Survey No. M:28-37 (PACS D2.31)

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form
Intercounty Connector Project

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic Union Cemetery

and/or common Union Cemetery

2. Location:

street & number Spencerville Road ___ not for publication

city, town Burtonsville _x_ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___district	___public	_x_occupied	___agriculture	___museum
___building(s)	_x_private	___unoccupied	___commercial	___park
___structure	___both	___work in progress	___education	___private residence
_x_site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___entertainment	___religious
___object	___in process	___yes: restricted	___government	___scientific
	___being considered	_x_yes: unrestricted	___industrial	_x_other: Cemetery
	_x_not applicable	___no	___military	
			___transportation	

4. Owner of Property: (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Union Cemetery Association; c/o Susan Libby

street & number 13160 Hollylock Lane telephone no.:

city,town Highland state and zip code Maryland 20777

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Montgomery County liber 438 and 3151

street & number Montgomery County Judicial Center folio 305 and 635

city,town Rockville state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___federal ___state ___county ___local

depository for survey records

city,town state

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one	
_excellent	___deteriorated	_x_unaltered	_x_original site	
_x_good	___ruins	___altered	___moved	date of move _____
___fair	___unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Union Cemetery is located on the south side of Spencerville Road in the Burtonsville vicinity. Individuals interred at the cemetery include members of notable local families such as the Burtons, the Chaneys, the Bealls, the Robeys, and the Briggs. The oldest headstones in the cemetery date to the 1850s and are located at the north side of the site. These stones are sheltered by a stand of large trees. Some headstones dating to the late nineteenth century are also located along Spencerville Road. The majority of headstones have simple designs and inscriptions.

The cemetery has two sheds on the site. One is a modern, 1-story, concrete storage shed. The second is a wood frame, 1-story shed with board-and-batten siding, constructed circa 1900. The cemetery is enclosed by a chain-link fence, and the main gate is located at the southeast corner of the site. A one-lane road leads to the rear of the cemetery and subsequently curves through the cemetery in a figure-eight pattern, north to south.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
___prehistoric	___archaeology-prehistoric	___landscape architecture	___religion
___1400-1499	___archeology-historic	___law	___science
___1500-1599	___agriculture	___literature	___sculpture
___1600-1699	___architecture	___military	___social/ humanitarian
___1700-1799	___art	___music	
_x_1800-1899	___commerce	___philosophy	___theater
___1900-	___communication	___politics/government	___transportation
			___other (specify)

Specific dates 1850s—Present **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: ___A ___B ___C ___D

Level of Significance: ___national ___state ___local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Union Cemetery of Burtonsville has been in use since the 1850s. The earliest community cemetery in Burtonsville is reported to have been at another location along Spencerville Road. In the 1850s, land for the present cemetery was given by Plummer Waters, at which time the graves at the original cemetery were moved to the new location. Additional land was subsequently acquired from other community members, and the cemetery included approximately 5.26 ha (13 acres) land by the 1970s.

The Union Cemetery is located in the Burtonsville vicinity, named for the founding family. The location of the community is on land originally patented in 1703 as "Bear Bacon" and in 1715 as "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" in what was then Prince George's County. "Bear Bacon" was approximately 245 hectares (605 acres) of land stretching from present Oursler Road to Old Columbia Pike. "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" was approximately 405 hectares (1000 acres) from Old Columbia Pike to the present Prince George's County line and from Greencastle Road to Bell Road. Later additions to Snowden's Manor north and northwest of the present junction of U.S. 29 and MD. 198 eventually covered 3749 hectares (9265 acres) by 1743. In 1748 this region became part of Frederick County, and in 1776 Montgomery County was organized. As settlement in the new county increased, the need for improved roads became apparent. The Columbia Turnpike Company was chartered in 1809 to build a road from Georgetown, D.C. to Ellicott's Mills, and construction began in 1810. U.S. 29 and Old Columbia Pike follow the route of the original road.

Burton family records indicate that their ancestors settled in the area by 1707. Basil Burton settled east of the turnpike in 1817. Basil's son, Isaac, considered the founder of the community, bought out his family's share of his father's land in 1825, and by 1850 the crossroads of the Columbia Turnpike and the Laurel-Sandy Spring Road was known as Burtons. The community remained small and rural in the decades after the Civil War. It had a population of about 50 people, a Baptist church, a blacksmith shop, a schoolhouse, and a store.

