

CHAS-349  
HARGRAVES FAMILY CEMETERY  
White Plains  
Private

1793 to 1848

One of many early family cemeteries scattered throughout the county, the Hargraves cemetery is unusual for the good condition of its stones, of which there are eight, despite many years of abandonment and neglect. Of particular interest are the well shaped ogee cresting of six of the stones and the fact that they are arranged in a straight line along the ridge of an embankment. Two of the stones date from the late-eighteenth century. Fragments of an early post and split rail fence that enclosed the cemetery still remain.

The property on which the cemetery is located was sold by the family following the death of Mary Hargraves in 1848. In later years it was purchased by Basil Spalding and was part of his extensive real estate holdings sold just prior to the Civil War. The property has been owned by numerous land speculators since that time and is now surrounded by a crossroads of highways and commercial and residential development.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CHAS-349 MAGI #0903445334

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

HARGRAVES FAMILY CEMETERY

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

West side of U. S. Rte. 301, approx. 1/8 mile south of junction with Billingsley Road

CITY, TOWN

White Plains

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Burka

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 178

Folio #: 279

STREET & NUMBER

Charles Street (P. O. Box B)

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland 20646

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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**

Although long abandoned and extensively overgrown, this small collection of eight gravestones is of interest for several reasons. Seven of the stones, for instance, have finely carved scrolled tops with smaller matching footstones. All, except for one, survive in a remarkably good state of preservation. All of the stones, which are set in a straight line about five feet apart, face south; six of the graves extend north, on the opposite side of the face of the stones, a rather peculiar feature. In at least two instances trees have grown around the footstones, embedding them in their trunks. The cemetery was once enclosed by a post and split rail fence, with three of the posts remaining in position. Although only fragments survive, this is the earliest known example of a fence of this type surviving in the county. Large cut spikes, driven through the posts to secure the rails, remain embedded in two of the posts. Large cedar trees once grew within the enclosure, but all have been cut down.

The cemetery contains the graves of the following individuals:

1. In memory of Mary Hargraves, died 1 November 1848. Aged 47.
2. Sacred to the memory of Ann Smoot, consort of Col. Wilson Smoot and daughter of George Hargraves. Born March, 1779. Died 12th February, 1830.
3. Sacred to the memory of Wilson Smoot who departed this life 2nd August, 1823. Aged 40 years.
4. In memory of George Hargraves who departed this life on the 24th April, 1803. Aged 73.
5. In memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Hargraves who departed this life 1st day of September, 1793. Aged 53.
6. In memory of Margaret Hargraves who departed this life on the 23rd day of April, 1799. Aged 31.
7. In memory of Theos. Hargraves who departed this life August 1818. Aged 42 years.
8. In memory of Mrs. Jane Hargraves, consort of Theos. Hargraves who departed this life February 6th, 1822. Aged 56 years.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

---

SPECIFIC DATES                      1793-1848                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

---

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

---

One of many early family cemeteries scattered throughout the county, the Hargraves cemetery is unusual for the good condition of its stones, of which there are eight, despite many years of abandonment and neglect. Of particular interest are the well shaped ogee cresting of six of the stones and the fact that they are arranged in a straight line along the ridge of an embankment. Two of the stones date from the late-eighteenth century. Fragments of an early post and split rail fence that enclosed the cemetery still remain.

The property on which the cemetery is located was sold by the family following the death of Mary Hargraves in 1848. In later years it was purchased by Basil Spalding and was part of his extensive real estate holdings sold just prior to the Civil War. The property has been owned by numerous land speculators since that time and is now surrounded by a crossroads of highways and commercial and residential development.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Hargraves Cemetery is located on a 27.40 acre tract of land identified as Parcel 10, Map 14, Charles County Tax Maps (revised January 1976.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

June 1978

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



CHAS-349  
HARGRAVES CEMETERY  
J.R.Rivoire, 1978



CHAS-349  
HARGRAVES CEMETERY  
J.R.Rivoire, 1978



CHAS-349

HARGRAVES CEMETERY, Fence  
Post J.R.Rivoire, 1978