



NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES

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September 30, 2023

W. Tim Walker, Executive Director
Metro Historical Commission
3000 Granny White Pike
Nashville, TN 37204

RE: Davidson County Cemetery Survey, Phase 2, Management Summary

Mr. Walker,

New South Associates, Inc. (NSA) has completed the second phase of the Davidson County Cemetery Survey (DCCS) for the Metro Historical Commission (MHC) in fulfillment of a 2022-2023 federal Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant awarded by the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC).

The project began with a kickoff meeting at the NSA office in East Nashville on March 23, 2023. MHC staff members Caroline Eller and Dr. Adam Fracchia met with Branch Manager Lauren Walls, Senior Historian Dr. Lydia Simpson, and Assistant Archaeologist Clélie Cottle Peacock. The meeting included a discussion of scheduling, logistics, and safety of the field crew. Fieldwork began April 4, 2023 in the Joelton community of northwest Davidson County. The last day of fieldwork was August 22, 2023.

Between April 4 and August 22, field crew completed a survey of cemeteries identified in a combination of datasets including the original DCCS, parcel data from the Nashville Metro Planning Department, and community research. The team completed survey of four subareas, as specified by the grant contract. The subareas completed in Phase 2 were as follows: 1 (Joelton), 2 (Parkwood-Union Hill), 4 (Madison), and 10 (Green Hills-Midtown). Altogether, the surveyors visited 114 sites, verified 112 as still extant, and identified two (2) as under immediate threat or desecrated (Scruggs and Murrey-Cox-O'Neill). The team attempted visits to two cemeteries (McCasland and Thomas Herrin) that were not accessible without owner assistance and are pending contacts. Six others, including an unnamed burial in Neely's Bend (NE-32), the American Christian Missionary Cemetery (GO-05), Peay (GO-22), two (2) unnamed burial sites in Oak Hill (OH-22 and OH-28), and Druard (WC-21) were visited but not verified at the time of

Georgia/Headquarters

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

Georgia/Athens Branch

565 North Millledge Avenue
Athens, Georgia 30601
T/770.498.4155 Ext 143

North Carolina

1006 Yanceyville Street
Greensboro, North Carolina 27401
T/336.379.0433

Tennessee

1629 Fatherland Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37206
T/615.262.4326

South Carolina

1819 Hampton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
T/803.771.7083

Virginia

PO Box 2306
Fairfax, Virginia 22031
T/770.498.4155 Ext 654



survey due to a combination of vegetation overgrowth, ground disturbance, and incomplete locational data.

METHODOLOGY

Phase 2 survey was initiated with a regular field crew of two NSA team members and one MHC staff member. The field crew conducted a pedestrian survey of each cemetery, collected GPS boundary points on a Trimble unit based on a combination of parcel data and landscape observations, took extensive photographs of each site using a Digital SLR camera, and completed THC-required Survey123 forms. As a supplement to the Survey123 forms, which are not designed for cemetery documentation, MHC staff used the FileMaker app to complete a detailed field survey form at each site that provided an in-depth description and overall conditions assessment. The MHC crew rotated between Caroline Eller and Dr. Adam Fracchia. NSA field crew included Clélie Cottle Peacock and Dr. Lydia Simpson, with Lauren Walls assisting as needed.

THC-required Survey123 forms for Phase 2 were completed by the end of the grant period (9/30/2023) and submitted directly to THC. All survey photographs and data collected in the FileMaker app and on the Trimble handheld units have been electronically shared with MHC, and copies are also included with this memo.

Phase 2 began two months earlier than Phase 1 did in 2022, which allowed safer working conditions for the first eight weeks of survey. The team worked to complete the bulk of survey during the cooler spring months and worked shorter days during extreme weather conditions. Other hazards encountered included flora (poison ivy) and fauna (snakes and ticks). Field crew were provided with cold water, personal protective equipment, and first aid access at all times.

