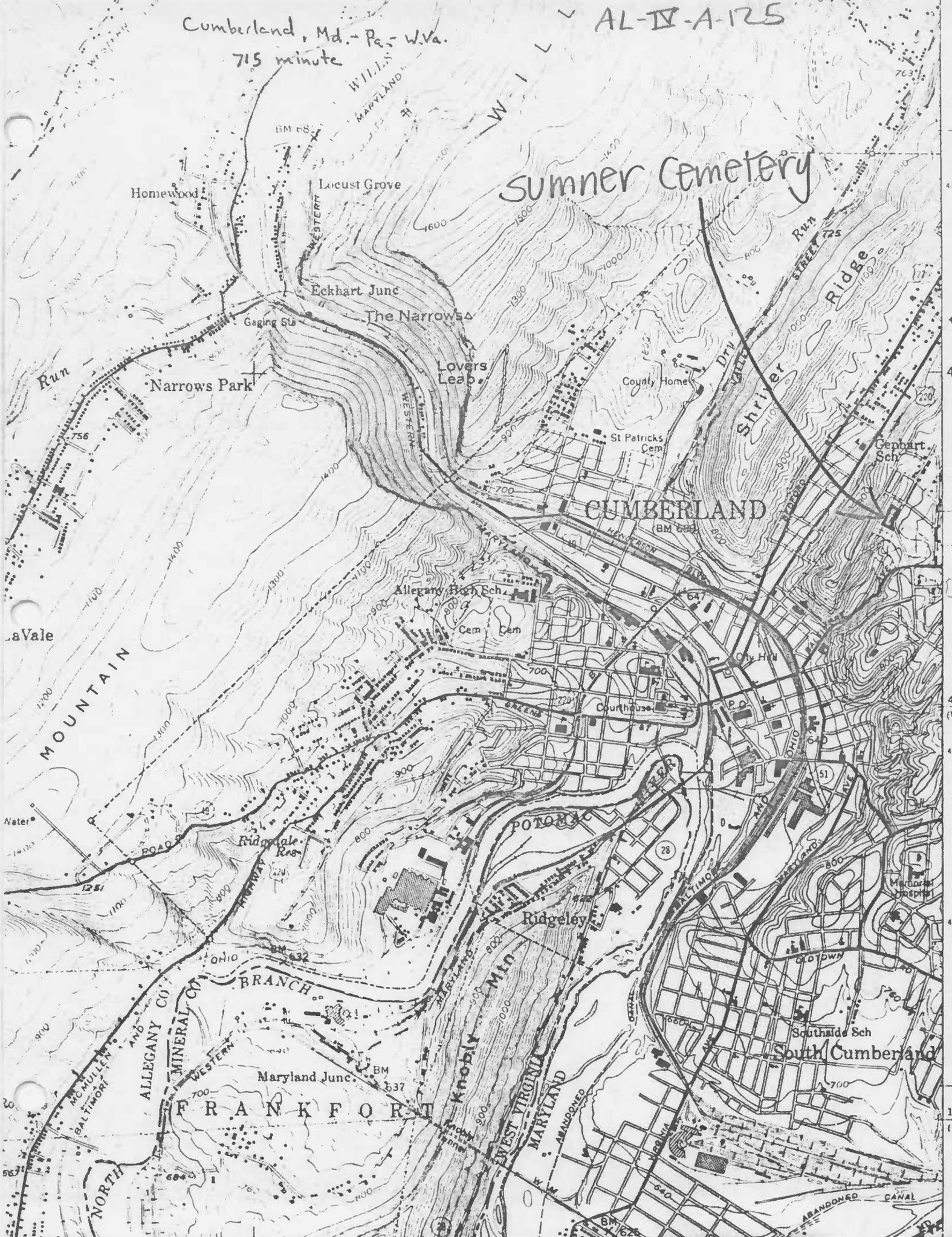
Married to Emma Cares, William Henry Hall was custodian of Liberty Trust Bank and Drum Major for the old Western Band of Cumberland. He was a member of four fraternal organizations and McKendree Methodist Church. His sister Helen was a seamstress and elevator operator at the Lazarus Store. She was a member of the Eastern Star and McKendree Church and a number of its societies.