Montgomery County remained predominantly rural as the twentieth century began. The extension of Washington trolley lines encouraged development close to the District line, but population growth fell below national averages and some areas of the county experienced declining population. Road improvements and the increase in the size of the federal government began to reverse that trend er the First World War, but Burtonsville remained a small crossroads. In the 1920s the community had no indoor plumbing, electricity was a luxury, and the only telephone was in the general store. The Great Depression caused much hardship among the area's farmers; farm prices fell drastically and the county could not afford to improve roads, utilities, and schools. Burtonsville did not benefit from the increase in federal employment brought by the New Deal.

8. Significance

In the 1980s, continued growth of federal and private sector employment and the new U.S. 29 highway made Burtonsville accessible to new residents and commercial development. Today Burtonsville retains a rural character. Old working farms still remain, but the area is becoming one of the major suburban centers outside of Washington, D.C.

Cemeteries, such as the Union Cemetery, provide information about the religious affiliation, ethnicity, and level of affluence of the people who settled a region. The earliest burial places found in any given area are the isolated, crudely marked, graves found along country roads or even in the middle of a forest. Such graves were usually for male family members sent ahead to a frontier area to clear land for the family who would follow. The first gravesites that could be referred to as a cemetery were family burial grounds. If churches were not yet present in an area, a family would choose a burial place in a corner of their farmstead. Today, in many cases, these farms no longer exist but the cemeteries survive on land which is used for other purposes. Once a region was settled sufficiently, church cemeteries appeared. A typical church cemetery had a church located at one corner, graves laid in a grid pattern, and a building used as a tool house and for storage. It was typical for graveyards to be built on hilltops because such sites were thought to be closer to heaven. In addition, from a practical standpoint, a family generally preferred to use a hilltop as a graveyard because it was the least viable land for farming. In the vast majority of graveyards, deceased persons are buried with their feet oriented in an easterly direction. Again, from a practical point of view, the forces of weather are least severe from the east, thereby making an easterly orientation a good choice in order to preserve tombstones for as long as possible (Meyer 1989, 237-251).

National Register Evaluation:

Union Cemetery, which dates to the 1850s, is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It does not meet Criterion A or B, as it has no association with historically significant persons or events. Although it contains the graves of locally important families, it does not derive its primary significance from the graves of persons of transcendent importance, from its age, from distinctive design features, or from its association with historic events. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as the site has no distinctive plan or landscaping features which indicate an organized design, and the headstones are traditional with no decorative features. Finally, the site is not eligible under Criterion D, as it has no known potential to yield important information.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended XX

Comments: _____

Reviewer, OPS: _____ Date: 8/24/98

Reviewer, NR Program: _____ Date: 8/27/98

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No.M:28-37(PACS D2.31)

e Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name Beltsville Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caroline Hall

anization P.A.C. Spero & Company date October 1996

street & address 40 W. Chesapeake Ave., Suite 412 telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore 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 purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Boyd, T.H.S. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879. 1879. Reprint. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968.

Carr, Clara. Interview by D.E. Lord, June 1971.

Coleman, Margaret Marshall, and Anne Dennis Lewis. Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk: Donning Co., 1984.

Cook, William G. Montpelier & the Snowden Family. Privately Printed, 1976.

Daniels, Lee A. "Burtonsville: A town of the past trapped between the future." Washington Post. no date.

Dixon-Williams, Gail. "Originally Burtons, this suburb has come a long way from 1800's." Burtonsville Gazette 14 Sept. 1994: A-4.

Graci, Ron, Vicki Walker, and Linda Donnary. Old Building Survey of the Burtonsville Area. Burtonsville, Maryland: Burtonsville Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Klein, Marilyn W. and David P. Fogle. Clues to American Architecture. Washington D.C. and Philadelphia: Starrhill Press, 1986.

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.