Appendix B includes a list of endangered cemetery sites compiled by MHC. This list is based upon conditions observed in the field and reported or documented threats related to factors like maintenance, access, damage, and/or proximate development/urban encroachment.

MAJOR FINDINGS

Phase 2 Survey	
Total Attempted	114
Visited	112
Inaccessible	2
Visited not verified	6
Total verified	106

Of 114 cemeteries visited during the Phase 2 survey, the vast majority of those verified were found to be Euro-American family or community cemeteries of the vernacular/informal subtype. Where possible, using census data and obituaries, NSA staff attempted to identify the primary racial or

ethnic affiliation of surveyed cemeteries. Of the verified sites, the survey identified eight (8) known African American and 93 Anglo-American cemeteries. The remainder will require further research into census records and community-based resources to determine affiliation.

Additionally, many early cemeteries in rural areas were once part of plantations and may have included or are known colloquially to have included interments of enslaved African Americans. Identifiable examples of the plantation pattern in Phase 2 include the Alexander Walker family cemetery (NE-33) and Unnamed/Whites Creek (WC-02). Further research will likely indicate a much higher number of plantation pattern burial grounds. Early formal cemeteries also often contain African American burials, as documented at Spring Hill Cemetery. Some of the larger, previously segregated cemeteries are also presumed to include multiple races and ethnicities. Cemeteries meeting these criteria were documented as “other” or “mirror,” a term used to describe cemeteries in which African American burials are in an adjacent but segregated section. MHC and NSA have discussed the possibility that a separate project phase with increased community outreach and additional funding may be needed to properly locate and document Davidson County’s historical African American cemeteries, especially those in rural locations.

The cemetery survey form included four subcategories of cemetery types: lawn park, memorial garden, rural garden, and vernacular/informal. The survey team identified ninety-five (95) cemeteries as the “vernacular/informal” subcategory, six (6) as “rural garden” cemeteries, twelve (12) lawn parks, and two (2) memorial parks.

The conditions of the cemeteries surveyed in Phase 2 ranged from pristine to unidentifiable. Common issues contributing to preservation needs included neglect by property owners, improper lawn maintenance and cleaning techniques, and security problems (such as vandalism and urban encampments). Many grave markers throughout the survey showed scarring from weed whackers and damage or displacement from mowing equipment. A prime example of the combination of neglect, improper lawn maintenance, and vandalism is at Cole Cemetery, a very large cemetery in which nearly all of the markers are scarred/chipped, broken, fallen, missing, or otherwise damaged. Unfortunately, there were also cases where people clearly had the best intentions in caring for cemeteries but used improper cleaning techniques and/or over-cleaned the markers and monuments, resulting in weakened stones that were found to be delaminating, bowing, and breaking such as those in the Compton family cemetery (OH-11). While many cemeteries were easily accessible and adjacent to public thoroughfares, others like the Adams-Kimball Cemetery (OH-18) were remote and difficult to access, requiring significant time to get to and from the site.

The landscape of cemeteries has important implications for their care and preservation. For instance, trees and forested areas can both enhance the setting of burial grounds and pose risk to both the above and below-ground features within them. Of the confirmed cemeteries, 26 were identified as located within forested areas, 30 in open or overgrown meadows, and 59 were “open with a few trees.”

The oldest cemetery located included an early burial date of 1793 (Spring Hill Cemetery/NE-43). One (1) cemetery, Joe W. Henley (WC-43), was established in 1984 and at less than fifty years in

age is not considered historical. The majority of the cemeteries date to the 19th century, making up 80% of the total surveyed. With WC-43 excluded, the overall range of early dates spans 163 years.

The most recent interment recorded is from this year (2023). The average of the late dates is 1940, and the overall range is 212 years. Most cemeteries continued to be active burial grounds well into the 20th and 21st centuries, representing 73% of the total. This could indicate a trend among Davidson County residents with roots in the area wishing to keep their family burials together in their original location, even as attitudes around death and burial changed and more modern Memorial Garden style cemeteries became the norm, underscoring the continuing need for preservation. All of the recorded interment dates span a range of 216 years, representing more than two centuries of people laying their loved ones to rest in Davidson County.