- (9) William Henry Harris (1891-1919)

William Henry Harris came from Kentucky to Cumberland with a member of the Lowndes family as a butler. He married Dora Massey with whom he had three children.

Cumberland, Md. - Pa. - W.Va.
715 minute

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Summer Cemetery

CUMBERLAND

MOUNTAIN

POTOMAC

BRANCH

FRANKFORT

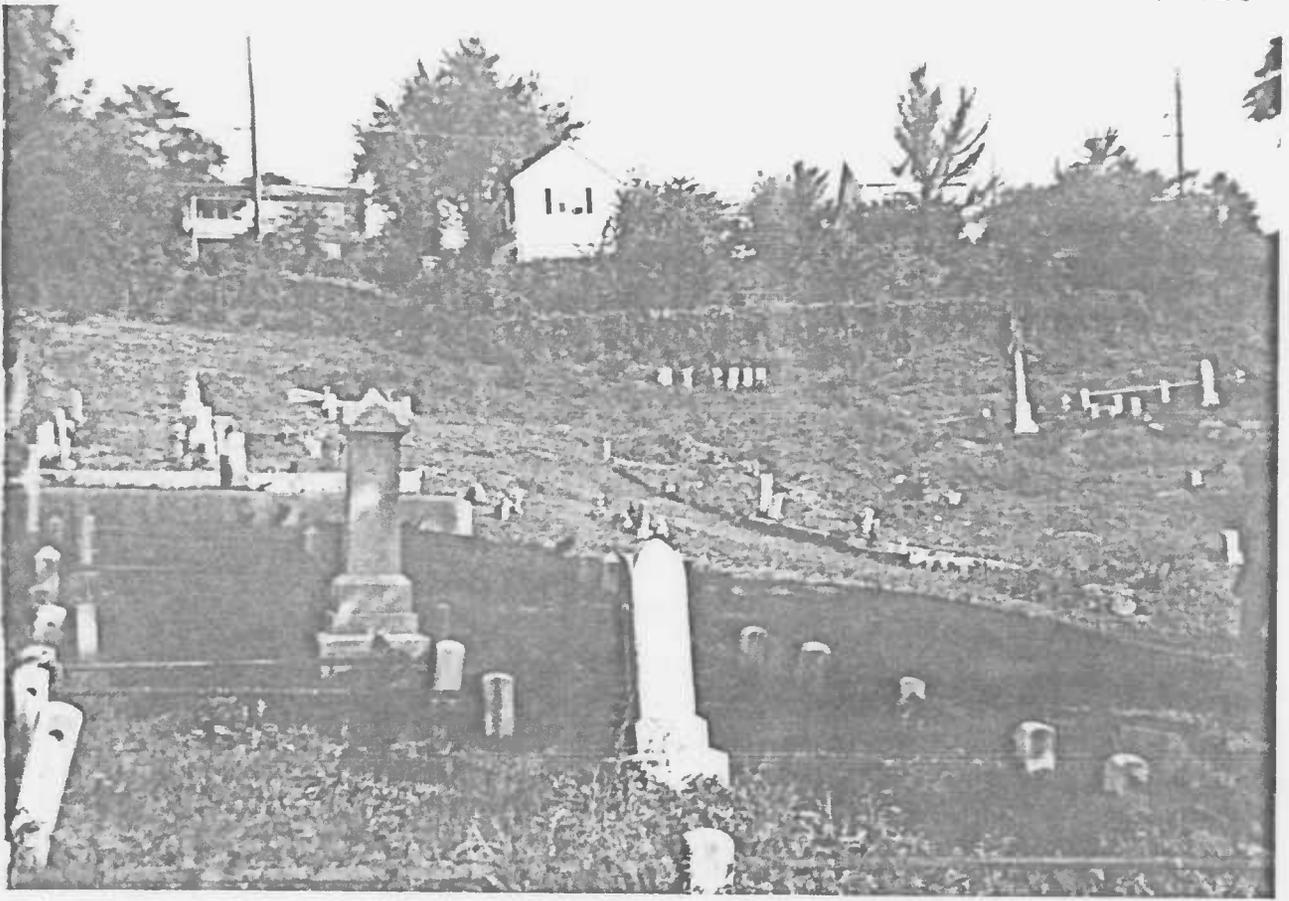