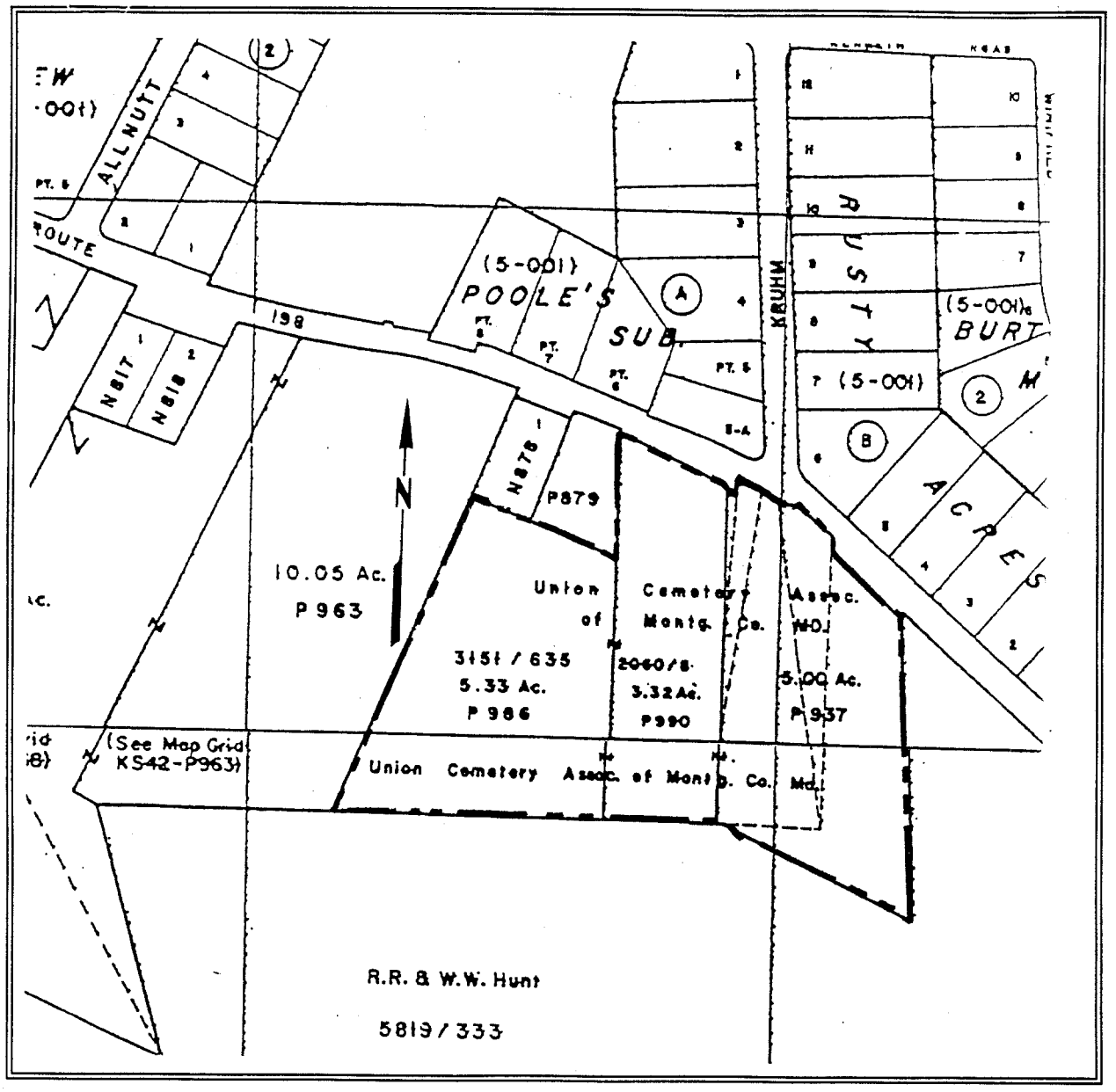
Lord, Elizabeth M. Burtonsville Heritage: Genealogically Speaking. Burtonsville, Maryland: Burtonsville Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Martenet, Simon J. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. Baltimore, Maryland: Simon J. Martenet, 1865. Reprint.

Meyer, Richard E., ed. Voices of American Culture. Ann Arbor, Michigan: UMI Research Press, 1989.