While the primary scope of the survey was to update the original DCCS undertaken in 1999, the field team also visited newly identified cemeteries when possible. Of the 114 sites the team attempted to visit, 107 were previously surveyed by the DCCS. Seven (7) newly surveyed cemeteries were added to previous DCCS data, sourced from a combination of parcel data and community input.

CONCLUSION

The DCCS 2023 Phase 2 field effort successfully assessed 97% of visited sites and surveyed nine (9) cemeteries that were not previously documented in the DCCS. Overall, the vast majority of Davidson County's cemeteries are in need of preservation efforts ranging from brush clearance to Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey for unmarked burials to significant headstone conservation. Phase 2 findings and subsequent survey phases will inform the development of a countywide cemetery preservation plan that will further quantify preservation needs at Davidson County's historic cemeteries.

The history of Davidson County indicates the existence of a large number of cemeteries that were once part of plantations and may contain unmarked and unknown burials of enslaved people of African descent. Continued community outreach will enhance MHC's institutional knowledge of such sites and help protect the final resting places of historically marginalized people. MHC may need to consider an additional project phase(s) and/or funding to more accurately locate and document Davidson County's historical African American burial grounds.

Burial practices have historically been, and continue to be, an important part of American culture, and Tennessee law dictates the protection of these sacred sites that hold human remains. The DCCS will continue to improve our knowledge of these hallowed grounds and the people interred within, allowing for a more informed preservation approach and strategic protection of the history and ancestors of Middle Tennessee.

DELIVERABLES PER PHASE:

1. Database/Spreadsheet of survey form data for all cemeteries visited
2. GIS data of all cemetery boundaries visited
3. Photos of each cemetery visited

4. Survey123 forms submitted to THC
5. Management summary

Sincerely,

NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lydia Simpson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L" and "S".

Lydia Simpson, PhD
Senior Historian

Appendix B- Endangered Cemeteries

At the end of Phase II, Metro Historical Commission (MHC) staff created a list of ten endangered or threatened cemetery sites surveyed during this phase of the project. MHC identified these sites using notes and photos from the current survey, as well as additional existing Davidson County Cemetery Survey (DCCS) files that include correspondence, prior documentation, and archival research.

Phase II sites listed below have some of the greatest need based upon factors like physical condition of the markers and overall site, visible maintenance issues, and urban encroachment. These sites are not ranked or presented in any particular order, except alphabetical listing. Original DCCS site numbers are indicated where applicable (DCCS), in addition to the Phase II field numbers for all. The following pages contain historical summaries for five of these sites, researched and written by MHC staff as part of their local matching funds on this grant project.

Cemetery Name	DCCS	Phase II Field #	Notes on Threat(s)
Adams-Kimball	OH-18	299	Abandoned and overgrown; illegible and lack of inscriptions; sunken/tilted stones; loose wall rocks scattered; numerous fieldstones; suspected to be significantly larger than its designated parcel
Appleton-Phipps	GO-27	248	Abandoned and overgrown; inscriptions illegible; no inscription; sunken/tilted stones; fragments/pieces on ground; broken but standing; damaged surfaces/chipped/cracked; several unmarked depressions
Crocker	WC-39	217	Overgrown; sunken/tilted stones; fragments/pieces on ground; broken but standing; damaged surfaces/chipped/ cracked; suspected fieldstones; neglect; undocumented burials
Haley	WC-28	250	Overgrown and abandoned; inscriptions illegible; no inscription; broken but standing, damaged surfaces/chipped/ cracked; fragments/pieces on ground; sunken/tilted stones
Hays (David)	WC-27	234	Abandoned; urban encroachment; inscriptions illegible; sunken/tilted stones; damaged surfaces/chipped/cracked; fragments/pieces on ground; suspected fieldstones; site used for storage; removed markers/unmarked burials
Shaw (Thomas)	WC-45	239	Inscriptions illegible; no inscription; sunken/tilted stones; fragments/pieces on ground; damaged surfaces/chipped/ cracked; broken but standing; custodial care caused damage
Mt. Gilliam MBC	WC-22	218	Abandoned and overgrown; illegible inscriptions; sunken/tilted stones; fragments/pieces on ground; broken but standing; no inscription; damaged surfaces/chipped/cracked; unmarked burials