South Cumberland

NORTH

WEST VIRGINIA

ABANDONED CANAL

AL-IV-A-125

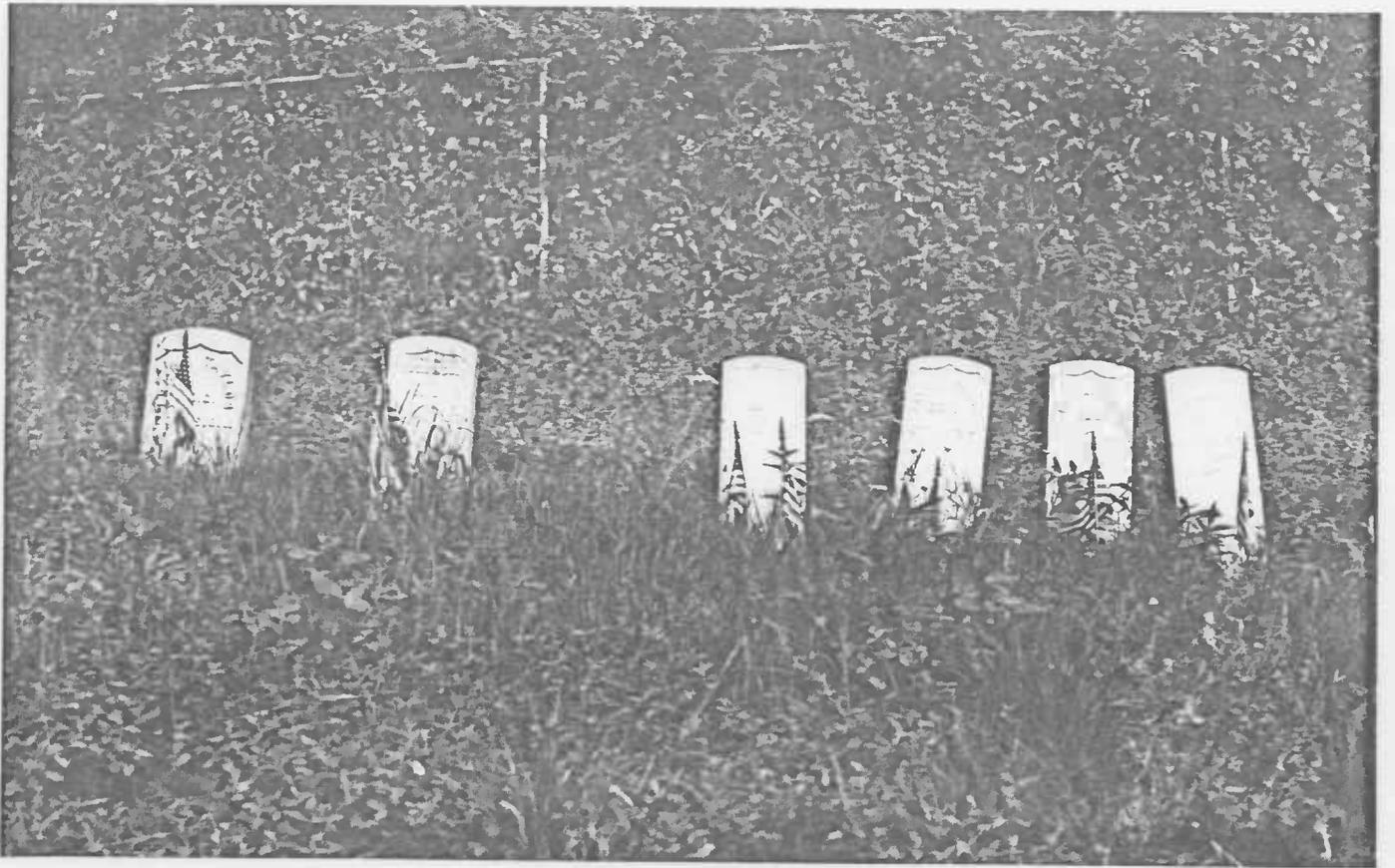




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Sumner Cemetery

AL-10-A-125

Yale Street

Cumberland, Md

9 / 1 / 78

David A. Dorsey

west



Somner Cemetery .

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Yale Street Cumberland, Md.

9/1/78

David A. Dorsey
west