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map



Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

10. Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

6. Religion

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Site

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Rural

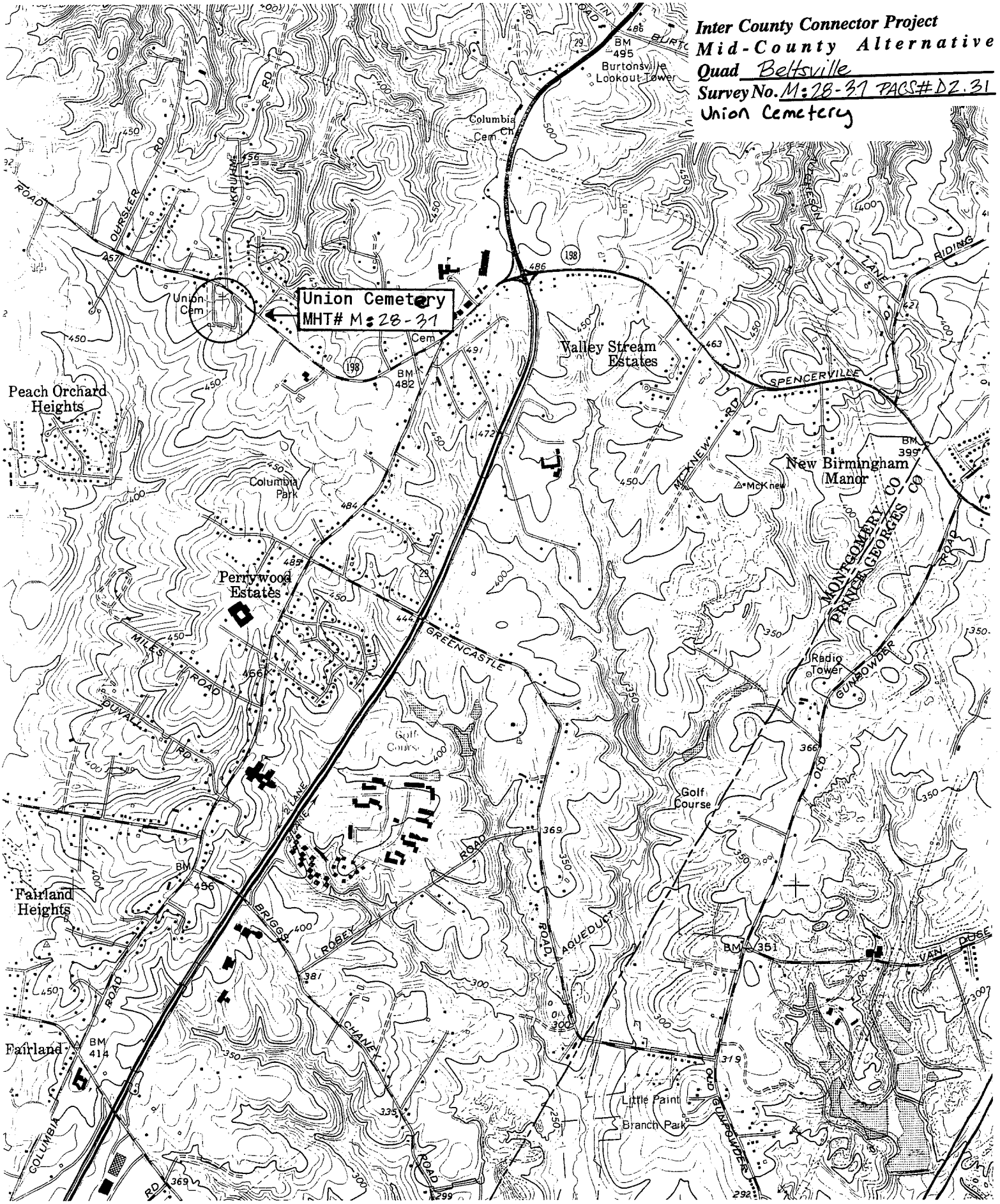
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Other-Cemetery

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
October 1996


Inter County Connector Project
Mid-County Alternative
Quad Beltsville
Survey No. M:28-31 PACS#D2.31
Union Cemetery
Union Cemetery
MHT# M:28-31
Burtonsville Lookout Tower
Columbia Cem
Union Cem
Peach Orchard Heights
Valley Stream Estates
New Birmingham Manor
Columbia Park
Perrywood Estates
Golf Course
Radio Tower
Fairland Heights
Fairland
Little Paint Branch Park
MONTGOMERY CO
PRINCE GEORGES CO
GREENCASTLE
SPENCERVILLE
MILES ROAD
DUVALL RD
BRIGGS CHANEY ROAD
ROBEY ROAD
AQUEDUCT ROAD
OLD GUNPOWDER ROAD
VAN DUSEN
COLUMBIA ROAD
OURSLER RD
KRUHM RD
MCKNEW RD
RIDING LANE
BM 495
BM 482
BM 399
BM 456
BM 414
BM 351

[illegible]

Union Cemetery

Montgomery Co., MD

[illegible] Company

[illegible]

PAC Sperry Company

40 W. Chesapeake Ave, #412

Balto, MD 21204

Sperry Ville Rd., view east

[illegible]

M 28 3

Union Cemetery

Montgomery Co., MD

P.A.C. Spero & Co.

11/95

P.A.C. Spero & Co.

40 W. Chesapeake Ave, #42

Balto., MD 21204

Spencerville Rd., View West/Northwest

M: 28-39

Union Cemet.

Montgomery Co., MD

P.A.C. Spero & Company

11/95

P.A.C. Spero & Company

40 W. Chesapeake Ave # 412

Balto, MD 21204

Spencerville Rd, Shed

3 of 3