Cemetery Name	DCCS	Phase II Field #	Notes on Threat(s)
Murrey-Cox-O'Neill	OH-43	294	Urban encroachment; fragments/pieces on ground; no inscription; inscriptions illegible; site used for storage; attempted marker removals; ownership unclear; suspected to be significantly larger site than originally documented; suspected fieldstones; custodial care issues
Scruggs	OH-03	300	Suspected to be significantly larger site than originally documented; marker removals (ongoing litigation); suspected fieldstones; unmarked depressions
Tucker-Hayes	OH-06	282	Inscriptions illegible; damaged surfaces/chipped/cracked; broken but standing; fragments/pieces on ground; no inscription; sunken/tilted stones; custodial care issues; unmarked depressions

Adams-Kimball Cemetery



Located in the Forest Hills vicinity and east of Hillsboro Pike, Adams-Kimball Cemetery was first recorded by the DCCS on November 26, 1999. The initial survey recorded three tombstones with inscriptions for Harvey Kimball (no dates), J.R. Adams (d. 1878), and Mrs. E. Adams (d. 1921). An updated survey was conducted on December 10, 2011.

The land including and surrounding the Adams-Kimball Cemetery was purchased in 1893 by two African Americans, Thomas Bradford and John Robert Adams, Jr., from

W.W. Mooney (white) for \$470. One of the three known graves, associated with John Robert Adams, Sr. (d. 1878), pre-dates this purchase and may have been the impetus for that acquisition. The death certificate for his son, John Robert Adams, Jr., says he was buried in a family cemetery on Hillsboro Road. The other two graves are for Mrs. E. Adams and Harvey Kimball, a U.S. Colored Infantry service member and farmer. Mrs. E. Adams may be Elizabeth, wife of John Robert Adams, Sr.; however, according to a 1945 deed (book 1196, page 650) she died in 1924. Mooney's obituary states that he was interred at the burial ground near his farm. Based on the ownership history and numerous fieldstones present on site, Thomas Bradford's family may have also been buried here.

Mooney, a lawyer, and teacher, was born in Fauquier County, VA and died at the age of 61 at his home on Belmont Blvd. He also ran for Judge in the 11th district in 1887. "He moved to this county a few years ago and purchased a farm in the Eleventh District" (*Nashville Banner*, 3 June 1895, p. 5). Probate information notes that his 350-acre farm in the 11th district remained intact until 1898, so he apparently sold a portion to Adams and Bradford a couple years prior to his death. It is also possible that he owned more than one farm, as the Nashville papers note several instances of him buying and selling property in the 11th district. Mooney started several schools, so the African American school that was located on his property and southwest of this cemetery may have been one he created. While the connection between Mooney, Bradford, and Adams, Jr. is unclear, both John Robert Adams, Sr. and Jr. worked as farm laborers who may have worked Mooney's land. The Adams family are also noted stonemasons.

The 2023 survey recorded this as a "Vernacular/Informal" site type, affiliated with African American burials. The cemetery is accessed via a historic trail or roadbed in a forested area behind Hillsboro Pike residences. Portions of a low stone wall surround the small area with the three known graves. Across the trail are wire fence panels and two large stones which resemble entrance markers. An additional larger headstone was located near a fallen tree southeast of the three markers and numerous fieldstones were located extending south and southwest of the three markers. The survey team estimated approximately 30+ suspected burials based upon the markers, fieldstones, and depressions.

Threats to this site include **abandonment, illegible or missing inscriptions, and under-documentation**. While the cemetery stands on its own parcel, that tract may not encompass all burials. This site is an excellent candidate for additional study and targeted efforts like brush clearing, Phase I archaeological survey, and geophysical survey (i.e. Ground Penetrating Radar/GPR). Since the cemetery may exist across multiple parcels, descendants and nearby owners should be engaged in this process.

Appleton-Phipps Cemetery



Located on Baker Road in Goodlettsville, Appleton-Phipps Cemetery was first surveyed for the DCCS on April 20, 2002. This family graveyard contains five inscribed markers and three fieldstones. Interments include John P. Phipps (1835-1903), Leoisa A. Phipps (1840-1900), Frank Demarian Phipps (1866-1888), Johnetta B. Appleton (1860-1883), and Herschel C. Wood (1872-1891).

John P. Phipps lived in the Goodlettsville area and at the time of the 1880 census was working as a carpenter. He could not read or write. John married Leoisa, one of eight children of farmers Edward and Jemma Warmack. He had at least nine children including Thomas Edward (1861-1921), Kate (1863-1936), John P. (1865-1954), Frank Demarian (Blair) (1866-1888), Susan J. (b. 1868), Eugene (b. 1872), Anne G. (b. 1876), Mamie D. (b. 1878), and Robert Lemuel (1882-1960).

Johnetta B. Appleton Price was the wife of brick mason James L. Price. She held the occupation of “keeping house” in 1880, but may have also assisted with farming like other Appletons in this area. Herschel Wood, son of R.F. and E.J. Wood, may have ties to the same R.F. Wood who co-owned R.B. Cheatham & Co, wholesale grocers and a wholesale liquor store, R.F Woods & Co. The liquor store was at the corner of Church and College streets.

By 1871, the Appleton family owned land in this area near Baker’s Fork. The W. Appleton home was located along Springfield Pike. Wilson Appleton lost all or most of his land in an 1860 sheriff’s auction when E.A. Mathis won a court judgement against him (*Daily Nashville Patriot*, July 21, 1860, p. 2). Martha Appleton later purchased four acres in this area in 1865 (*Republican Banner*, December 30, 1865, p. 3).

The 2023 survey recorded this as a “Vernacular/Informal” site type, affiliated with Anglo American burials (based on field conditions). Access is currently restricted and afforded by foot, with the cemetery located on a ridgetop/hilltop in a forest setting. It appears abandoned and overgrown. Inscriptions range from not present or illegible to legible. The cemetery contains sunken and broken stones, markers with damaged surfaces, and stone fragments on the ground. Marble, granite, and limestone markers are present, in addition to fieldstones, and three burials have footstones. Dates on the inscriptions range from 1883 to 1903. The survey recorded fourteen burials, with several discernable depressions.

Threats to this site include **abandonment** and **overgrowth**, which obscures the burial markers and location of depressions or stones. The presence of **unknown burials**, evident in the fieldstones and depressions, also presents a preservation challenge. Additional research about the persons buried here as well as GPR survey during an appropriate season would assist in more accurately determining the number and types of graves at Appleton-Phipps Cemetery. Regular brush clearing and marker cleaning by descendants, a friends group, or a neighborhood/community sponsor would also benefit the site.

Crocker Cemetery



Crocker Cemetery is located on Crocker Springs Road in Goodlettsville. The cemetery was first surveyed for the DCCS on October 29, 2001. This site contains three limestone markers with death dates ranging from 1854 to 1925. Individuals buried here include J.T. Campbell (1841-1878), James M. Hunter (1836-1925), Mary Crocker (1838-1899), and T.B. White (1793-1854). Boston-born Ebenezer Lathrop Crocker, a prominent educator during the late 18th and early 19th century, is also purportedly buried here

(*Nashville Tennessean Magazine*, September 26, 1948, p. 6-9), though it is unclear if his grave is marked.

The namesake of Crocker Cemetery, Ebenezer Crocker, is best known for his boys' boarding academy operated in this vicinity. The school provided secondary education to local youths, as well as some indigenous boys who were brought in by the Bureau of Indian Affairs from reservations in the southwest. This location was previously home to the White's Creek Springs Hotel, and when school was out of session, later functioned as a summer resort where guests enjoyed the nearby springs' Sulphur water and the cooking talents of Mrs. Crocker (Dicey Adelia White). Professor Crocker lived very near here and was known as a farmer, horticulturist, innkeeper, and former Navy service member. Family history states that he is related to Rev. John Lathrop, who lit the lantern to signal Paul Revere on his midnight ride.

Burials at Crocker Cemetery include James M. and Mary Crocker Hunter (son-in-law and daughter of Ebenezer, respectively), who share a common headstone; T.B. White, likely related to Ebenezer's wife, Dicey; and J.T. Campbell, of unknown relation but whose name appears as a farm laborer in Goodlettsville in the 1870 census. Campbell's grave marker is a scroll form with a masonic emblem. T.B. White's grave is surrounded by stone coping with a spiked iron fence and contains a now-toppled obelisk; these details in conjunction with his lifespan may indicate that he was part of a founding family of the White's Creek community.

Crocker Cemetery is a vernacular/informal-style family graveyard with Anglo American affiliation. Its location is marked by a sign at the entrance and access is unrestricted and afforded by foot. The cemetery is located at the edge of a forest near a c. 1940 residence. A log border and barbed wire fencing are also present at the site. Markers appear to be limestone, with some suspected fieldstones, so the exact number of burials may be more than originally documented.

Threats to this site include **neglect**, evident in the vegetative overgrowth and damaged fence/gate; potential **vandalism or custodial care damage**, based on the toppled obelisk and cracked base; and apparent **undocumented burials**. The 2023 field survey noted that markers at Crocker Cemetery exhibit various conditions issues, including biological growth, sunken/tilted stones, fragments on the ground, and damaged surfaces. GPR during the winter season would assist with confirming the number of burials at this site.

David Hays Cemetery



David Hays Cemetery is located along Quail Ridge Drive, northeast of Whites Creek. DCCS volunteers initially surveyed this site on April 4, 2003 which recorded eight inscribed tombstones. Inscriptions indicate that burials range from 1844 to 1915. Individuals interred here include Lizzie King Hayes (1872-1889), Phoebe McCoy Burnett (1829-1915), A.C. Talley (1816-1895), James H. Hays (1837-1844), J. Freeman (1887-1890), Caroline M. Luton (1828-1892), Josiah Hays (1825-1889), Hannah Hays (1793-1871) and David Hays (1780-

1861). At the time of the original survey, the team also located two broken headstones with illegible inscriptions.

David (b. Pennsylvania) and Hannah (b. North Carolina) Hays are the first known burials of this cemetery, though this area was part of the Talley family farm. The Hays had three children: William, Josiah (he and his wife are buried here), and Mary Hays. A.C. Talley and Josiah Hays both served as commissioners in the 22nd district (*Republican Banner*, Dec 31, 1867, p. 4). Josiah served in the Revolutionary War and worked as a farmer, while his wife (Caroline Luton Hays) kept house and tended to their six children. Phoebe McCoy married Wallace Burnett (miller by trade) in 1861 and they had four children: Sarah Bell Burnett (b. 1855), Willie Jane Burnett (b. 1858), Georgia Ann Burnette Sands (1862-1943), and James Burnett (1866).

David Hays Cemetery is an abandoned vernacular-style family cemetery. Burials at the site are of Anglo-American affiliation. Access is by foot and the cemetery stands in the backyard of a modern residence. The cemetery is situated on its own dedicated parcel, however portions of the residential structure appear to encroach upon the cemetery tract. The Quail Ridge Drive vicinity includes two other cemetery sites, the Thomas Morris Cemetery (extant) and a second cemetery (20' square family graveyard as noted in deed book 6628, page 854) that appears to have been removed across 2105 and 2109 Quail Ridge Dr. It is unknown how or if these may relate to the Hays family.

The cemetery area has been artificially leveled or landscaped and the current homeowner stated that markers had been bulldozed when they took ownership, so they gathered and stacked these stones. Pieces of markers or fieldstones are apparent near the rear of the property (on HOA land); that area may have had vinca, while iris is planted in the main section. Our survey team located seven monument bases. Markers exhibit several conditions issues including illegible inscriptions, sunken/tilted stones, damaged surfaces, and fragments on the surrounding grounds. Aerial imagery and survey photos indicate that owners of 2124 and 2120 Quail Ridge Dr. are also using portions of the cemetery parcel to store various items (including vehicle trailers) on the cemetery parcel, where a dog house also stands.

Threats to this site include **urban encroachment, custodial care issues, unmarked burials, and damaged markers**. Geophysical survey (i.e. GPR) may aid in the identification of unknown burials while the placement of fencing, marker restoration, and owner notifications may help prevent further damage.

Mt. Gilliam Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery



Mt. Gilliam (Gillem) Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery is located off Lickton Pike, northeast of Whites Creek. A small building stands on the property southeast of the cemetery; state survey records date this structure to 1840. Burials include Charlie (1890-1975) and Josie W. (1896-1973) Brooks, Walter Johnson (1913), Alan Johnson (d. 1937), Cora Wade (1895-1952), and "A.L.D." (no dates).

Cora Wade was a resident of North Nashville and resided on Jo Johnston Avenue. Census records indicate that her daughter, Florida B. McKissack,

may have been born in South Carolina and worked as a farm laborer in the early 1900s. Laborer Alan Johnson was married to a woman named Mary and lived on a rural route in Goodlettsville. Records show that he was born around 1895 and may have been known as "Alvin" (People Legacy). The cemetery potentially contains several additional burials that were undocumented during past surveys, but which some records claim are located herein. These include Henry Drake (c. 1853-1934), Lillie Mason Weber Drake (1891-1936), Emmett Drake (1912- 1937), Annie Mason Webber Stanton (1907-1940), Mattie Mason Frames (1900-1948), Samuel Mason, Sr. (1878-1948), John Joseph (Joe) Drake (1919-1954), Lena Watkins Drake (1877-1966), and Walter Brooks (c. 1886-1971). The tombstone inscribed "A.L.D." may have slightly eroded and possibly belong to Alfred Earl Drake, son of Lillie Drake.

The earliest deed located for this property shows a transfer from a J.G.[?] Webber to the School Directors and Trustees of the 22nd school district in August of 1882 and states, "The above tract of land is conveyed to the said school directors and trustees, and their successors in office, for school, church and burying ground of the colored people of the twenty-second [district] of Davidson County, Tenn." It is unclear if the cemetery pre-dates this transfer. In 1947, the county board of education transferred the property to the trustees of Mt. Gilliam Missionary Baptist Church. The associated building on site appears to have an addition on its façade, which may indicate a conversion from a former school into a church. The cemetery stands near the small historical community of Lickton. A 1949 article states that the "valley's peace and quiet are partly because theirs is a church-going populace" and suggests that Mt. Gilliam had traveling ministers rather than a dedicated one (The Tennessean, Jun 24, 1949, p. 21). In 1951, the church deeded 0.7 acres of this property to the Trustees of Mt. Herman Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Based on obituaries, the church remained active at least until 1999.

The 2023 survey identified limestone, granite, marble, and fieldstone markers, and estimated at least 50 burials. Threats to the Mt. Gilliam Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery include **abandonment** and conditions issues such as **illegible and absent inscriptions** and **damaged markers**. Research and survey indicate that several **unmarked burials** may be present. Additional research and geophysical survey are recommended to better understand the site history and document the extent of the burials.